

**VACCINATE
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Travelling abroad with your pet



Shaping the future of animal health

Virbac

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The need for careful preparation

When travelling with your pets, and specifically cats, dogs and ferrets, careful preparation is essential - the first thing to check are the rules and regulations for the UK and the overseas country. The rules protect against certain diseases (such as Rabies) and help to avoid the need for quarantine, so start planning!

The DEFRA PETS Travel Scheme applies to dogs, cats and ferrets and covers 'EU countries', 'listed' countries and 'unlisted' countries. If you have a different species of pet, the rules may be different again. The rules for exporting a pet, and not returning, may differ from those rules when taking your pet on holiday.

Further information on the up-to-date regulations and country classifications, speak to your vets or you can contact DEFRA, online at www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad or on their helpline on **0370 241 1710**.

Planning your travel

Whether you are exporting your pet or planning on going on holiday, you need to know what passport and official veterinary certificates you will need. Think about the following things:

● IMMEDIATELY

Find out if the country you are travelling to is part of PETS, 'listed' or 'unlisted' – check with DEFRA and the overseas country if necessary to confirm their specific requirements. Work out exactly what you need to do.

● SIX MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Your pet must have an ID microchip. Once fitted, your pet should be vaccinated against rabies. They must be at least 12 weeks of age. Ask your vet to arrange a Pet Passport if you need one.

● THREE MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

If you are travelling to countries where the risk of leishmaniosis is high, talk to your vet about whether the leishmaniosis vaccine should be recommended and consider the timing of injections and dates when protection is provided.



● TWO MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

If you need one, contact your APHA office to request an Export Health Certificate and ensure you have any necessary Import Permits for your destination.

● ONE WEEK BEFORE DEPARTURE

If needed, take your pet and all your paperwork to the vets to have them checked for their Export Health Certificate. Check your vets can carry out EU or PETS approved certificates (they need specific training).

● DOGS ONLY: 24 to 120 HOURS BEFORE YOU RETURN TO THE UK

Take your dog to the vet to have it treated for tapeworm and, whilst it is not a legal requirement, it is beneficial to treat them for ticks at this stage too. This must be officially certified so you can re-enter the UK.

Passports

You must always travel with your original passport documents. Ensure your pet's details are up to date and a valid microchip is recorded. Make sure all your vaccinations are recorded in the passport (include the manufacturer, brand and batch number) along with any tapeworm treatments (using praziquantel or very similar equivalent and given 24 – 120 hours before return to the UK).

Flying with your pet

Animals that are flying have to be shipped in regulated carriers – check with your airline for their specific requirements. Assistance or Guide dogs are sometimes allowed to travel in the cabin alongside their owner – again check with your airline well in advance or contact the Guide Dogs on www.guidedogs.org.uk.

Pet dogs that you are not permitted to bring into the UK

There are specific breeds of dog that are illegal in the UK and will not be allowed entry, including the Pit Bull Terrier, the Dogo Argentino, the Fila Brasileiro and the Japanese Tosa. If you bring one of these dogs into the UK, you could be prosecuted and the dog seized and destroyed.

Useful contacts when travelling

Keep your vets contact details here:



DEFRA: online at **www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad**
or their helpline **0370 241 1710**.

APHA: **www.gov.uk/apha**.



Advice should be sought from the Medicine Prescriber.
Use medicines responsibly. www.noah.co.uk/responsible.

For further information, please contact Virbac:

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