

Client Information on Pet Travel to Northern Ireland (NI)

Previously issued British Pet Passports are no longer valid for travel to Northern Ireland (NI). From June 2025, if you are a GB resident, you can travel under the Northern Ireland Pet Travel Scheme (NIPTS) with your pet (dog, cat and ferret) from Great Britain (England, Scotland or Wales) to Northern Ireland. Travel to other European Union (EU) member states remains subject to the relevant EU requirements (Animal Health Certificate).

To travel with your pet to NI, ensure your pet is microchipped, apply for a free NI Pet Travel Document (PTD) and sign a declaration that you will not travel onward to the EU. Your pet does not need rabies vaccinations or tapeworm treatment. You cannot take more than 5 pets to Northern Ireland unless you are attending or training for an event.

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.

If you live in Northern Ireland, you do not need a PTD for travel to and from Great Britain but ensure your pet is microchipped.

Applying for a PTD

You can apply for a Northern Ireland PTD

- If you live in England, Scotland or Wales.
- Are the pet owner and over 16 years of age.

You will need a separate PTD for each

pet. Apply for a PTD online. It is free.

Go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-northern-ireland-pet-travel-document>

You will need to sign in with a Government Gateway user ID and password and will need to set up a Defra account.

- To complete the application you will need:
- Your pet's microchip number,
- The date when your pet was microchipped or when the microchip was last scanned,
- Your pet's breed, colour and sex,
- Any unusual feature your pet might have, such as a missing eye or leg.

The PTD lasts for your pet's lifetime and you do not need to visit a vet.

You only need an Animal Health Certificate if you are travelling onward to Ireland or another EU country.

When you travel

Your pet's microchip will be scanned at the port or airport and the microchip number checked to ensure it matches the number on your pet's PTD.

There are no checks to travel from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.

If you are travelling by ferry, you must scan your pet's microchip, with the scanner provided, at the port before leaving Great Britain. If there is a problem with the microchip, you must go to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Inspection Facility at Belfast or Larne when you arrive in Northern Ireland.

If you are travelling by air, you must advise the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) at least 10 working days before you travel. Email to daeratradeimports@daera-ni.gov.uk. Your pet's microchip will be scanned when you arrive in Northern Ireland to ensure the number matches that on your pet's PTD.

Only one person can be named as the pet's owner on the PTD. Once you have your PTD you can authorise someone else (e.g. family member or pet courier) to travel with your pet to Northern Ireland. They will need:

- The PTD
- Written approval from you (letter, email or text message)
- To sign a declaration at the port of departure which must include the date and place where they sign it.

Travelling onward

The rules are different depending on where you are travelling to. Check what you need to do via the following links.

Useful website links:

Travelling to Northern Ireland:

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-northern-ireland> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/travelling-pets>

Applying for a Northern Ireland PTD:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-northern-ireland-pet-travel-document>

Requirements for travelling with pets to the EU:

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

Travelling onwards to a non-EU member state:

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

Get help applying

Contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency helpline if you need help applying online.

Telephone: 0300 200 301 (Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm)