



## Checklist for The Pet Travel Scheme

### Microchipping

- My pet has been microchipped.
- The microchip can be read.

(If the microchip is not ISO Standard you should buy your own scanner.)

### Rabies vaccination

- My pet was at least 3 months old when vaccinated.
- My pet was vaccinated after it was fitted with a microchip.
- The microchip number has been entered correctly by the vet on the vaccination record and the EU pet passport.

### Blood test

- I have a record from the vet of the date the blood sample was taken, showing the correct microchip number. The blood sample was taken after the vaccination.
- My pet has had a satisfactory blood test at an EU-approved lab.
- I have a certified copy of the blood test result showing the correct microchip number and the date the blood sample was taken.

### Documentation

- A vet has correctly filled in the details in sections I.V of the passport.
- Your new pet passport will be valid on the date of departure from the UK - i.e. 21 days after the second rabies vaccination date.
- Your new pet passport will be valid for entry to the UK on the date of arrival - i.e. at least 6 calendar months after the blood sample was taken from my pet that gave a successful test result.

### Tick and tapeworm treatment with the approved medications

- A vet has treated my pet for ticks and tapeworms (Echinococcus) more than 24hrs and less than 48 hrs before check-in with an approved transport company for its journey back into the UK.
- The vet has checked my pet's microchip and correctly filled in sections VI and VII of the EU pet passport to certify the treatments.

### Travelling to and from the UK

- I have arranged for my pet to exit and enter the UK using an approved transport company and route.
- I have taken precautions to protect my pet against other diseases prior to travel as directed by my veterinary surgeon.
- I have all the documentation required with me on the journey.

**Visit our website: [www.vet-healthcentre.co.uk](http://www.vet-healthcentre.co.uk)**



## **Pets Travel Scheme -PETS Owner Guidance Notes**

from the Veterinary Health Centre

**If you wish to take your pets with you abroad on holiday,** the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows you to take your pets to other E.U. countries, and return with them to the UK provided you comply with some very strict rules. You may also take your pets to certain non-E.U. countries and bring them back to the UK without the need for quarantine. Animals which do not meet all the rules may be placed into quarantine for up to 6 months.

### **If you wish to export your pet**

Regulations will vary from country to country. Check the requirements with DEFRA (Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) at

**[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)**

or call the

**DEFRA Helpline  
on 08459 33 55 77**

## **Before you begin the "PETS" process ask yourself:-**



- 1. Am I prepared for the costs, work and time involved in fulfilling the requirements of the PETS Scheme? Microchip, Rabies vaccination, Blood tests, Paperwork etc. All of which must be started at least 9 months before your pet's planned return to the UK. N.B. Every step involves a charge.**
- 2. Will my pet cope well with the travelling and the hot climates?**
- 3. Do I understand there is a risk of my pet contracting serious infectious diseases not found in the UK.?**
- 4. Do I understand that if my pet becomes unwell overseas I might not be allowed to bring him back until he is recovered.**
- 5. Do I understand that a disease outbreak overseas might cause restriction (such as quarantine) to be placed on all returning pets.**

### **"PETS" PROTECTS PEOPLE - NOT PETS!**

**The Pets Travel Scheme is concerned with protecting people from serious diseases such as Rabies. It is not concerned with protecting your pet from disease! That is your responsibility. Our nurses can advise you on the main disease risks to your pet. Ask for our leaflet "Protecting your pet from disease risks overseas".**

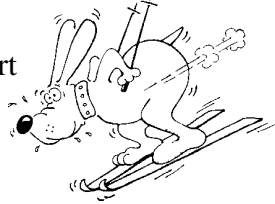
**Veterinary Health Centre, Daisy St. Blackburn. Phone 01254 53622  
David Higginson M.R.C.V.S. John Davies M.R.C.V.S. Sam Purcell M.R.C.V.S.**

## A Pet Passport is required ....

- 1) if you wish to travel abroad with your pets and then to return to the UK.
- 2) if you wish to emigrate and don't intend to return to the UK, though in this case the steps will vary from country to country.

## To gain a Pet Passport for your pet you need to :

1. **Identify your pet with a microchip** then
2. **Vaccinate against rabies** – Ideally 2 injections, 2 - 4 weeks apart
3. **Obtain a successful anti-rabies blood test result** – a blood sample is taken 3 weeks after the second vaccine. The results takes roughly 3 weeks to be returned to us.
4. **Obtain an EU Pets Passport** from a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) (any of the Partners at the Veterinary Health Centre).



Once all the above steps have been completed, you will be issued with the PETS Passport. It is your responsibility to check that all the details contained in this are correct. **The passport is valid immediately for travel to the EU** provided the date of the final rabies vaccination was administered at least 21 days prior to the date of travel. But **the passport is not valid for return to the UK until 6 months after** the date of the successful blood sampling.

It is a good idea to take with you your pets rabies vaccination certificate, a copy of the passed rabies blood test and your pet's regular vaccine certificate.

## To bring your pet back into the UK you need to

1. **24 - 48hrs before your pet's return to the UK visit a vet in the overseas country you are in for the application of a treatment against ticks and tapeworms and certification of this treatment on your pet's passport.** You must not apply this treatment yourself. You must contact the overseas vet in advance to check they are able to issue the certificate at the required time rather than just assuming they can with no prior warning. To find a vet, look in the Yellow Pages or contact the local British Consulate in the country concerned. A link to the French Yellow pages is: <http://wfa.pagesjaunes.fr/>. Pets being taken abroad on daytrips need to have the treatment applied by a vet in the UK between 24 and 48 hours before they are checked in for the **return** journey.
2. **Return to the UK on an approved route with an approved transport company;** the animal should not have been outside a qualifying country in the last 6 months.

**Regular Health Checks with Our Nurse**

## To maintain your pet's Passport you need to ...

**1. Keep your pet's Rabies vaccination up to date.** Currently the Rabies vaccine we use needs a booster every 3 years. For the PETS scheme the booster must be given no later than 3 years to the exact date. If the booster is given just one day late you will have to go through the entire PETS procedure again.

**It is your responsibility to arrange the Rabies Booster in good time.**

**2. Regularly check the microchip reads correctly.** Ask the vet or nurse to scan your pet's microchip when you visit the surgery.

**3. Every time you travel check with DEFRA that the regulations haven't changed.** An outbreak of Rabies in South West France in 2004 caused sudden restrictions on pet travel in that area. Any new disease threat may influence the PETS regulations.

**4. Keep your pet healthy!** Pets are not permitted to travel if unwell. Keep up with regular Flea and Tick prevention and regular worm with an approved medication.



### Why is the Tick and Tapeworm treatment required.

**To protect human health** your pets must be treated before your return to the U.K. with the approved Tick and Tapeworm treatment. Ticks are eliminated because they carry diseases that are harmful to man. Tapeworm treatment is to eliminate Echinococcus which causes a serious or fatal liver disease in man.

**Pets must be treated more than 24hrs and less than 48hrs prior to check-in for travel.** For protection of your pet from serious travel diseases see our leaflet on "Protecting your pet from disease risks overseas".

## IMPORTANT DISCLAIMERS -

**1. The Veterinary Health Centre will not be held responsible for any difficulties arising related to this document.** These notes are in no way deemed to be complete but are aimed to help give a basic understanding of PETS. Details may change at any time and as such you are advised to check with DEFRA- Tel. 08459 33 55 77.

**2. The Veterinary Health Centre will not be held responsible for reminding you to vaccinate your pet for rabies,** although we will endeavour to send you a reminder at the appropriate time. It is your responsibility that you keep your pets vaccines up to date. If the booster lapses by even a single day, then you will have to restart the entire procedure of vaccinations and blood sampling again.



**Keep up with flea and worm treatments**