



**Questions and Answers
new rules for pet travel and pet passports
for EU citizens travelling inside or outside the EU**

Introduction

From 29 December 2014, the legislation will change in respect to pet travel rules and pet passports. The underneath document tries to answer the main questions you may have regarding these changes. This document has been made in collaboration with the European Commission. Nevertheless, please note that for the most up-to-date information, it is best to contact the competent authorities of the country of origin and destination.

Q&A in respect to new rules for pet travel and pet passport

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DISCLAIMER: While the authors have tried to collect to make this document as correct as possible, for the most up-to-date information, it is best to contact the competent authorities of the country of origin and destination. The authors cannot represent,



warrant, undertake or guarantee that the information in the Q&A is correct, accurate or complete.

GENERAL

1. On 29 December 2014 new pet passports will be required? What does this mean for my dog, cat or ferret?

If your pet was given a passport before 29 December 2014, you do not need to get a new one. Your old one is valid.

If your pet is given a pet passport after 29 December 2014, he will receive a new pet passport.

2. I am living in the EU. Where can I get the pet passport?

You must contact a veterinarian in your home country. The national authorities in every EU country are responsible for distributing the passport to the vets that they have authorized for that purpose.

3. Which animals need a pet passport?

The new EU-system is for cats, dogs and ferrets. For other pets, national legislation applies.

Therefore, for all other companion animals you wish to travel with, contact the national authorities in your country and/or in the country you wish to travel to. If your pet is a hybrid (such as a Bengal cat or Wolfdog), please also contact your ministry.

4. How much will I need to pay to get a pet passport?

No fixed fees are set to issue a pet passport. The price will depend on the country, the veterinarian issuing the passport and other possible acts associated with it.

5. How long before travelling should I contact my veterinarian?

It is advisable to contact your veterinarian well in advance before you plan to travel with your pet. Depending on the country you intend to travel to, whether the rabies vaccination of your pet is valid or not and whether you pet needs a blood test or not, it can take between weeks to months to get ready for the travel. If travelling within the EU, we recommend to go at least 2 months before travelling to your vet, if travelling outside the EU, go earlier.



6. What if I am travelling with more than 5 pets?

If you are travelling with more than 5 pets, you have to conform to the requirements of the “trade” (means both inside and from outside the EU) regime. You must contact your ministry in order to get the appropriate certificate.

An exemption from this requirement is introduced when travelling with pets aged over 6 months to attend a show, a competition or a sporting event. The owner needs to provide evidence of this. .

7. What are the main requirements to travel with my pet within the EU?

The main requirements to travel with dogs, cats and ferrets are:



- microchipping
- valid vaccination against rabies
- waiting period after vaccination and prior to travelling (at least 21 days, except for boosters)
 - treatment against Echinococcus Multilocularis: optional for dogs to some countries:

8. What are the main requirements to travel with my pet to a country outside the EU

You must inquire about the requirements of the country you are travelling to and the EU requirements that apply on return from that country. In addition to microchipping and valid vaccination against rabies, your pet may need to be tested before leaving the EU on a blood sample collected at least 30 days after vaccination and analysed in an approved laboratory. It is suggested to do start this preparation work well in advance of your

travel, as for some countries the procedure takes several months to complete.

9. Do I (the owner) need to accompany my pet when travelling?

Yes, in principle all pets must be accompanied by their owner. Recognizing this might be difficult in certain situations, so long as when the movement of the pet and the owner is within 5 days of each

other, the pet can also be considered 'accompanied'. You may need the services of an authorised person if your movement precedes or follows that of your pet.

10. What is the minimum age of my pets to travel?

Travelling abroad with pets under 4 months is not allowed in many countries.

From 29 December 2014, your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before you can get it vaccinated against rabies for the purpose of pet travel. Some countries accept animals less than 12 weeks without rabies vaccinations, most not. You must inquire before travelling. If an animal receives a rabies vaccination which according to the technical specifications of the marketing authorization of the vaccine only requires one shot, the owner can travel with the animal not less than 21 days after the vaccination.



11. What happens if I travel with my animal and do not meet the requirements?

Make sure your pet is fully compliant before travelling. It is prohibited to travel abroad with your pet without following the pet travel rules. Pets that are non-compliant may pose a potentially serious risk to both animal and human health. They could introduce rabies into a country, with dramatic results. Non-compliant pets may be put into quarantine, rejected or put down at a last resort at the expenses of the owner. Stringent penalties are in place for those that break the rules. Countries check ALL animals entering their territory from outside the EU and operate non-discriminatory checks on animals entering their territory from countries inside the EU.

12. I am on holiday in the middle-East or North-Africa and want to bring home with me a stray animal. What are the requirements?

Watch out, rabies is still present in these countries! You cannot take a stray animal immediately home with you, as the rabies status of the animal is unknown. When an animal is infected with rabies, the time period between contracting the disease and the start of symptoms is usually one to three months; however, it can vary from less than one week to more than one year. So while an animal might look perfectly healthy, it could be infected.

You can take an animal home, after it has been micro-chipped and has received a valid rabies vaccination scheme. Depending on the country, the animal may also need to be tested on a blood sample collected at least 30 days after vaccination and analysed in an approved laboratory. You will be allowed to bring it home only when three months have elapsed from the date of sampling.

MICROCHIPPING

1. Why is it important to get my pet micro-chipped before travelling?

Microchipping is a legal obligation before travelling!

Having your pet micro-chipped and registered in your home-country database may also be the best way to increase your pet's chances of getting home after it has gotten lost or been stolen. Unlike dog tags and collars, which can fall off or be removed, micro-chipping is a more permanent form of identifying your dog.

2. Where can I get my pet identified?

To get your animal micro-chipped, you have to go to your veterinarian. When micro-chipping, your veterinarian can at the same time check the health of your animals and give it the vaccinations it may require (including against rabies). In a few countries, micro-chipping can also be done by other professionals having been trained specifically to do this.

3. Is identification by tattooing allowed?

Yes, but for moving abroad the tattoo is only valid if it was applied before 3 July 2011 and it must be clearly readable.

4. Is it necessary to identify my animal before having it rabies vaccinated?

Yes, your animal must receive the correct treatments in the correct order. In order to ensure certainty about the identity of the animal at the time of vaccination, it must be microchipped before it gets the vaccination.



RABIES VACCINATION

1. Why is rabies vaccination essential?

Rabies vaccination protects your dog against rabies exposure.



Rabies remains one of the most serious viral zoonoses worldwide. Despite being 100 per cent preventable, it is estimated that 55,000 people die from rabies each year: almost all in developing countries and half of them children under the age of 15.

In the European Union, the incidence of rabies has decreased enormously since the 1980s, mainly due to a combination of vaccinating domestic dogs and wildlife. Thanks to these efforts, many European countries are now declared 'rabies free' and rabies almost became a forgotten disease.

However, rabies is still endemic in several countries around the European Union. This means it is of utter importance to keep our dogs vaccinated and to be very extremely careful when bringing dogs from countries where dog-mediated rabies is still present.

2. How often does a pet need to be vaccinated against rabies to be compliant?

In accordance with the technical specifications of the marketing authorization of the vaccine in the country where it is administered. Your veterinarian will know this.

The new rules require European Countries to make a list of rabies vaccines licensed. As soon as this list is ready, we will insert a link to it in this document.

3. When is a rabies blood sample required?

A blood sample will be needed to travel to and return from certain countries outside the EU.

4. Should I rabies vaccinate animals under 3 months?

No, an animal less than 3 months old may be too young to efficiently vaccinate against rabies that is the reason why the new rule impose a minimum age of 12 weeks for the primary vaccination against rabies.

5. Are other vaccinations required?

For travelling within the EU, no other vaccinations are needed except rabies. If travelling outside the EU, other vaccinations may be required. Please inquire in advance.

Nevertheless, for the health of your animal it is highly advisable to also vaccinate your animal for the other common diseases especially canine parvovirus, canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus and feline panleukopenia.

6. What to do if my animal got sick after vaccination?

Side effects to vaccinations including rabies vaccination are very seldom, but they can occur. If your animal has a reaction from a vaccine, always notify your veterinarian of the problem, even if it is just a mild self-limiting reaction.





PET PASSPORT

1. On 29 December 2014 new pet passports will be required? What does this mean for my dog, cat or ferret?

If your pet was given a passport before 29 December 2014, you do not need to get a new one. Your old one is valid.

If your pet is given a pet passport after 29 December 2014, he will receive a new pet passport.

2. Why is this new pet passport introduced?

The new pet passport is introduced in order to improve its security.

3. What are the main changes between the old and new pet passport?

The new pet passport will:

- include laminated strips to cover the pages with microchip information and any treatment certified with a sticker
- The passport has a dedicated page to record the details of the vet who has issued the passport.
- A 'valid from' date will need to be added for rabies vaccinations (excluding boosters). This allows pet owners to see clearly when the passport will be valid for travel and simplify the compliance checking process.

4. What should I do if I lost my old pet passport?

You should contact your vet in order to get another passport issued for your animal and have it re-vaccinated again.

5. I am a non-EU citizen but I will live in the EU with my pet for several years. Can I get a pet passport to use within the EU during this time?

Yes. You should contact a veterinarian in any of the EU Member States to get the necessary vaccination and obtain a passport for your pet.





6. I am travelling to an EU Member State from a non-EU country. Can I use the pet passport?

No, in principle the pet passport is only used for pets travelling between Member States of the European Union. However, you can also use the pet passport if you are travelling to or from one of the neighboring countries which apply the EU rules. This includes: Andorra, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican City State.

The pet passport is also accepted if you are returning from a country outside the EU and provided that the requirements that apply to that country are complied with before leaving the EU.

In all other cases, your pet must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by an official veterinarian.

7. I am travelling to a non-EU country from an EU Member State. Can I use the pet passport?

Some countries outside the EU also accept the pet passport provided the appropriate page of the passport is legalized by an official veterinarian. Please inquire in advance.

8. I live in one of the non-continental EU territories, for example Martinique or the Canary Islands. Can I use the pet passport?

Yes, you can use the pet passport if you are travelling to or from the following territories:

- Greenland and the Faroe Islands (Danish pet passport);
- French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion (French pet passport);
- Canary Islands (Spanish pet passport);
- Azores and Madeira (Portuguese pet passport);
- Gibraltar (specific Gibraltar pet passport).

[VET] 8. Can I still use the old models of pet passports I have in stock after 29 December 2014?

No, vets are not allowed to issue old models of passports after 29 December 2014. Owners with pets who were given a passport before 29 December 2014, can keep using this passport. You do not need to issue them with a new passport!

[VET] 9. If clients come to see me with a pet with an old pet passport, should I also laminate?

No, but for security reasons, you can apply a transparent adhesive laminate to seal the page where the information takes the form of a sticker.

[VET] 10. What is the best website to see which countries need additional requirements?



A lot of information is available on the website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm and on the websites of all member states. http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nat_rules_dogscatferret_en.htm

[VET]11. What record keeping requirements are expected from me as a veterinarian?

The new Regulation requires vets to keep records for not less than 3 years of the pet passport numbers in connection with the information in Sections I, II and III of the pet passport:

- microchip numbers, location and date of reading/application
- name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth and any notable or discernable features or characteristics of the pet animal
- owner's name and contact details.



TAPEWORM TREATMENT & OTHER ILLNESSES

1. When does your animal require tapeworm treatment?

Tapeworm treatment is required for companion animals prior to traveling to Finland, Ireland, Malta or the UK.

2 What if after the travel my animal became sick or I am worried that my pet was exposed to a disease?

If you take your pet abroad, it may be exposed to diseases not occurring in your countries, for example diseases transmitted by the bite of certain ticks, and parasites such as heartworm and tapeworm. It may not have a natural immunity to such diseases and could become infected. Some of these diseases can affect humans.



If your pet shows signs of illness after returning from abroad, notify your vet so that they can consider the possibility of a disease or infection contracted by your pet whilst it was abroad.

We recommend you consult your vet about your pet's health and fitness to travel before you take it abroad. Depending on where you are going, your vet should be able to advise you on preventative treatments, or any other precautions you need to take and how to look for signs of ill health in your pet.

MORE INFORMATION

1. Where can I find further information?

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm