



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 2 November on behalf of your constituents about pet travel. I apologise for the delay in responding. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence due to COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

I can clarify that the United Kingdom has now been formally 'listed' as a 'Part 2 listed third country' for the purposes of the EU pet travel regulations. Part 2 listed status means similar health requirements to travel to the EU, but new documentation will be required for pets and assistance dogs.

For pet travel to the EU or Northern Ireland (NI), pet owners will need to ensure their dog, cat or ferret is:

- Microchipped
- Vaccinated against rabies at a minimum of 12 weeks old (followed by a 21 day wait)

Pet owners will then need to obtain a single use Animal Health Certificate (AHC) from their official veterinarian within 10 days of travel. If the pet already has an EU issued pet passport from a Member State, such as France or Spain, this will be valid for travel and an AHC is not necessary. However, pet owners should ensure that vets based in Great Britain do not input into the pet passport now the transition period has ended, as this may invalidate it.

Pet owners travelling to the EU and NI must also:

- Provide a declaration of non-commercial movement
- Enter the EU via a Travellers Point of Entry (TPE)

For travel to some countries (Norway, Finland, Malta, the Republic of Ireland and NI), dogs will also need to be treated against the tapeworm *echinococcus multilocularis* 24-120 hours before arrival.

Our advice for pet owners and users of assistance dogs travelling now is that they should contact their vet at least one month in advance. This is to ensure their pet has the correct vaccinations and paperwork to travel abroad.

There will be no changes to the current pet travel health requirements for entry into Great Britain (including the need for tapeworm treatment against echinococcus multilocularis, which will still be required) and we will continue to accept EU pet passports.

We have recently updated our guidance on GOV.UK with detailed information on what pet owners must do to ensure a seamless journey for their pet to the EU or NI:
<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad>

If your constituent has any further questions, they can contact the dedicated pet travel helpline on: pettravel@apha.gov.uk or via telephone 0370 241 1710 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays).



RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP