

## Additional Information

- If you spend several months a year abroad you may be required to vaccinate your pet more frequently for rabies.
- When travelling to or from countries not included in the Pet Travel Scheme there may be other specific requirements. Contact the embassy of the country for advice prior to travel. It is also beneficial to contact DEFRA who can issue a copy of the export regulations for that country.
- For more information please speak to a member of staff at your practice.



## Summary

- An update to the PETS regulations has made it **easier than ever** to travel abroad with your dog, cat or ferret.
- A **microchip, rabies vaccination and passport** are required before leaving the UK.
- **Tapeworm** treatment is **required** 1-5 days before re-entry into the UK on an approved route.
- **Tick** treatment is not a legal requirement but is **highly** recommended.
- Protection against **mosquitos** and **sand flies** is **strongly** advised.



## Excellence in Veterinary Care

XLVets Small Animal member veterinary practices work together to share experience, knowledge and ideas to ensure the highest levels of quality and care for their clients pets. XLVet member practices provide a compassionate and caring service for all pets and at the same time offer comprehensive and up-to-date treatment in all fields of veterinary medicine and surgery.

# TRAVELLING ABROAD WITH YOUR PET



## What is the Pet Travel Scheme?

Under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) dogs, cats and ferrets can enter or re-enter the UK from certain countries without the need for quarantine provided they meet the rules of the scheme. These rules are different depending on which country or territory the pet is travelling from.

## What you need to know

Travelling to and from approved countries within the EU and, in some cases, further afield is now much simpler since the regulations were changed at the start of January 2012.

The list of approved countries can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). Information regarding requirements for entering the UK with your pet from other countries not on this list is also available at this site.



## Requirements

To be able to enter or re-enter the UK from the approved countries your pet must:

1. Be microchipped.
2. Be vaccinated against rabies after the microchip has been implanted.
3. Wait at least 21 days after the first rabies vaccination before entry into the EU/listed country (this is not required for subsequent entries into the UK provided the booster is kept up to date).
4. Have a Pet Passport issued.
5. Be treated for tapeworm (dogs only). This must be given by a vet not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before scheduled arrival time in the UK. This will be certified in the passport by the vet.

6. Arrive with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

The first 4 steps listed must be completed at the practice prior to travelling and must be carried out by a vet who is an Official Veterinarian (OV).

Step 5 will usually be completed on holiday, however, if your visit abroad is less than 5 days, this treatment can be performed by your own vet before you leave the UK.

## Disease Prevention

The Pet Travel Scheme is set up to minimise the risk of some diseases entering the UK. However this will not protect your pet from other diseases they may encounter while travelling.

Tick treatment prior to entry into the UK is no longer a legal requirement for the Pet Travel Scheme. **HOWEVER**, we still recommend pets are treated with an effective tick treatment while they are away and before returning to the UK.



This will prevent the entry of European ticks into the UK and the transfer of potentially fatal diseases they may bring with them.

Other diseases can be spread by sand flies and mosquitos and can be easily prevented by appropriate use of spot on treatments or collars. Please ask your practice for advice.

Diseases that may be encountered whilst travelling abroad include:

### Leishmaniosis

Transmitted by sandflies, can cause signs ranging from skin disease to kidney failure. Incurable and sometimes fatal.

### Babesiosis

Transmitted by ticks, can cause high temperature, loss of appetite and sudden death.

### Ehrlichiosis

Transmitted by ticks, can cause high temperature, loss of appetite and neurological signs, often fatal.

### Heartworm

Transmitted by mosquitoes, can cause lung problems and heart failure.

For more information on these diseases across Europe, a useful website is [www.esccapuk.org.uk](http://www.esccapuk.org.uk)

