

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

Introduction to the European Regulation on the movement of pet animals

1. Background

This fact sheet replaces fact sheet 1 dated October 2005. European Regulation 998/2003 took effect on 3 July 2004. It sets out the animal health requirements for the movement of pet animals travelling between European Union (EU) countries and into the EU from other countries.

The Regulation covers the requirements for the movement of pet dogs, cats, ferrets, domestic rabbits and rodents (including guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils and chinchillas). It also covers birds (except certain poultry), ornamental tropical fish, invertebrates (except bees and crustaceans), amphibians and reptiles.

Animals covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) remain subject to the provisions of Council Regulation 388/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora.

The UK is continuing to use the name "Pet Travel Scheme" (PETS). The main changes to the PETS rules are noted in section 4. The major change for dogs and cats entering the UK is that the PETS certificate, the tick and tapeworm certificate and the declaration of residence have been replaced by an EU pet passport. Only dogs, cats and ferrets require a passport.

The passport allows these animals to enter or re-enter the UK from the EU and other countries listed below. It also replaces the export health certificate for travel from the UK to other EU countries and permits travel between EU countries.

Dogs and cats with a PETS certificate can continue to use it to enter the UK and certain other EU countries until the "Valid until" date on the certificate. *See section 5.*

Please note that animals being licensed into quarantine in the UK for 6 months are not required to meet the PETS rules. Use the Defra, Scottish Executive or DARD contacts in section 9 to check the requirements.

For details of other fact sheets in this series and contact points see section 9.

2. Listed countries

The Regulation covers 2 groups of countries. The first are the EU Member States and territories (referred to as **EU countries**):

Austria	Estonia	Hungary	Netherlands
Azores	Faroe Islands	Ireland ³	Poland
Balearic Islands	Finland	Italy	Portugal
Belgium	France	Latvia	Réunion
Bulgaria	French Guiana	Lithuania	Romania
Canary Islands	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Ceuta	Gibraltar	Madeira	Slovenia
Cyprus ¹	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Greenland	Martinique	Sweden
Denmark	Guadeloupe ²	Melilla	United Kingdom

¹ Pets may only enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine from the Republic of Cyprus. As at October 2005, pets travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) must be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival in the UK. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

² Includes St Barthelemy and St Martin (French part of the island)

³ There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland

The UK comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are treated as part of the UK for the purposes of the Regulation.

The second group are certain countries and territories outside the EU (referred to as **non-EU listed countries**):

Andorra	Cayman Islands	Liechtenstein	St Kitts & Nevis
Antigua & Barbuda	Chile	Malaysia (Peninsular)	St Pierre & Miquelon
Argentina	Croatia	Mauritius	St Vincent
Aruba	Falkland Islands	Mayotte	San Marino
Ascension Island	Fiji	Mexico	Singapore
Australia	French Polynesia	Monaco	Switzerland
Bahrain	Grenadines	Montserrat	Taiwan
Barbados	Gwam	Netherlands Antilles	Trinidad & Tobago
Belarus	Hawaii	New Caledonia	United Arab Emirates
Bermuda	Hong Kong	New Zealand	USA (mainland)
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Iceland	Norway	Vanuatu
British Virgin Islands	Jamaica ¹	Russian Federation	Vatican
Canada	Japan	St Helena	Wallis & Futuna

¹ Jamaican law as at October 2005 prevents their involvement in PETS. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

Listed countries are subject to change. For the latest situation, please see the PETS website or ring the Helpline.

Any country not listed is referred to as an **unlisted country** in these fact sheets.

3. What has not changed from 3 July 2004

- To enter the UK without quarantine from a listed country, **dogs and cats** still have to be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and blood tested. Your pet must be vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturing laboratory.
- The 6 calendar month wait to enter or re-enter the UK from the date a blood sample was taken that gave a satisfactory test result still applies. Animals must not have been outside any of the listed countries in the 6 calendar months before entering the UK.
- The tick and tapeworm treatment, carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before being checked-in with an approved transport company to travel into the UK, is still required.
- Dogs and cats must still enter the UK using an approved transport company and route.
- The free movement of animals within the UK and directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland continues.
- Special rules remain for animals that have been prepared in a different order in accordance with the national laws of certain countries (*see fact sheet 3*).

4. What has changed from 3 July 2004

For **dogs and cats** the following changes apply.

- Those prepared for PETS in the **EU** require an **EU pet passport**. For entry or re-entry to the UK, this replaces the PETS certificate, the certificate of tick and tapeworm treatment and the declaration of residence. See section 5 if your dog or cat has a PETS certificate with a current “Valid until” date. *Fact sheet 3 gives more details about the passport.*
- The passport has replaced the export health certificate for entry to other EU countries from the UK and permits travel between EU countries. It also replaces the PETS 5 certificate for entering France from the UK. See section 7 for more details about taking your pet out of the UK.
- Dogs and cats prepared in a **non-EU listed country** require a **third country official veterinary certificate**, instead of a PETS certificate, to enter any EU country, including the UK. The certificate includes details of the microchip, rabies vaccination, blood test and tick and tapeworm treatment. Pets with an EU pet passport may re-enter the EU from non-EU listed countries using the passport. *Fact sheet 4 gives more details.*

- Dogs and cats travelling to the EU from an **unlisted country** must meet EU import requirements before leaving that country. **If travelling direct to the UK, this means they will have to be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival.** This should be arranged before your pet travels. *Fact sheet 4 gives more details.*
- The number of laboratories where the rabies blood test can be done has increased.
- The number of countries from which dogs and cats may enter the UK under PETS without 6 months quarantine has increased. Certain territories of EU countries are regarded as part of the EU under the Regulation. See *section 2.*

Ferrets may now enter the UK from listed countries without quarantine provided they meet the rules. *Fact sheet 5 gives more details.*

For **all types of pet animals**, you may bring no more than 5 animals into the UK under the EU Regulation from most non-EU listed countries. *Fact sheets 4 or 5 give more details.*

5. Transitional arrangements

There are special rules for owners of dogs and cats who have a PETS entry or re-entry certificate with a current “Valid until” date. These certificates can be used to enter or re-enter the UK and certain other EU countries until they expire. *Fact sheet 2 gives more details.*

6. Other pet animals

For details about the movement of **pet rabbits and rodents**, see fact sheet 6.

Details about the movement of other pets listed in section 1 will be issued when they become available. Until then, to bring these animals into the UK they must meet either national import rules or the general rules for trade in the animal species.

For information on import licences for birds and guidance on the import of invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles please see <http://defra/animalh/int-trde/default.htm>, or e-mail iah-imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

7. Taking animals out of the UK

There is a 21 day rule about taking dogs, cats and ferrets to other EU countries. *Fact sheets 3 and 4* give more details about this with other advice about taking **dogs and cats** to other listed countries. *Fact sheet 5* gives advice about taking **ferrets** to other listed countries. There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

8. Animals that don't meet the PETS requirements

If an animal arrives in the UK and does not meet the PETS requirements, the authority responsible for carrying out the checks will decide, in consultation with the owner and a vet, whether to re-export the animal; to put it into quarantine (possibly for up to 6 months) until it can comply with the PETS rules; or, as a last resort, to put the animal down.

9. More information

Other fact sheets

- *Fact sheet 2* explains the special arrangements that have been made for dogs and cats to travel within or into the EU with a valid PETS certificate.
- *Fact sheet 3* explains the rules for dogs and cats travelling between EU countries with an EU pet passport.
- *Fact sheet 4* explains the rules for dogs and cats entering the UK from non-EU listed countries with an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate.
- *Fact sheet 5* explains the rules for the movement of ferrets into the UK.
- *Fact sheet 6* explains the rules for the movement of pet rabbits and rodents into the UK.

Contacts

State Veterinary Service (SVS)

PETS

- PETS website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm
- PETS Helpline: 0870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday - 08.30 to 17.00 UK time)
- E-mail: pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk (enclose your postal address and daytime telephone number)
- Fax: 01245 351162

P.T.O.

Quarantine

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/rabies/default.htm
- Telephone: 01245 358383
- E-mail: quarantine@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 01245 351162

Scottish Executive

- Telephone: 0131 244 6182/1
- E-mail: animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 0131 244 6616

National Assembly for Wales Department of Environment, Planning and Countryside (NAWDEPC)

- Telephone: 01286 662027 (English and Welsh)
- E-mail: AnimalByProductsCaernarfon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD)

- Telephone: 02890 524622

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The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

PETS certificates and transitional arrangements - dogs and cats

1. Introduction

This fact sheet replaces fact sheet 2 dated October 2005. European Regulation 998/2003 took effect on 3 July 2004. It sets out the animal health requirements for pet animals travelling between European Union (EU) countries and into the EU from other countries.

In this fact sheet, “pet” refers to a dog or cat and includes assistance dogs.

This fact sheet explains how you can still use a valid PETS certificate until the “Valid until” date.

For details of other fact sheets in this series and contact points see section 3.

2. Transitional arrangements for using PETS certificates

Transitional arrangements mean that PETS certificates issued before 1 October 2004 can be used to enter or re-enter the UK from certain countries up to their “Valid until” date (*see the first list in Annex A*). However, we strongly recommend that you use an EU pet passport (*see fact sheet 3*) or a third country official veterinary certificate (*see fact sheet 4*) where possible. PETS certificates issued after 30 September 2004 will not be accepted for entry to the UK.

Although PETS certificates may be used from 1 October 2004 until their expiry date to enter certain other EU countries, you are strongly advised to get an EU pet passport. There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and Ireland.

You no longer need an Export Health Certificate (or a PETS 5 for France) to enter other EU countries from the UK.

- ***Replacing a PETS certificate***

When your certificate expires, if you are in an EU country you will need to ask a vet for an EU pet passport. If you are in a non-EU listed country, you will need to get a third country official veterinary certificate. You can replace a PETS certificate with a passport before it expires. Fact sheet 3 explains how to get a passport.

- ***Tick and tapeworm treatment documentation***

When you bring your dog or cat into the UK with a PETS certificate, you will also need an official certificate showing that it has been treated against ticks and tapeworms. The countries in which you may be able to obtain this certificate are shown in the first list in Annex A.

For details of the treatment required and when it must be done see fact sheets 3 or 4.

To show that the tick and tapeworm treatment has been done, a vet must give you an **official** certificate. An official certificate is one issued for the purposes of the Scheme by a government authority of the country in which the treatment is carried out. It usually has the name of the government department at the top. The certificate must be in English, but may also contain a translation in another language. A private veterinary certificate or headed letter is **not** acceptable.

Check in advance that the vet will be able to provide the necessary certificate.

Make sure the certificate shows your animal's microchip number and the *date* and *time* of treatment (using the 24 hour clock) and the product used. The vet must sign, date and enter their address on the certificate. Make sure all these details are correctly recorded before you leave the vet.

Keep your documents safe because the transport company checking your pet will need to see them.

You are responsible for obtaining the correct documents for your pet to enter the UK. Make sure that they are completed correctly and your pet meets all the rules. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and cost you money.

See fact sheets 3 or 4 for the rules about travelling to the UK with your pet.

3. More information

Other fact sheets

- *Fact sheet 1* gives a general introduction to the European Regulation on the movement of pet animals.
- *Fact sheet 3* explains the rules for dogs and cats travelling between EU countries with an EU pet passport.

- *Fact sheet 4* explains the rules for dogs and cats entering the UK from non-EU listed countries with an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate.
- *Fact sheet 5* explains the rules for the movement of ferrets into the UK.
- *Fact sheet 6* explains the rules for the movement of pet rabbits and rodents into the UK.

Contacts

State Veterinary Service (SVS)

PETS

- PETS website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm
- PETS Helpline: 0870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday - 08.30 to 17.00 UK time)
- E-mail: pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk (enclose your postal address and daytime telephone number)
- Fax: 01245 351162

Quarantine

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/rabies/default.htm
- Telephone: 01245 358383
- E-mail: quarantine@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 01245 351162

Scottish Executive

- Telephone: 0131 244 6182/1
- E-mail: animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 0131 244 6616

P.T.O.

National Assembly for Wales Department of Environment, Planning and Countryside (NAWDEPC)

- Telephone: 01286 662027 (English and Welsh)
- E-mail: AnimalByProductsCaernarfon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD)

- Telephone: 02890 524622

Check with one of the contact points above if your questions are not answered by our fact sheets, and to make sure you have the latest information.

Annex A

Listed countries are subject to change. For the latest situation see the PETS website or ring the Helpline.

Countries and territories from which a valid PETS certificate can be used to enter or re-enter the UK

Andorra	*Denmark	*Luxembourg	St Vincent
Antigua & Barbuda	Falkland Islands	Madeira	San Marino
Ascension Island	Fiji	*Malta	Singapore
Australia	*Finland	*Martinique	*Spain
*Austria	*France	Mauritius	*Sweden
*Azores	French Polynesia	Mayotte	Switzerland
Bahrain	*Germany	Monaco	USA (mainland)
Balearic Islands	*Gibraltar	Montserrat	Vanuatu
Barbados	*Greece	*Netherlands	Vatican
*Belgium	*Guadeloupe ²	New Caledonia	Wallis & Futuna
Bermuda	Hawaii	New Zealand	
British Virgin Islands	Iceland	Norway	
Canada	*Italy	*Portugal	
Canary Islands	Jamaica ³	*Réunion	
Cayman Islands	Japan	St Helena	
*Cyprus ¹	Liechtenstein	St Kitts & Nevis	

¹ Dogs and cats prepared for PETS in, or returning under PETS to the UK from, the Republic of Cyprus may enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine. However, as at October 2005, PETS compliant animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) must be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival in the UK. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

² Includes St Barthelemy and St Martin (French part of the island)

³ Jamaican law as at February 2005 prevents their involvement in PETS. See the website or

contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

* EU country or territory

To re-enter the UK direct from the following countries under PETS, your animal must have either an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate. Dogs and cats prepared for PETS in these countries will be given either a passport or a third country official veterinary certificate (see *fact sheets 3 or 4*).

Argentina	*Estonia	*Latvia	St Pierre & Miquelon
Aruba	*Faroe Islands	*Lithuania	*Slovakia
Bulgaria	*French Guiana	*Melilla	*Slovenia
Chile	*Greenland	Netherlands Antilles	Taiwan
Croatia	Grenadines	*Poland	United Arab Emirates
*Ceuta	Hong Kong	Romania	
*Czech Republic	*Hungary	Russian Federation	

* EU country or territory

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The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

European Union countries - dogs and cats

This fact sheet replaces fact sheet 3 dated October 2005. European Regulation 998/2003 took effect on 3 July 2004. It sets out the rules for pet animals travelling between European Union (EU) countries and into the EU from other countries.

In this fact sheet, “pet” refers to a dog or cat and includes assistance dogs.

This fact sheet explains how to prepare a dog or cat under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) to enter or re-enter the UK from other EU countries with an EU pet passport. EU countries are listed in part 3. See fact sheet 2 if your pet is travelling with a PETS certificate.

For details of other fact sheets in this series and contact points see part 6.

PART 1: THE RULES

To **enter or re-enter the UK** from other EU countries without quarantine a pet must, in this order, be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and blood tested. It must also be issued with an EU pet passport and treated against ticks and tapeworms. See part 2 for detailed procedures. In certain countries the order of preparation may be different (*see Annex A*).

Your pet must not have been outside any of the countries listed in part 3 in the 6 calendar months immediately before travelling to the UK and must enter the UK using an approved transport company and route (*see part 3c*).

For advice on taking your pet **from the UK to other EU countries** see *part 5b*.

There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

- ***The 6 month rule for entering the UK***

Your pet may not enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 6 calendar months have passed from the date that a vet took the blood sample which gave a satisfactory test result. The date the blood sample was taken is shown in section V of the passport which the vet must complete (*see part 2, steps 3 and 4*).

Your pet requires only one blood test and 6 calendar month wait **provided** all subsequent rabies booster vaccinations are given by the required date.

This wait is necessary because an animal infected with rabies *before* vaccination would not be protected by the vaccine. Six months is the time needed for most infected animals to display any clinical signs of the disease.

The rules are to protect human and animal health and to reduce the risk of importing rabies into the UK. Animals not meeting all the rules must be licensed into quarantine.

- ***Where PETS procedures can be carried out***

Your pet can be fitted with a microchip in any country. Rabies vaccinations, blood sampling, the tick and tapeworm treatment and issuing of documents must all be carried out in either the UK or any of the listed countries.

PART 2: PREPARING YOUR DOG OR CAT

Use the checklist at Annex B as you follow the steps.

Step 1: The microchip

Your pet must first be fitted with a microchip. We recommend that it meets ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO Standard 11785. If the microchip does not meet one of these Standards you must provide a reader that can read the microchip number at the time of any inspection.

Ask the person fitting the microchip to check that its number can be read before and after it has been fitted. Get your vet to read the microchip every time you visit.

Step 2: The rabies vaccination

- ***When to vaccinate***

Pets being prepared to enter or re-enter the UK must be vaccinated in accordance with the recommendation of the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet. They must be vaccinated *after* a microchip has been fitted. Get the vet to read the microchip number before the vaccination.

If your pet was vaccinated *before* the microchip was fitted, it will have to be vaccinated again. This is to make sure that it is correctly identified when vaccinated (*but also see Annex A*).

- ***Vaccination record***

When your pet is vaccinated, make sure that the vet accurately records the following details on its vaccination record and passport:

- its date of birth/age
- the microchip number, date of insertion and its location in the animal
- the date of vaccination
- the vaccine manufacturer, product name and batch number

- the date by which the booster vaccination must be given (i.e. the “Valid until” date). This date is calculated by reference to the validity period of the vaccine given in the vaccine manufacturer’s data sheet.
- **Booster vaccinations**

After your pet has been vaccinated and blood tested with a satisfactory result, it will need booster vaccinations. These **must** be given by the “Valid until” date in section IV of the passport or on the PETS certificate and be recorded on the vaccination record and in section IV of the passport.

If the booster date is missed, your pet will have to be vaccinated and blood tested again. The 6 month rule will apply from the date the new blood sample is taken, provided the result is satisfactory. A vet (in Great Britain a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI)) must complete the second box in section V of the passport.

Step 3: The blood test *(only necessary if your pet is entering or re-entering the UK, Malta or, from a country other than the UK, the Republic of Ireland)*

After being vaccinated, your pet must have a blood test to make sure that the vaccine has worked. This can be carried out after your pet has travelled to another EU country unless a blood test is required for entry to that country.

Your vet will tell you the best time for the blood test to be done and will take a blood sample to be analysed at an EU-approved laboratory. Take your pet’s vaccination record with you when the blood sample is taken. Ask your vet to read the microchip and to give you a signed record of the date the sample was taken that accurately shows your pet’s microchip number.

A satisfactory blood test result will show that the rabies antibody titre was equal to or more than 0.5IU/ml. Make sure your vet gives you a certified copy of the result, accurately showing the microchip number and the date the sample was taken, and keep it safe.

Your pet requires only one satisfactory blood test and 6 calendar months wait **provided** the subsequent rabies booster vaccinations are given by the required date. See step 2 if the date is missed.

If your pet fails its blood test it must be blood tested again. Your vet will advise if it first needs to be revaccinated. The 6 month rule will apply.

Step 4: Documentation

After your pet has passed its blood test you must get an EU pet passport. If a blood test is not necessary, or is to be carried out in another EU country, you can get a passport after your pet has been microchipped and vaccinated against rabies.

- ***How to get a passport***

In Great Britain, the passport is issued by an LVI. If your veterinary practice does not have a resident LVI, your vet may be able to tell you where the nearest one works. Your local Animal Health Divisional Office can also provide these details. Defra does not charge vets for the passport.

In other EU countries, a vet will issue the passport.

When you go to get the passport take your pet, its vaccination record and blood test result (if appropriate). These documents must show your pet's microchip number. Also take evidence of the date your pet was microchipped. Make sure that the vet correctly completes sections I to IV of the passport and V if appropriate.

- ***Using the passport***

To enter the UK, the passport must show that your pet has been microchipped, has a current rabies vaccination and has had a satisfactory blood test. It must also show a current treatment for ticks and tapeworms at the time of entry (*see step 5*).

A passport may not be used enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 6 calendar months have passed from the date the blood sample that gave a satisfactory test result was taken. You can then continue to use the passport to enter the UK **provided** your pet is revaccinated by the "Valid until" date in section IV (*see step 2 if the date is missed*). For travelling from the UK to other EU countries, see part 5(b).

- ***Replacing the passport***

When the passport is full, you should apply to a vet (in Great Britain an LVI) for a new one. Take the full passport and your pet with you.

- Bengal cats – for more details see part 5c.

Keep your documents safe because the transport company checking your pet will need to see them. If you lose the passport you may obtain a new one by producing your pet's vaccination record and blood test result, both of which must show your pet's microchip number.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have the correct documents for your pet to enter the UK. Make sure that they are correctly completed and your pet meets all the rules. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and cost you money.

Step 5: Treatment against parasites

Before your pet can enter the UK, it must be treated against ticks and tapeworms. Any vet in the EU can give the treatment. You must not do it yourself. Make sure the vet reads your pet's microchip before treatment.

Your pet must be treated **not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before being checked in** with an approved transport company to travel into the UK. The treatment must be given every time your pet travels to the UK.

If you are taking your pet abroad from the UK on a day trip, it will need to be treated in the UK not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before it is checked in for the **return** journey.

The product used for the tapeworm treatment must contain *praziquantel*.

The product used for the tick treatment must be licensed for use against ticks and have a marketing authorisation in the country of use. Tick collars are not acceptable.

The treatments are to stop the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* and certain ticks entering the UK. These parasites can carry diseases which can infect other animals and humans causing illness and sometimes death.

- ***Recording the treatment***

After the treatment, the vet must fill in sections VI and VII of the EU pet passport.

The *date* and *time* of treatment (using the 24 hour clock), the name of the product used and its manufacturer must be shown. The vet must also stamp and sign the passport. Make sure all these details are correctly recorded before you leave the vet.

PART 3: TRAVELLING TO THE UK

Listed countries are subject to change. For the latest situation see the PETS website or ring the Helpline.

(a) EU countries and territories

UK-resident pets can travel to any of the EU countries shown below and return to the UK under the Scheme. Pets that come from any of these countries can also enter the UK under PETS. Pets must not have been outside any of the EU or non-EU listed countries in the 6 calendar months before travelling to the UK.

Austria	Estonia	Hungary	Netherlands
Azores	Faroe Islands	Ireland ³	Poland
Balearic Islands	Finland	Italy	Portugal
Belgium	France	Latvia	Réunion
Bulgaria	French Guiana	Lithuania	Romania
Canary Islands	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Ceuta	Gibraltar	Madeira	Slovenia
Cyprus ¹	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Greenland	Martinique	Sweden
Denmark	Guadeloupe ²	Melilla	United Kingdom

¹ Dogs and cats prepared for PETS in, or returning under PETS to the UK from, the Republic of Cyprus may enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine. However, as at October 2005, PETS compliant animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) must be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival in the UK. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

² Includes St Barthelemy and St Martin (French part of the island)

³ There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland

Pets normally resident in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland can enter the UK from listed countries if they meet the rules.

Owners of pets entering the Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland from outside the British Isles should contact the appropriate authorities in those countries for advice on approved routes and any other requirements.

(b) Non-EU listed countries and territories

See fact sheet 4 for details of bringing your pet from the countries below into the UK under PETS.

Andorra	Fiji	New Caledonia
Antigua & Barbuda	French Polynesia	New Zealand
Argentina	Grenadines	Norway
Aruba	Guam	Russian Federation (2)
Ascension Island	Hawaii	St Helena
Australia	Hong Kong	St Kitts & Nevis
Bahrain	Iceland	St Pierre & Miquelon
Barbados	Jamaica (1)	St Vincent
Belarus	Japan	San Marino
Bermuda	Liechtenstein	Singapore
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Malaysia (Peninsular)	Switzerland
British Virgin Islands	Mauritius	Taiwan
Canada	Mayotte	Trinidad and Tobago
Cayman Islands	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Chile	Monaco	USA (mainland)
Croatia	Montserrat	Vanuatu
Falkland Islands	Netherlands Antilles	Vatican
		Wallis & Futuna

¹ Jamaican law as at October 2005 prevents their involvement in PETS. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

(c) How to travel

You must use one of the routes and transport companies on the enclosed EU route list to bring your pet into the UK under the Scheme from another EU country. If there is no authorised route from your country you may travel to another EU country and enter on a listed route from there. In this case, unless your pet does not leave the confines of the airport during the interchange, the tick and tapeworm treatment must be given before you check in for the final stage of your journey.

Pets travelling by ferry or rail must accompany passengers with a vehicle unless otherwise shown on the list. On most air routes, pets will travel as cargo but some airlines allow registered assistance dogs to travel in the cabin. There is a separate route list for assistance dogs.

Routes may change and new ones may be added. For the latest information, see the PETS website or ring the PETS Helpline. Some routes are seasonal or irregular so check availability with the transport company.

Check your pet's travel arrangements with the company as they may have their own conditions of travel which could include a health declaration. Check the costs, requirements and procedures before booking your journey to the UK.

If travelling by air, you may need to arrange with the transport company for the passport to accompany your pet. (You may wish to keep a copy for reference).

If your pet enters the UK with an unapproved transport company or on an unauthorised route, you will need to arrange for it to be licensed into quarantine on arrival with a view to obtaining its early release. If it can be shown that your pet meets all the necessary requirements of the Scheme it can be released within a few working days. See **(d)** below.

(d) Early release from quarantine

Any pet entering the UK which does not meet all the Scheme rules must be licensed into quarantine. It may be released from the date it can be shown to comply with the rules. To license your pet into quarantine, you must get an import licence from Defra (for England), Scottish Executive (for Scotland) or DARD (for Northern Ireland) before it travels to the UK. Part 6 gives contact details. The licence must accompany your pet when it travels. You must meet the costs of quarantine.

(e) Travel charges

Transport companies will usually include travel, checking and handling charges in the ticket price for your pet. Check when you make your booking.

No charges are made by Defra or the Devolved Authorities.

PART 4: THE PETS CHECK

Before you board a Eurotunnel train or a ferry travelling to the UK on an authorised route, you must present your pet to transport staff so that its microchip and official documentation can be checked. Guide dogs travelling on Eurostar will be checked on arrival at Waterloo station.

After a satisfactory check, pet owners travelling by Eurotunnel or ferry will be given a badge or sticker which should be displayed as instructed by the transport company staff. This should not be removed until you have left the port of arrival in the UK.

If your pet fails the check, it will not be allowed to travel until the problem has been resolved unless you arrange for it to enter quarantine in the UK.

For pets travelling by air, the check will be carried out on arrival in the UK by staff at the Animal Reception Centre.

If your pet fails the check, it will either have to go into quarantine or be re-exported. If a pet arriving by air has failed only because it has not met the rules on tick and tapeworm treatment, it must be treated on arrival and then held for 24 hours after treatment. If the animal arrives at Heathrow, this can be done there. In all other cases it must be done at local quarantine premises. If it is treated in quarantine, you will have to seek approval for its early release (part 3d).

Your pet may be subject to a further official check by Defra or the Scottish Executive after it has been checked by the transport company. This is for quality assurance purposes.

PART 5: PETS IN THE UK AND ABROAD

(a) Pets travelling within the British Isles

Pets resident in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland, or which have entered the British Isles under PETS, can travel freely between these countries without the need for any papers. However, if you have PETS documents you are advised to take them with you. Pets can be carried on any route within the British Isles subject to the transport company's agreement and conditions of carriage.

(b) Taking your pet from the UK into other EU countries

To travel from the UK to another EU country, a pet must be microchipped (although some countries accept a tattoo), vaccinated against rabies (although Sweden does not require this when a pet travels direct from the UK) and issued with an EU pet passport. Malta has additional entry requirements and to enter Sweden your pet must be treated for tapeworms with a product containing praziquantel no more than 10 days before entry. Please contact the authorities (e.g. the Embassy) of the country you wish to enter to check the

requirements. See also **(d)** below. For rules to re-enter the UK see parts 1, 2 and 3.

21 day wait

For EU countries where more stringent entry requirements do not apply, the EU has introduced a wait of 21 days from the date of the first rabies vaccination before a pet can enter those EU countries. However, if the vaccine manufacturer's datasheet requires more than one vaccination to complete the primary vaccination protocol, the 21 day wait applies from the date of the final vaccination of that protocol. Your vet will advise you further.

Booster vaccinations are valid for entry from the date given **provided** they are given on time.

Residence

If your pet stays in another country it may become subject to that country's rules on residence e.g. pets in France become resident after 3 months. You are advised to check with the authorities of the country what those rules are and what implications becoming resident will have for your pet. For example, some countries require resident pets to have an annual rabies vaccination.

(c) Dangerous dogs and hybrid animals

It is illegal to possess certain types of dogs in the UK. For a list of banned breeds and other information visit the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/domestic/dogs.htm> or telephone Defra on 020 7904 6910. Contact points for Scottish Executive and DARD are given in part 6. If you bring one of these dogs into the UK, you could be prosecuted and the dog seized and destroyed. If in doubt, don't travel with it.

For rules on keeping dangerous wild animals, including wolf-dog hybrids and domestic cat / wild cat hybrids, see:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/dangerous_dogs.htm.

This page includes information on hybrid cats which may enter the UK under the rules of the Pet Travel Scheme.

(d) Dogs in other countries

Some countries may not allow certain types of dog to enter and may have rules on others (e.g. muzzling, maximum size). Before travelling, you are advised to check the rules with the authorities (e.g. the Embassy) of the country you wish to visit.

(e) Health and welfare of your pet

When abroad your pet may come into contact with animal diseases which we do not have in the UK, e.g. diseases transmitted by ticks, and parasites like heartworm. These could kill your pet or make it seriously ill. Some can affect humans.

Before you take your pet abroad, consult your vet about any preventative treatment necessary and how to look for signs of ill health in your pet.

If your pet becomes ill after returning to the UK, explain where it has been so your vet can consider diseases not normally found in the UK. A scheme called DACTARI has been set up to record these diseases. Please remind your vet about it (*see separate enclosure*).

Also consider the welfare needs of your pet when travelling abroad, and whether it will benefit from travelling with you. A leaflet on your pet's welfare when travelling is available from the PETS website, Helpline, Scottish Executive, NAWDEPC and DARD.

PART 6: MORE INFORMATION

Other fact sheets

- *Fact sheet 1* gives a general introduction to the European Regulation on the movement of pet animals.
- *Fact sheet 2* explains the special arrangements that have been made for dogs and cats to travel within or into the EU with a valid PETS certificate.
- *Fact sheet 4* explains the rules for dogs and cats entering the UK from non-EU listed countries with an EU pet passport or an official veterinary certificate.
- *Fact sheet 5* explains the rules for the movement of ferrets into the UK.
- *Fact sheet 6* explains the rules for the movement of pet rabbits and rodents into the UK.

Contacts

State Veterinary Service (SVS)

PETS

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm
- Helpline: 0870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday - 08.30 to 17.00 UK time)
- E-mail: pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk (enclose your postal address and daytime telephone number)
- Fax: 01245 351162

Quarantine

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/rabies/default.htm
- Telephone: 01245 358383

- E-mail: quarantine@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 01245 351162

Scottish Executive

- Telephone: 0131 244 6182/1
- E-mail: animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 0131 244 6616

National Assembly for Wales Department of Environment, Planning and Countryside (NAWDEPC)

- Telephone: 01286 662027 (English and Welsh)
- E-mail: AnimalByProductsCaernarfon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD)

- Telephone: 02890 524622

DACTARI

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/veterinary/dactari/index.htm

While this fact sheet provides information about the Scheme, it cannot cover every possible situation. Check with one of the contact points above if your questions are not answered by our fact sheets, and to make sure you have the latest information.

Annex A

TATTOOED DOGS AND CATS

To enter the UK under PETS, dogs and cats must be fitted with a microchip, then vaccinated against rabies, and then blood tested.

But for dogs and cats in **France**, for dogs in **Belgium, Denmark** and **Sweden**, and for pedigree dogs in **Poland**, there is a different system of preparation i.e. tattoo, vaccination, blood test and finally microchip. Pets' details must be recorded on national registers.

The UK allows dogs from France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and pedigree dogs from Poland, and cats from France, that have been prepared in accordance with national rules to enter the UK under PETS. The vet must have issued either an EU pet passport or, before 1 October 2004, an official PETS certificate, confirming that he/she has seen the national registration document showing the tattoo number. French law no longer requires animals to be tattooed if they have been microchipped. They can also now be microchipped before being vaccinated and blood tested.

This derogation only applies for those pets in countries where a national mandatory identification and registration system applies.

Dogs and cats that are identified solely by tattoo do not meet the rules of the Pet Travel Scheme.

Annex B

PETS CHECKLIST FOR ENTERING THE UK

Tick the boxes as you complete the steps.

Preparing your pet

Step 1

My pet has been microchipped

I have a microchip reader (only if the microchip is not ISO Standard)

The microchip can be read

Step 2

My pet was vaccinated in accordance with the recommendation of the manufacturer's data sheet.

It was vaccinated after it was fitted with a microchip

The microchip number has been entered correctly by the vet on the vaccination record and passport

Step 3

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 laboratory

I have a certified copy of the blood test result showing the correct microchip number and the date the blood sample was taken

Step 4

A vet has correctly filled in all the details in sections I-V of the EU pet passport

The passport will be valid for entry to the UK on the date of arrival (i.e. at least 6 calendar months from the date a blood sample was taken from my pet that gave a satisfactory test result)

Step 5

A vet has treated my pet for ticks and tapeworms 24 – 48 hours before it will be checked-in with an approved transport company for its journey into the UK

The vet has correctly filled in sections VI and VII of the passport

Travelling to the UK

I have arranged for my pet to travel to the UK using an approved transport company and route

If my pet is entering quarantine, I have obtained an import licence from Defra, Scottish Executive or DARD before travelling (*part 3d*).

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The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

Non-European Union countries - dogs and cats

This fact sheet replaces fact sheet 4 dated February 2006. European Regulation 998/2003 took effect on 3 July 2004. It sets out the animal health requirements for pet animals travelling between European Union (EU) countries and into the EU from other countries.

In this fact sheet, “pet” refers to a dog or cat and includes assistance dogs.

This fact sheet explains how to prepare a dog or cat resident in the UK or a non-EU listed country to enter or re-enter the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) from a non-EU listed country (*see part 3a*). It covers pets travelling with an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate. Annex A explains the options for dogs and cats from a country not listed in part 3. See fact sheet 2 if your pet is travelling with a PETS certificate.

For details of other fact sheets in this series and contact points see part 6.

PART 1: THE RULES

To **enter or re-enter the UK** from a non-EU listed country without quarantine a pet must, in this order, be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and blood tested. It must also be issued with an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate and treated against ticks and tapeworms. See part 2 for detailed procedures.

Your pet must not have been outside any of the countries listed in part 3 in the 6 calendar months immediately before travelling to the UK and must enter the UK using an approved transport company and route (*see part 3c*).

For advice on taking your pet **from the UK to non-EU listed countries** see part 5b.

- ***The 6 month rule for entering the UK***

Your pet may not enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 6 calendar months have passed from the date that a vet took the blood sample which gave a satisfactory test result. The date the blood sample was taken is shown in section V of the passport or certificate which the vet must complete (*see part 2, steps 3 and 4*).

Your pet requires only one blood test and 6 calendar month wait **provided** all subsequent rabies booster vaccinations are given by the required date.

This wait is necessary because an animal infected with rabies *before* vaccination would not be protected by the vaccine. Six months is the time needed for most infected animals to display any clinical signs of the disease.

The rules are to protect human and animal health and to reduce the risk of importing rabies into the UK. Animals not meeting all the rules must be licensed into quarantine.

- ***Where PETS procedures can be carried out***

Your pet can be fitted with a microchip in any country. Rabies vaccinations, blood sampling, the tick and tapeworm treatment and issuing of documents must all be carried out in either the UK or any of the listed countries.

PART 2: PREPARING YOUR DOG OR CAT

Use the checklist at Annex B as you follow the steps.

Step 1: The microchip

Your pet must first be fitted with a microchip. We recommend that it meets ISO Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO Standard 11785. If the microchip does not meet one of these Standards you must provide a reader that can read the microchip number at the time of any inspection.

Ask the person fitting the microchip to check that its number can be read before and after it has been fitted. Get your vet to read the microchip every time you visit.

Step 2: The rabies vaccination

- ***When to vaccinate***

Pets being prepared to enter or re-enter the UK must be vaccinated in accordance with the recommendation of the vaccine manufacturer's data sheet. They must be vaccinated *after* a microchip has been fitted. Get the vet to read the microchip number before the vaccination.

If your pet was vaccinated *before* the microchip was fitted, it will have to be vaccinated again. This is to make sure that it is correctly identified when vaccinated.

- ***Vaccination record***

When your pet is vaccinated, make sure that the vet accurately records the following details on its vaccination record and passport or third country official veterinary certificate:

- its date of birth/age
- the microchip number, date of insertion and its location in the animal
- the date of vaccination

- the vaccine manufacturer, product name and batch number
- the date by which the booster vaccination must be given (i.e. the “Valid until” date). This date is calculated by reference to the validity period of the vaccine given in the vaccine manufacturer’s data sheet.
- **Booster vaccinations**

After your pet has been vaccinated and blood tested with a satisfactory result, it will need booster vaccinations. These **must** be given by the “Valid until” date in section IV of the passport or veterinary certificate, or on the PETS certificate, and be recorded on the vaccination record and in section IV of the passport if you have one.

If the booster date is missed, your pet will have to be vaccinated and blood tested again. The 6 month rule will apply from the date the new blood sample is taken, provided the result is satisfactory. If you have a passport, a vet (in Great Britain a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI)) will need to complete the second box in section V.

Step 3: The blood test

After being vaccinated, your pet must have a blood test to make sure that the vaccine has worked. For pets being prepared in an EU country, this can be carried out after your pet has travelled to a non-EU listed country unless a blood test is required for entry to that country - *see part 5b*.

Your vet will tell you the best time for the blood test to be done and will take a blood sample to be analysed at an EU-approved laboratory. Take your pet’s vaccination record with you when the blood sample is taken. Ask your vet to read the microchip and to give you a signed record of the date the sample was taken that accurately shows your pet’s microchip number.

A satisfactory blood test result will show that the rabies antibody titre was equal to or more than 0.5IU/ml. Make sure your vet gives you a certified copy of the result, accurately showing the microchip number and the date the blood sample was taken, and keep it safe.

Your pet requires only one satisfactory blood test and 6 calendar months wait **provided** the subsequent rabies booster vaccinations are given by the required date. See step 2 if the date is missed.

If your pet fails its blood test it must be blood tested again. Your vet will advise if it first needs to be revaccinated. The 6 month rule will apply.

Step 4: Documentation

After your pet has passed its blood test you must get either an EU pet passport (for pets in EU countries and certain non-EU listed countries) or a third country official veterinary certificate (for pets in non-EU listed countries not issuing passports). If the blood test is to be carried out in another listed country, you can get a passport after your pet has been microchipped and vaccinated against rabies.

(a) EU pet passport

- ***How to get a passport***

In Great Britain, the passport is issued by an LVI. If your veterinary practice does not have a resident LVI, your vet may be able to tell you where the nearest one works. Your local Animal Health Divisional Office can also provide these details. Defra does not charge vets for the passport.

In other countries issuing passports, a vet will issue the passport.

When you go to get the passport take your pet, its vaccination record and blood test result. These documents must show your pet's microchip number. Also take evidence of the date your pet was microchipped. Make sure that the vet correctly completes sections I to IV of the passport and V if necessary.

- ***Using the passport***

To enter the UK, the passport must show that your pet has been microchipped, has a current rabies vaccination and has had a satisfactory blood test. It must also show a current treatment for ticks and tapeworms at the time of entry (*see step 5*).

A passport may not be used enter or re-enter the UK under PETS until 6 calendar months have passed from the date that the blood sample which gave a successful test result was taken. You can then continue to use the passport to enter the UK **provided** your pet is revaccinated by the "Valid until" date in section IV (*see step 2 if the date is missed*). To enter the UK, the passport must also show a current treatment for ticks and tapeworms at the time of return (*see step 5*). For travelling from the UK to other countries, see part 5(b).

- ***Replacing the passport***

When the passport is full, you should apply to a vet (in Great Britain an LVI) for a new one. Take the full passport and your pet with you.

If you lose the passport, you may obtain a new one by producing your pet's vaccination record and blood test result, both of which must show your pet's microchip number.

(b) Third country official veterinary certificate

This certificate can be issued by any vet in a non-EU listed country. It is headed "*Veterinary certificate for domestic dogs, cats and ferrets entering the European Community for non-commercial movements (Regulation (EC) No 998/2003)*". The certificate must be a single sheet in English and may also contain a translation in another language. It must be completed in block letters in the language of the EU country of entry or in English.

When you go to get the certificate take your pet, its vaccination record and blood test result. These documents must show your pet's microchip number. Also take evidence of the date your pet was microchipped.

Make sure that the vet correctly completes sections I to V of the certificate and enters his/her own details in the following box. If the vet is not a government-approved veterinarian, the certificate must also be dated and stamped by a vet authorised by the competent authority.

- ***Validity of the certificate***

You need to be aware of the following. **The certificate will not become valid for entry to the UK for 6 calendar months from the date the blood sample was taken shown in section V. However, it is only valid for entry to the EU and subsequent travel within the EU for 4 months** from the date it was signed or endorsed, or until the "Valid until" date shown in Part IV, whichever is earlier. You should therefore delay getting the certificate until a month or two before you travel to ensure that it will still be valid when you enter the UK. To enter the UK, the certificate must also show a current treatment for ticks and tapeworms at the time of return (*see step 5*).

In addition to the certificate, when you travel you must have with you your pet's original vaccination record and blood test result (or certified copies) which show the microchip number.

- ***Changing the certificate for a pet passport***

If the certificate expires while you are in the EU, you will need to ask a vet to issue a European pet passport (*see fact sheet 3*). In addition to the certificate, you must provide the vet with your pet's original vaccination record and blood test result (or with certified copies) which show the microchip number. Make sure your pet is revaccinated against rabies by the "Valid until" date in section IV of the certificate (*see step 2 if the date is missed*).

Other documents you might need to enter the UK

- Cats travelling from Australia must be accompanied by a certificate certifying that they have not been on a holding where Hendra disease has been confirmed in the 60 days prior to departure. The certificate must be completed by the Australian government veterinary services and show the cat's microchip number.
- Pets which transit an unlisted country when travelling to the UK need a declaration from the transport company to confirm that they remained within the ship or the perimeter of the airport and did not come into contact with other animals during the stopover.

Keep your documents safe because the transport company checking your pet will need to see them.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have the correct

documentation for your pet to enter the UK. Make sure that it is completed correctly and your pet meets all the rules. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and cost you money.

Step 5: Treatment against parasites

Before your pet can enter the UK, it must be treated against ticks and tapeworms. Any vet in a listed country can give the treatment. You must not do it yourself. Make sure the vet reads your pet's microchip before treatment.

Your pet must be treated **not less than 24 hours and no more than 48 hours before being checked in** with an approved transport company to travel into the UK. The treatment must be given every time your pet travels to the UK.

If you are taking your pet abroad from the UK on a day trip, it will need to be treated in the UK not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before it is checked in for the **return** journey.

The product used for the tick treatment must be licensed for use against ticks and have a marketing authorisation in the country of use. Tick collars are not acceptable.

The product used for the tapeworm treatment must contain *praziquantel*.

The treatments are to stop the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* and certain ticks entering the UK. These parasites can carry diseases which can infect other animals and humans causing illness and sometimes death.

- ***Recording the treatment***

After the treatment, the vet must fill in sections VI and VII of either the EU pet passport or the third country official veterinary certificate.

For both documents, the *date* and *time* of treatment (using the 24 hour clock), the name of the product used and its manufacturer must be shown. The vet must stamp and sign the passport or sign, date and stamp the certificate. Make sure all these details are correctly recorded before you leave the vet.

PART 3: TRAVELLING TO THE UK

Listed countries are subject to change. For the latest situation see the PETS website or ring the Helpline.

(a) Non-EU listed countries and territories

UK-resident pets can, having travelled to any of the non-EU countries listed below, return to the UK under the Scheme. Pets that come from any of these countries can also enter the UK under PETS. Pets must not have been outside any of the EU or non-EU listed countries in the 6 calendar months before travelling to the UK.

Andorra	Fiji	New Caledonia
Antigua & Barbuda	French Polynesia	New Zealand
Argentina	Grenadines	Norway
Aruba	Guam	Russian Federation (2)
Ascension Island	Hawaii	St Helena
Australia	Hong Kong	St Kitts & Nevis
Bahrain	Iceland	St Pierre & Miquelon
Barbados	Jamaica (1)	St Vincent
Belarus	Japan	San Marino
Bermuda	Liechtenstein	Singapore
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Malaysia (Peninsular)	Switzerland
British Virgin Islands	Mauritius	Taiwan
Canada	Mayotte	Trinidad and Tobago
Cayman Islands	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Chile	Monaco	USA (mainland)
Croatia	Montserrat	Vanuatu
Falkland Islands	Netherlands Antilles	Vatican
		Wallis & Futuna

¹ Jamaican law as at October 2005 prevents their involvement in PETS. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

The maximum number of all types of pet animals (not only dogs and cats) each person may bring into the EU from most non-EU listed countries is 5. This rule does not apply to animals brought from Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican. For details of transporting more than 5 animals into the EU from countries except those named in the previous sentence contact Defra's International Animal Health Division on 020 7904 6415 (e-mail: iah-imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

(b) EU countries and territories:

See fact sheet 3 for details of bringing your pet from the countries below into the UK under PETS.

Austria	Estonia	Hungary	Netherlands
Azores	Faroe Islands	Ireland ³	Poland
Balearic Islands	Finland	Italy	Portugal
Belgium	France	Latvia	Réunion
Bulgaria	French Guiana	Lithuania	Romania
Canary Islands	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Ceuta	Gibraltar	Madeira	Slovenia
Cyprus ¹	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Greenland	Martinique	Sweden
Denmark	Guadeloupe ²	Melilla	

¹ Dogs and cats prepared for PETS in, or returning under PETS to the UK from, the Republic of Cyprus may enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine. However, as at October 2005, PETS compliant animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) must be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival in the UK. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

² Includes St Barthelemy and St Martin (French part of the island)

³ There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland

Pets normally resident in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland can enter the UK from listed countries if they meet the rules.

Owners of pets entering the Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland from outside the British Isles should contact the appropriate authorities in those countries for advice on approved routes and any other requirements.

(c) How to travel

If you bring your pet into the UK under the Scheme direct from a non-EU listed country you must use one of the routes and transport companies on the enclosed non-EU route list. When travelling by air, most pets will travel as cargo. However, on certain air routes registered assistance dogs may travel in the cabin. There is a separate route list for assistance dogs.

Alternatively, you may travel to another listed non-EU or EU country and then enter the UK on an authorised route. In this case, unless your pet does not leave the confines of the airport during the interchange, the tick and tapeworm treatment must be given before you check in for the final stage of your journey. See part 2, step 4 if your pet transits an unlisted country on its journey to the UK.

Routes may change and new ones may be added. For the latest information, see the PETS website or ring the PETS Helpline. Some routes are seasonal or irregular so check availability with the transport company.

Check your pet's travel arrangements with the company as they may have their own conditions of travel which could include a health declaration. Check the costs, requirements and procedures before booking your journey to the UK.

If travelling by air, you may need to arrange with the transport company for the passport or official certificate to accompany your pet. (You may wish to keep a copy for reference).

If your pet enters the UK with an unapproved transport company or on an unauthorised route, you will need to arrange for it to be licensed into quarantine on arrival with a view to obtaining its early release. If it can be shown that your pet meets all the necessary requirements of the Scheme it can be released within a few working days. See **(d)** below.

(d) Early release from quarantine

Any pet entering the UK which does not meet all the Scheme rules must be licensed into quarantine. It may be released from the date it can be shown to comply with the rules. To license your pet into quarantine, you must get an import licence from Defra (for England), Scottish Executive (for Scotland) or DARD (for Northern Ireland) before it travels to the UK. Part 6 gives contact details. The licence must accompany your pet when it travels. You must meet the costs of quarantine.

(e) Travel charges

Transport companies will usually include travel, checking and handling charges in the ticket price for your pet. Check when you make your booking. No charges are made by Defra or the Devolved Authorities.

(f) Customs formalities

When bringing a pet into the UK from outside the EU you must complete Customs formalities. An agent, travel company or airline should be able to do this for you and may charge for this service. Alternatively, you might be able to make your own arrangements. This would involve contacting the Customs authorities at your arrival point in the UK to obtain details of the necessary procedures and the appropriate Customs form. You are advised to discuss these charges with your agent etc before you travel as they might be included as part of a package. These charges are not made by the UK Government.

PART 4: THE PETS CHECK

Pets travelling to the UK by air will have their microchip and official documentation checked on arrival by staff at the Animal Reception Centre.

Pets travelling on an authorised sea route from a non-EU country will be given the same check on arrival. If they travel on an authorised sea route from an EU country or by Eurotunnel, they will be checked before boarding.

If your pet fails the check, it will either have to go into quarantine or be re-exported, or it will not be allowed to travel until the problem has been resolved. If a pet arriving by air has failed only because it has not met the rules on tick and tapeworm treatment, it must be treated on arrival and then held for 24 hours after treatment. If the animal arrives at Heathrow, this can be

done there. In all other cases it must be done at local quarantine premises. If it is treated in quarantine, you will have to seek approval for its early release (part 3d).

Your pet may be subject to a further official check by Defra or Scottish Executive after it has been checked by the transport company. This is for quality assurance purposes.

PART 5: PETS IN THE UK AND ABROAD

(a) Pets travelling within the British Isles

Pets resident in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland, or which have entered the British Isles under PETS, can travel freely between these countries without the need for any papers. However, if you have PETS documents you are advised to take them with you. Pets can be carried on any route within the British Isles subject to the transport company's agreement and conditions of carriage.

(b) Taking your pet into non-EU listed countries

Before travelling with your pet to any of these countries you are advised to find out whether they have any import or export requirements for dogs or cats. For entry, many require an export health certificate and some an import licence. Other documents or treatments may also be required. Some of these countries accept an EU pet passport for entry.

Some countries may require your pet to have been vaccinated against rabies within a specified period before its arrival. You may therefore have to get it vaccinated again before the booster is due.

Advice on export requirements is available from your local Animal Health Divisional Office or contact the authorities (e.g. the Embassy) of the appropriate country. See also **(d)** below. For rules to re-enter the UK see parts 1, 2 and 3.

Residence

If your pet stays in another country it may become subject to that country's rules on residence. You are advised to check with the authorities of the country what those rules are and what implications becoming resident will have for your pet. For example, some countries require resident pets to have an annual rabies vaccination.

(c) Dangerous dogs and hybrid animals

It is illegal to possess certain types of dogs in the UK. For a list of banned breeds and other information visit the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/domestic/dogs.htm> or telephone Defra on 020 7904 6910. Contact points for Scottish Executive and DARD are given in part 6. If you bring one of these dogs into the UK, you could be prosecuted and the dog seized and destroyed. If in doubt, don't travel with it.

For rules on keeping dangerous wild animals, including wolf-dog hybrids and domestic cat / wild cat hybrids, see:
http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/dangerous_dogs.htm.
This page includes information on hybrid cats which may enter the UK under the rules of the Pet Travel Scheme.

(d) Dogs in other countries

Some countries may not allow certain types of dog to enter and may have rules on others (e.g. muzzling, maximum size). Before travelling, you are advised to check the rules with the authorities (e.g. the Embassy) of the country you wish to visit.

(e) Health and welfare of your pet

When abroad your pet may come into contact with animal diseases which we do not have in the UK, e.g. diseases transmitted by ticks, and parasites like heartworm. These could kill your pet or make it seriously ill. Some can affect humans.

Before you take your pet abroad, consult your vet about any preventative treatment necessary and how to look for signs of ill health in your pet.

If your pet becomes ill after returning to the UK, explain where it has been so your vet can consider diseases not normally found in the UK. A scheme called DACTARI has been set up to record these diseases. Please remind your vet about it (*see separate enclosure*).

Also consider the welfare needs of your pet when travelling abroad, and whether it will benefit from travelling with you. A leaflet on your pet's welfare when travelling is available from the PETS website, Helpline, Scottish Executive, NAWDEPC and DARD.

PART 6: MORE INFORMATION

Other fact sheets

- *Fact sheet 1* gives a general introduction to the European Regulation on the movement of pet animals.
- *Fact sheet 2* explains the special arrangements that have been made for dogs and cats to travel within or into the EU with a valid PETS certificate.
- *Fact sheet 3* explains the rules for dogs and cats travelling between EU countries with an EU pet passport.
- *Fact sheet 5* explains the rules for the movement of ferrets into the UK.
- *Fact sheet 6* explains the rules for the movement of pet rabbits and rodents into the UK.

Contacts

State Veterinary Service (SVS)

PETS

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm
- Helpline: 0870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday - 08.30 to 17.00 UK time)
- E-mail: pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk (enclose your postal address and daytime telephone number)
- Fax: 01245 351162

Quarantine

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/rabies/default.htm
- Telephone: 01245 358383
- E-mail: quarantine@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 01245 351162

Scottish Executive

- Telephone: 0131 244 6182/1
- E-mail: animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 0131 244 6616

National Assembly for Wales Department of Environment, Planning and Countryside (NAWDEPC)

- Telephone: 01286 662027 (English and Welsh)
- E-mail: AnimalByProductsCaernarfon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD)

- Telephone: 02890 524622

DACTARI

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/veterinary/dactari/index.htm

While this fact sheet provides information about the Scheme, it cannot cover every possible situation. Check with one of the contact points above if your questions are not answered by our fact sheets, and to make sure you have the latest information.

Annex A

PETS FROM UNLISTED COUNTRIES

Dogs and cats resident in an unlisted country entering the UK direct or via any non-EU country

A pet entering the UK from an unlisted country, whether directly or via any non-EU country, will have to be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival (*see part 3d although early release will not apply*).

Dogs and cats resident in an unlisted country entering the UK via another EU country

Alternatively, to enter the UK from an unlisted country without quarantine a pet can be fully prepared for PETS after entry into an EU country (other than the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Malta) by following the procedures set out in part 2. In this case, a pet already fitted with a microchip is not required to be re-microchipped. The 6 month rule will also apply and your pet must be given tick and tapeworm treatment and enter the UK with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

Before entering an EU country (other than the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Malta) from an unlisted country, your pet must:

- be identified by a microchip (or a tattoo may be accepted by certain countries)
- be vaccinated against rabies
- have a blood sample taken by an authorised veterinarian at least 30 days after vaccination and 3 months before travelling to an EU country
- have a blood test result from an EU-approved laboratory showing that the rabies antibody titre was equal to or more than 0.5IU/ml
- be accompanied by a certificate issued by an official veterinarian certifying compliance with the above requirements

Pets re-entering the EU (other than the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Malta) from an unlisted country with an EU pet passport

Pets re-entering the EU (other than the UK, Ireland, Sweden or Malta) from an unlisted country with an EU passport certifying that the procedures in the previous paragraph have been carried out do not need to undertake the 3 month wait referred to in bullet 3. A satisfactory blood test must have been carried out at an EU-approved laboratory before the animal left the EU. Before being able to enter the UK, the pet must wait 6 calendar months in an EU country (other than Ireland, Sweden or Malta). Re-preparation is not required. Your pet must then be given tick and tapeworm treatment and enter the UK with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

If any of the conditions are not complied when your pet enters the UK it must be licensed into quarantine. It may be released from the date it can be shown to comply with the rules.

Annex B

PETS CHECKLIST FOR ENTERING THE UK

Tick the boxes as you complete the steps.

Preparing your pet

Step 1

My pet has been microchipped

I have a microchip reader (only if the microchip is not ISO Standard)

The microchip can be read

Step 2

My pet was vaccinated in accordance with the recommendation of the manufacturer's data sheet.

It was vaccinated after being fitted with a microchip

The microchip number has been entered correctly by the vet on the vaccination record and passport or third country veterinary certificate

Step 3

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 laboratory

I have a certified copy of the blood test result showing the correct microchip number and the date the blood sample was taken

Step 4

A vet has correctly filled in all the details in sections I - V of the passport or the official veterinary certificate. The certificate has been endorsed by a government-approved vet if necessary.

The passport/certificate will be valid for entry to the UK on the date of arrival (i.e. at least 6 calendar months from the date a blood sample

was taken from my pet that gave a satisfactory test result)

If I am bringing a cat from Australia, I have the required Hendra certificate

Step 5

A vet has treated my pet for ticks and tapeworms 24 – 48 hours before it will be checked-in with an approved transport company for its journey into the UK

The vet has correctly filled in sections VI and VII of the EU pet passport or veterinary certificate

Travelling to the UK

I have arranged for my pet to travel to the UK using an approved transport company and route

If travelling with an official certificate, I also have with me my pet's vaccination record and blood test result both showing the microchip number (*step 4*)

If my pet transits an unlisted country when travelling to the UK, I have obtained the required declaration from the transport company (*step 4*)

If my pet is entering quarantine, I have obtained an import licence from Defra, Scottish Executive or DARD before travelling (*part 3d*).

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