

Client Information on Pet Travel to the European Union (EU)

Brexit changed the way we travel to Europe with our pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) and assistance dogs.

The pet passport scheme was replaced by the ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE (AHC). Previously issued British pet passports are no longer valid for travel to the European Union (EU).

From 22nd April 2026, an EU pet passport issued to or held by a pet owner who is resident in GB, will no longer be valid for travelling with pets from the GB to EU. This applies to EU pet passports issued in an EU Member State or Northern Ireland, including those issued before 22nd April 2026. EU passports may only be issued to owners whose main residence is within the European Union.

A new AHC must be issued for every journey to the EU.

Full details of the new requirements for travelling with pets to the EU can be found via the website links below.

Prior to issuing an AHC to a pet (dog, cat or ferret) your pet needs:

- A microchip (with your up to date contact details),
- A rabies vaccination,
Pets must be at least 12 weeks of age before they can be vaccinated.

Pets cannot travel to the EU until AT LEAST 21 days after a primary rabies vaccination.

Your pet must have a veterinary examination prior to issuing the AHC. The AHC is issued within 10 days of the date of travel.

Tapeworm treatment

Before returning to Great Britain, dogs require a tapeworm treatment administered by a veterinary surgeon no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours prior to return travel. Dogs travelling to/through any of the following tapeworm free countries also require a tapeworm treatment administered by a veterinary surgeon between 24-120 hours prior to their arrival into that country.

- Finland,
- Malta,
- Norway,
- Republic of Ireland,

VALIDITY

Your pets' animal health certificate will be valid after the date of issue for:

- 10 days for entry into the EU,
- 4 months for onward travel within the EU after you enter the EU,
- 4 months for re-entry to Great Britain,

Your pets' animal health certificate:

- Can be used for up to 5 pets unless you are attending or training for an event,

- Only valid for entry into EU via a travellers' point of entry where the AHC and supporting documentation (proof of the microchip, rabies vaccination +/- tapeworm treatment) will be checked,
- Is not valid for travel outside of the EU.

It is the owner's responsibility to check, prior to travel, the rules of the countries you are travelling to/through for any additional restrictions or requirements. An AHC is not valid for the commercial export of pets to the EU (i.e. if you are selling a dog or cat to a new owner). This requires an

Export Health Certificate (EHC). Orchard House Veterinary Centres Ltd do not provide Export Health Certificates.

ISSUING AN AHC

Contact the practice as soon as you have a confirmed date of travel. We need at least 2 weeks' notice before you travel to issue an AHC. The more notice you can give us the better.

The certificate must be issued by a veterinary surgeon who has undertaken an additional qualification (OCQ (V)-CA) to become an 'Official Veterinarian'. Not all veterinary surgeons 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 at the weekend.

Please complete and return the required AHC information form to us prior your AHC appointment. This ensures that we have all the 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 sign the owner's declaration section of the AHC.

You will also need to provide proof of your pet's microchip number and proof of your pet's rabies vaccination.

COSTS

The cost of issuing an AHCs is £300 for the first pet and £125 for each subsequent pet up to a maximum for 5 pets travelling together on an AHC.

Please note this is the cost for every trip as a new AHC must be issued for each trip to the EU. **A deposit of £125 will be payable at the time of booking the AHC appointment.**

USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS:

Requirements for travelling with pets to the EU and NI:

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad>

Travellers' points of entry:

https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/movement-pets/travellers-points-entry_en

Travelling onwards to a non-EU member state:

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-a-noneu-country>