

Pet Travel to the EU

Due to BREXIT on 1st January 2021 the UK's status under the EU pet travel scheme changed. Therefore, there are new requirements for travelling from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland with pet dogs, cats and ferrets and assistance dogs.

The main change is that pet passports previously issued in Great Britain are no longer valid for travel to the EU or Northern Ireland.

Instead, every animal must have an ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE (AHC)

A new animal health certificate will need to be issued for every journey to the EU/ Northern Ireland.

Full details of the new requirements for travelling with pets to the EU and NI are found here: <https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-an-eu-country-or-northern-ireland>

In summary the following steps must be followed prior to issuing an AHC to a pet dog, cat or ferret:

1. Your pet must be microchipped.
2. Your pet must be vaccinated against rabies. Pets must be at least 12 weeks of age before they can be vaccinated.
3. Pets cannot travel to the EU/NI until AT LEAST 21 days after the rabies vaccination
4. Your pet must have a veterinary examination prior to issuing the AHC. The certificate is issued within 10 days of the date of travel.
5. If you are travelling to a tapeworm free country (Finland, Malta, Norway, Republic of Ireland, or Northern Ireland) dogs also require tapeworm treatment by a veterinary surgeon between 24-120 hours prior to their arrival into that country.

VALIDITY

You cannot take more than 5 pets to an EU country or Northern Ireland on an AHC unless under specific circumstances (see <https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-an-eu-country-or-northern-ireland>)

You cannot be issued with an AHC for commercial export for pets to the EU (ie if you are selling a dog or cat to a new owner) This requires an Export Health Certificate (EHC) which are issued under different guidance. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>)

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Animal Health Certificates are valid for entry into the EU or NI for 10 days after the date of issue.

AHC is valid for 4 months for onwards travel throughout the EU and for return to the UK. Your pet will need a new AHC for each trip to the EU/NI from Great Britain.

You must enter the EU/NI via a travellers point of entry where they will check your AHC and supporting documentation (proof of the microchip, rabies vaccination +/- tapeworm treatment): https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/movement-pets/travellers-points-entry_en
If you are travelling onwards to a non-EU member state you need to contact the Pet travel helpline to find out your travel requirements: pettravel@apha.gov.uk or telephone – 0370 241 1710

It is the owner responsibility (not the veterinary practice) to check the rules of the country you are travelling to/ through for any additional restrictions or requirements prior to travel. There are too many countries involved with constantly changing rules for the practice to keep up to date with every requirement.

ISSUING AN AHC

We need you to contact the practice as soon as you have confirmed your date of travel to the EU/NI. We need at least 2 weeks' notice before you travel to issue an AHC.

The certificate must be issued by a veterinary surgeon who has undertaken an additional qualification (OCQ(V)-CA) to become an 'Official Veterinarian' which permits that vet to undertake pet export certification on behalf of the government. Not all veterinary surgeons at Orchard House are official veterinarians (OV).

The certificates take over an hour of time to complete correctly so we need plenty of notice to ensure one of our OVs has the appropriate time in the consulting schedule to complete an AHC for your pet.

We cannot issue AHCs on weekends.

The cost of issuing an AHCs is £216 (Inc VAT) for the first pet and £120 (Inc VAT) for each subsequent pet travelling together. Please note this is the cost for every trip as a new AHC will need to be issued for each trip to the EU/NI.

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Prior to the appointment to issue your pet with an AHC we have a form you are required to complete and return to us in advance of the appointment to ensure that we have all the correct information required to complete the AHC. The person who will be travelling with the pet will need to be present on the day of the appointment to complete an owner's declaration.

You will also have to provide proof of your pet's microchip number and the date it was implanted and proof of your pet's rabies vaccination.

Kind regards

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