

Post-Brexit EU Travel Guide for Pet Owners

This guidance applies to people travelling to and from **Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales)** with their pet cats, ferrets or dogs, including assistance dogs. This guidance is only for travel of less than 5 pets and for non-commercial reasons.

You need to follow these guidelines to travel between **Great Britain** and **Northern Ireland**, as well as between **Great Britain** and the **EU**. Travel to other non-EU countries is not covered in these guidelines.

Travelling into an EU country or Northern Ireland from Great Britain

You can no longer use a pet passport issued in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) for travel to an EU country or Northern Ireland.

When travelling to an EU country or Northern Ireland, your pet now needs:

- a [microchip](#) placed or read before any rabies vaccination.
- a valid [rabies vaccination](#) at least 21 days before certification and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age.
- an [animal health certificate \(AHC\)](#) issued by an Official Veterinarian no more than 10 days before travel.
- [tapeworm treatment](#) for dogs if you're travelling directly to Finland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Malta.

You will need to go through a travellers' point of entry when you arrive in an EU country or Northern Ireland. A list of these can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en

Always check the rules of the country you are travelling to or through for any additional restrictions or requirements before you travel – it is your responsibility to check the current rules for travel and arrange the appropriate documents. Further information can be found on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-an-eu-country-or-northern-ireland>

Repeat trips to an EU country or Northern Ireland

Your pet will need a new [animal health certificate](#) for each trip to an EU country or Northern Ireland.

Your pet will not need a repeat [rabies vaccination](#) so long as their rabies vaccinations are up to date.

Getting an Animal Health Certificate (AHC):

- You must book an appointment with one of our Official Veterinarians to get an animal health certificate.
- The certificates are bilingual documents that must correlate with the country you are entering the EU. Therefore the country you enter the EU with your pet cannot change once the AHC has been issued. If you must change the country you enter the EU, a new AHC will need to be issued.
- You need the certificate to be issued no more than 10 days before you travel.
- The AHC can then be used for onward travel through other EU countries for up to 4 months.

- The AHC allows re-entry to Great Britain for up to 4 months after issue. (Great Britain is also accepting EU passports issued before 1st Jan 2021 for re-entry)
- Please give us as much notice as possible before you intent to travel. We cannot guarantee any last minute appointments to issue an AHC, this is due to the time needed to complete the certification and our limited number of Official Veterinarians

We will request you to send us information about your pet and the travel in advance of your appointment. When booking the appointment, please tell us the country of entry to the EU you will be using.

When you come to your appointment for the Animal Health Certificate, you must bring proof of your pet's:

- [microchipping](#) date
- rabies [vaccination](#) history

We may have these details on our clinical notes so please contact us if you do not have proof. Please contact us if you are unsure.

Your pet will need a new animal health certificate for each trip to an EU country or Northern Ireland from Great Britain.

Please contact us for an estimate of cost for our vets to issue an Animal Health Certificates.

Re-entering Great Britain with your pet from the EU or Northern Ireland

Pet travel documents

Your pet must have one of the following documents when entering or returning to GB:

- an EU pet passport issued in the EU (or in GB if issued before 1 January 2021), or a pet passport from another Part 1 listed third country.
- the Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued in GB used to travel to the EU – which you can use to re-enter GB for up to 4 months after it was issued
- a GB pet health certificate (for travel into GB only).

Travel from countries not free from tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*)

Unless entering GB directly from Finland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, or Malta, you'll need to take your dog to a vet for an approved tapeworm treatment. You must do this no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours (5 days) before entering GB. The treatment must be recorded on one of the documents listed above.

Check routes and travel companies

[Check the routes before you travel.](#) You must travel using approved routes. Your pet's documents and microchip will be checked when entering GB.

Owners of assistance dogs returning to GB do not have to travel on approved routes. You must notify the point of entry in advance that you're travelling with an assistance dog to ensure the appropriate checks are done.

EU residents travelling to and from the UK

If your pet has an EU passport and their rabies booster is due close to the period of travel, please have the rabies vaccination done in your EU country of residence before travel. UK vets are no longer authorised to complete rabies vaccination details in an EU passport.

Additional guidance for people travelling to and from Northern Ireland with their pet cats, ferrets or dogs, including assistance dogs.

From Great Britain to Northern Ireland

It has been confirmed that from 1 January 2021, Great Britain (GB) will be treated as a Part II listed country. This means that pet travel from GB to NI will require:

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before travel/certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- Animal Health Certificate
- Tapeworm treatment
- entry to NI must be via a Travellers Point of Entry (TPE) at Belfast Port; Larne Port, Belfast International, Belfast City or City of Derry Airports.

From Northern Ireland to Great Britain

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before travel/certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC that was used to exit GB can be used to re-enter GB within 4 months
 - Or UK passport supplied before 31/12/2020
 - Or EU passport issued in the EU
- You must enter GB via an Approved Route (except for assistance dogs).

Between Northern Ireland and the EU

From 1 January 2021, EU pet travel rules will continue to apply to Northern Ireland. This includes the need to have a pet passport** and a rabies vaccination. There will be no change to the requirements governing pet travel between NI and the EU including the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

Northern Ireland residents already in GB needing to travel back

On 1 January 2021 it is expected that a number of pet owners will be unable to comply with the EU Pet Travel Regulation, for movement of pets between GB and NI. For example, pet owners who have already travelled from NI to GB and intend to return following the Christmas period. Pets travelling from GB to NI will therefore not be subject to routine compliance checks until 1 February 2021.

**Current EU pet passports issued in NI and GB up to 31 December 2020, will not be valid for travel to the EU (including NI) after the 31 December 2020. Interim measures have been put in place. If you are travelling in early 2021, you should contact your vet in Northern Ireland who will arrange to update your pet passport appropriately to allow travel. A new style UK (NI) branded EU Pet Passport will be available shortly and these will be distributed to veterinary practices in Northern Ireland in due course.

Help and support

You can contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) if you've got questions or need more information.

If you're travelling to the EU or Northern Ireland

Contact the Pet Travel Scheme helpline if you need more information about pet travel.

Pet Travel Scheme helpline

pettravel@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0370 241 1710

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays)

[Find out about call charges](#)

If you're travelling to a non-EU country

Contact APHA if you need more information about pet travel to a non-EU country.

Animal and Plant Health Agency

exports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm

[Find out about call charges](#)

If you have questions specific to Northern Ireland

Trade Section

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

1st Floor

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Ballykelly

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BT49 9HP

Tel: 028 77 442141

E-mail: tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

Summary

The main change for pet travel out of GB is that **UK pet passports are no longer valid** for travel into the EU. An **Animal Health Certificate** is now required for each trip to the EU, unless your animal already has a valid non-UK EU passport, issued in an EU country.

Summary of requirements for travel from GB to the EU or NI:

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before travel/certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC (Animal Health Certificate) no more than 10 days before travel
 - Or a valid non-UK EU passport
- Tapeworm treatment if travelling to Finland, Norway, Northern Ireland, Ireland or Malta (to be given and certified by a veterinarian 24-120 hours before entry to EU/NI)
- Entry must be through a Traveller's Point of Entry

Requirements for travelling back to GB:

- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination (at least 21 days before travel/certification, and when the pet was at least 12 weeks of age)
- AHC that was used to exit GB can be used to come back within 4 months
 - Or UK passport supplied before 31/12/2020
 - Or EU passport issued in the EU
- Tapeworm treatment unless travelling from Finland, Norway, Northern Ireland, Ireland or Malta (to be given and certified in the original AHC or the valid passport by a veterinarian 24-120 hours before entry to GB)
- You must enter GB via an Approved Route (except for assistance dogs)

Please remember, it is the responsibility of the owner (or person(s) transporting the pets) to know the requirements of travel for all countries travelled to and through, not the veterinary practice. We can provide guidance where appropriate, and complete the appointments for rabies vaccinations, certification, tapeworm treatments and any other necessary health checks you require. You must bring all supporting documents and information we request in order to complete these appointments correctly, otherwise we may not be able to provide you with certification to travel.