

PET TRAVEL Q&A - FOR TRANSPORT CARRIERS

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DOCUMENTATION TO TRAVEL TO THE EU

- 1. In a no deal scenario pet owners would need to obtain a health certificate no later than 10 days before travel in the event of a 'no deal'. How long would such a certificate be valid for?**

The health certificate is only valid for 10 days after issue by a vet, so pet owners would need to arrive in the EU within that time period. Once they have arrived in the EU, the certificate is valid for 4 months for onward travel within the EU.

- 2. Will people need to apply for a new health certificate every time they want to go to the EU with their pet?**

Yes. Pet owners will need to get a new health certificate for each trip to the EU. This is a requirement in the EU Pet Travel Scheme rules for both unlisted and Part 2 listed countries.

- 3. What happens if my health certificate expires while I'm in the EU?**

If the certificate expires while you are in the EU and you plan on travelling to another Member State from the one you are in, you will need to visit an Authorised Veterinarian in the country you are currently in who will issue the required documentation (this also applies for return to the UK if you are using an EU health certificate). If you plan on remaining within the member state in question, then you would not need to revalidate the certificate.

- 4. What about travel to other countries?**

As happens now, if pet owners enter non EU countries, such as the USA or Australia, they would need to comply with the entry requirements of that particular destination. In most cases this would involve your local Official Veterinarian providing your pet with an export health certificate. Pet owners should also check [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) as more information will be published as it becomes available. Pet owners are reminded that travel from [non-EU] third countries into the EU, would still require a health certificate, no matter what arrangement the UK makes with the EU. These documents will be able to be provided by your local OV

- 5. What document will I need if the UK is a Part 1 listed country?**

To enter EU countries from the UK pet owners will need a Pet Passport for their animal issued in the UK; an EU Member State; or another Part 1 listed third country or territory.

To enter the UK from EU and Part 1 listed third countries pet owners will need a Pet Passport for their animal issued in the UK or another an EU Member State.

To enter non-EU third countries UK pet owners will need to ensure their animals have the health preparation and documentation required by the country concerned.

ARRIVAL IN THE EU

6. Your technical notice on “[taking your pet abroad if there’s no Brexit deal](#)” notes pet owners would be required to present the health certificate at a designated Travellers Point of Entry (TPE) upon arrival in the EU. Won’t that create extra hassle at the beginning of a holiday?

The requirement to show your documents at a designated TPE is set out in the EU pet travel regulations. In the event the UK leaves the EU with no agreement in place in March 2019, we would need to follow the rules set out for unlisted third countries. In this situation, pet owners would have their pet’s documents checked when travelling between the UK and EU, as well as between the EU and UK.

TRAVELLING TO THE UK

7. **What about travelling with my pet to the UK? Will anything change?**

We want pet owners to continue to be able to travel abroad with their pets with the minimum of disruption whilst maintaining controls to protect biosecurity and the welfare of travelling animals. There will be no changes to the current health requirements for entry into the UK. For more information on the health requirements and documents required to travel to the UK visit GOV.UK

8. **What documents will I need to return to the UK?**

Your pet will need one of the following documents when returning to the UK:

- an existing EU pet passport (both for UK and EU citizens)
- the EU health certificate issued in the UK used to travel to the EU
- a UK pet health certificate (for travel into the UK only).

9. **Where can I get these documents from?**

Pet owners should speak to their vet about the documentation they will need to travel to and from the EU.

10. **When returning to the UK, will pets still have to use only the approved routes? Currently there are Defra approved transport routes, will these remain the same?**

Yes, there will be no changes to the current UK pet travel regime which includes the current approved routes. If you are unsure please contact your transport carrier ahead of travel.

11. **If I’m travelling to the EU before 29 March and return after the UK leaves the EU, will I still be able to re-enter the UK with my EU pet passport?**

Yes, you will still be able to use your EU pet passport to re-enter the UK. There will be no change to the current requirements for pets entering the UK from the EU after 29 March.

12. **If I get an EU pet passport from an EU Authorised Veterinarian (e.g. in France); can I use this to enter and leave the UK? Are there any other specific considerations I need to be aware of?**

You can acquire a pet passport while in the EU, which would mean you could use your EU passport for entry into the EU rather than a health certificate for each journey. However, should the UK become an unlisted third country after exiting the EU, a pet with an EU Member State issued passport would still have to undertake a rabies antibody blood test to re-enter the EU, the first time it does so, despite having an EU issued passport. This would need to be done prior to leaving the EU and once the results have been confirmed as clear, there is no requirement for a three month wait period before travel.

13. Will there be a revised limit on the number of animals that can travel to the UK (revised ratio of animals to person)?

No - the current UK pet travel regime will remain unchanged after we leave the EU. Therefore, the current limit of five pets per person will remain for the foreseeable future.

14. The requirement for dogs to have tapeworm treatment before entering the UK is an EU one. In a 'no-deal' outcome could dogs enter the UK without such treatment?

No, while the requirement for dogs to have tapeworm treatment is an EU one, and has been in place since 2012, the current requirements for entry into the UK will remain unchanged after Day 1. Pets will need to be microchipped and have an up-to-date rabies vaccination, recorded in the appropriate documentation (EU pet passport or health certificate).

Dogs travelling from countries which are not free of *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) will also have to receive a tapeworm treatment, between 24 and 120 hours before travel. (this does not apply if you're coming directly to the UK from Finland, Ireland, Malta or Norway). More information on requirements to enter the UK can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

UK NATIONALS LIVING ABROAD

15. What about travelling with my pet to the UK? Will anything change?

We want UK nationals living abroad to continue to be able to travel with their pets with the minimum of disruption. Therefore there are no plans to change the health or documentation requirements for those pet owners seeking to enter the UK. More information on the documents that would be required to enter or re-enter the UK will be made available for pet owners on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

16. When travelling back to the UK, will pets still have to use only the approved routes? Currently there are Defra approved transport routes, will these remain the same?

Yes, we anticipate no changes to either the current UK pet travel import regime which includes the current approved routes. Pet animals will also be able to travel on non-approved routes, namely Ireland to Great Britain. If you are unsure please contact your transport carrier ahead of travel.

17. Will there be a revised limit on the number of animals that can travel to the UK (revised ratio of animals to person)?

No - the current UK import regime will remain unchanged after we leave the EU. Therefore, the current limit of five pets per person will remain for the foreseeable future.

18. If I have an EU pet passport from an alternative member state (e.g. France, Spain etc.); would I be able to use this to enter and / or leave the UK?

Yes, these pet passports will remain valid for entry into the UK for the foreseeable future.

19. Are there any specific considerations I need to take before returning to the EU after 29 March 2019?

Pet owners intending to return to an EU member state would still need to ensure their pets had a satisfactory rabies antibody blood test before travel in the event of a no deal. Provided this was

done prior to leaving the EU, and the results are confirmed as clear, there is no requirement for a three month wait period before travel back to the EU.

If there's no Brexit deal UK-issued pet passports would no longer be valid for entering the EU and pet owners using these documents would need to acquire a suitable alternative, such as a temporary health certificate, before travel. For more information please visit our technical notice on "[taking your pet abroad if there's no Brexit deal](#)".

20. What if you are abroad (outside the UK) with a pet until March 29th, and are not able to acquire the appropriate documents or carry out blood test, and then want to travel into the EU in April in a no deal scenario? Can the necessary blood test and documents be achieved outside the UK / EU?

Yes, provided these are done by an authorised vet recognised by the EU, health and documentation preparations can be carried out abroad and still be valid for travel into the EU after March 29 2019. To locate an approved vet it is a good idea to visit the countries veterinary health website, which can be located most effectively through online searches.

21. We are planning on returning to the EU after 29 March 2019. Will my existing UK pet passport be sufficient for my pet to accompany me home in a no deal scenario?

In the event of no deal, pet owners seeking to return to the EU would need to follow the rules for unlisted third countries. This means UK issued pet passports would no longer be valid and alternative documentation, namely an EU model health certificate; which can be acquired from your local OV, would need to be used. For more information please visit our technical notice on "[taking your pet abroad if there's no Brexit deal](#)".

22. I live in the EU for the most of the year, how and where can I get further information about any changes?

Information on future pet travel arrangements, including what's involved when bringing your pet to the UK, will be published on [GOV.UK](#) as soon as it becomes available. For more information on travel back to the EU, please visit our technical notice on "[taking your pet abroad if there's no Brexit deal](#)".

UK nationals living abroad who want to travel with their pet would need to speak to their local vet in the Member State they are based to ensure they are compliant with the EU Pet Travel Regulations after Exit.

GENERAL

23. Will assistance dogs be exempt?

Recognised Assistance Dogs must currently comply with the same health and documentary requirements as those for pet animals and this will continue.

24. When will we know if we have to make these no deal preparations?

You will still be able to travel with your pet to Europe no matter the outcome of negotiations. However, pet owners are advised to contact their vet at least four months in advance of their travel date to check what they need to do. For pet owners looking to travel immediately after 29 March we recommend you contact your local vet no later than 28 November 2018. We will let pet owners

know the outcome of the EU negotiations and its implications for Pet Travel as soon as we are able to.

25. I am travelling with my pet from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. Are there any specific requirements that are required beyond rabies vaccination and travel document?

Currently, you are not required to have pet passports, or meet the requirements of the EU Pet Travel Scheme, as this is considered as travelling within one member state (the UK) - which incorporates England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Please refer to [NIDirect](#) where more information will be published as it becomes available.

26. I am travelling from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland. Are there any specific requirements I need to be concerned about?

Pets moving from Northern Ireland, transiting through the Republic and travelling on to Britain, are currently required to meet the rules of the EU Pet Travel Scheme and of the Balai Directive when this movement involves commercial trade, as the animals are moving between EU Member States.

DAERA would therefore recommend that before you travel to the Republic of Ireland you contact [Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine](#) for further guidance.

27. What checks will pet animals entering the UK be subject to?

Pet animals entering the UK will be subject to the same checks that are currently in place. This means that pets travelling to the UK on approved ferry and rail routes will be checked prior to embarkation to ensure they meet the UK's entry requirements. Those pets arriving by air will be checked on arrival in the UK. Pets arriving in Northern Ireland from third countries are subject to different arrangements and owners should contact DAERA for further information.