

May 2005

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department  
National Assembly for Wales, Department of Environment Planning and Countryside

## EU Pet Passport

### Notes for dog and cat owners taking their pet abroad

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Your pet has been microchipped and vaccinated against rabies. It can now be issued with a pet passport which must be used when it travels to other European Union countries (also see **Entering other countries** below). If your pet has already had a blood test which resulted in a satisfactory test result, details of the test result will also be entered in the passport.

#### If your pet has not been blood tested

Before you can bring your pet back to the UK, it must have a blood test done. This can be done in the UK before it goes or in another qualifying country unless that country requires your pet to have a blood test before it can enter. Take your pet's vaccination record with you to the vet when the blood sample is taken. Ask the vet to read your pet's microchip and to give you a signed record of the date the blood sample was taken showing the microchip number.

The blood test must be carried out at an EU-approved laboratory. You can find a list on the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) website or ask the PETS Helpline. The result must be satisfactory (this means that the rabies antibody titre must be equal to or more than 0.5IU/ml).

Ask the vet for a certified copy of the result and keep it safe. It must show your pet's microchip number and the date the blood sample was taken. Make sure the vet (in Great Britain, a Local Veterinary Inspector), completes part V of the pet passport.

#### Late rabies booster vaccination

If your pet has missed a rabies booster vaccination date (i.e. it was administered after its due date) since the blood sample was drawn, your pet will need to have another blood test before it can re-enter the UK. As noted above, this can be done either in the UK or in another qualifying country. Your vet will make the following entry at the back of your pet passport:

"Rabies booster vaccination not given on time. Before this animal can re-enter the UK, a further blood sample will have to be taken and sent to an EU-approved laboratory for a rabies blood test. If the result is satisfactory, the animal may re-enter the UK 6 calendar months after the date the blood sample was taken."

#### When can your pet re-enter the UK?

Your pet may not re-enter the UK until 6 calendar months has elapsed from the date the blood sample, which led to a satisfactory test result, was taken. For example for a blood sample drawn on 1 April 2005, the earliest re-entry date is

1 October 2005. Please remember that any rabies booster vaccinations following the date of blood sampling must have been administered on time.

Record the re-entry date for your pet passport here

#### Treatment for ticks and tapeworms

Before re-entering the UK your pet must be treated by a vet against ticks and tapeworms. The tick treatment must be licensed for use against ticks. A tick collar is not acceptable. The treatment for the tapeworm must contain praziquantel. This treatment must be given between 24 and 48 hours before your pet is checked-in to travel on an approved route into the UK. Animals travelling from the UK on day trips must be treated in the UK before departure to meet the timing requirement.

Make sure that the vet reads the microchip first and completes all the details in sections VI and VII of the pet passport.

#### Entering other countries

Please note that several EU countries have other entry requirements, e.g. treatment against ticks and/or tapeworms. Check with the relevant authorities before you travel.

Also note that your pet cannot enter another EU country until 21 days has passed following the date of your pet's **first** rabies vaccination. If your pet required a course of two vaccinations when being vaccinated for the first time, the 21 day wait applies from the date of second vaccination. Further information can be found on the Defra PETS website.

#### More information

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs PETS website: [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm)  
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department: [www.scotland.gov.uk/AHWP](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/AHWP)

PETS Helpline:  
0870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday - 08.30 to 17.00 UK time)

E-mail:  
[pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk) (enclose your postal address and daytime telephone number)

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