

## Travel Advice

Please refer to [www.defra.com](http://www.defra.com) for further information regarding travelling abroad. New legislation as of 1/01/2012

### Travelling abroad

#### *What are the risks to my pet?*

Many people worry about their pet catching obscure diseases when abroad. The risks are minimal but there are important steps you can take to minimise these risks. Rabies is actually incredibly rare and your pet will be vaccinated against this. The more concerning diseases are spread by ticks and biting insects. These are prevalent in the south of France and Mediterranean. You can reduce the risk to your pet by routine treatments, which are best started before you travel. UK ticks do not spread these diseases and are much less of a worry. Ticks on your pet whilst abroad should be prevented and taken much more seriously. In Europe ticks and biting flies can spread very serious diseases including heartworm and other blood borne infections.

There are products available which help prevent parasites and diseases which we do not normally see in the UK.

Please feel free to discuss your travel plans with us so that we may provide you with appropriate treatment for your pet.

#### **What procedures must I complete so my pet can travel on holiday with me?**

Firstly, your pet must be microchipped and vaccinated against rabies. This can be done once your pet is 3 months of age or older. You no longer need to have a blood test if you are travelling to a EU or listed non-EU destination (refer to the DEFRA guide for further information) ***you just need to wait 21 days after the rabies vaccination before you can travel.*** This will allow you both to travel to countries participating in the pet travel scheme and return to the UK without quarantine.

When returning to the UK your pet will need to be treated against tapeworms 24 to 120 hours before entry into the UK. This treatment will need to be done by a vet and the details of this treatment entered on your passport. As of January 2012, the legal requirement for tick treatment has been removed, but it is still really important for your pet to have tick preventive treatment applied that is effective throughout the duration of your trip.

Only certain routes of transport are permitted on your return journey – do make sure you book your pet onto ferry or tunnel as well as yourself. There is usually an additional charge for this! You can check which routes are allowed with the travel companies and with DEFRA. Remember some journeys can be very long and you pet may be kennelled for this time.

### **How long is the passport valid for?**

In most cases, our rabies vaccinations provide 3 years protection so your first passport is valid until 3 years after the date of the first vaccination.

### **How do I ensure that the passport is kept up to date?**

Take particular care to check the renewal date for the rabies vaccination on your pet's passport. Make a note to remind yourself not to miss this date. We do not provide a reminder service for this at present. This is because many people change addresses over this time period and sadly we cannot be held liable for failures in any reminder scheme.

### **Travel Tips**

Remember to pack a 'travel bag' for your pet including his bedding, food, water supply and things like his favourite toys. Your pet should also have plenty of room to turn around and lie down while you're travelling. You may wish to take a pet first aid kit and our staff will be happy to discuss this or any other travel queries you may have.

### **Travelling Abroad With Your Pet**

More and more pets are travelling abroad with their owners under the [Pet Travel Scheme \(PETS\)](#) which enables dogs, cats and ferrets to return to the UK after travelling to an increasing number of destinations without quarantine.

For your pet to be eligible to travel under PETS, there are a number of guidelines which must be adhered.

#### The Procedures

- Your pet should be microchipped.
- After the microchip has been fitted, your pet must be vaccinated against rabies.
- Following this confirmation, your vet will issue you with an official PETS passport.
- 24-120 hours prior to entering or returning to the UK, you will have to arrange for an authorised vet to treat your pet for tapeworm. This treatment will be recorded on your pet passport.
- Arrange for your animal to travel on an authorised route - Your animal must enter England from a PETS country travelling on an authorised route with an approved transport company.

In addition to the stipulations that you must adhere to if you're travelling abroad with your pet, it's also advisable to protect him against travelling diseases such as [leishmaniasis](#), heartworm, [babesiosis](#) and [ehrlichiosis](#) .

### **When to vaccinate**

Your pet must be at least three months old before it is vaccinated. This can be done any time after your pet has been fitted with a microchip. Before vaccinating your pet, make sure your vet checks its microchip number and enters it on your pet's vaccination record. If your pet has been vaccinated against rabies before it was identified by a microchip, it will have to be fitted with a microchip and vaccinated again. This is to make sure that your pet is correctly identified when it is vaccinated.

### **Re-vaccination (boosters)**

After your pet has been vaccinated it will need regular booster vaccinations. These must be given by the 'valid until' date on the PETS certificate or pet passport. If this date is missed your animal will not meet the conditions of the scheme and will have to be vaccinated again

Finally, remember to pack a 'travel bag' for your pet including his bedding, food, water supply and things like his favourite toys. Your pet should also have plenty of room to turn around and lie down while you're on route. For further information on travelling abroad with your pet, please speak to any of our staff.

***Information updated 18/01/2012***