

Travelling Abroad with your pet



Travelling abroad with your pet

Travelling with pets can be a pleasure if well planned, as both dogs and cats become accustomed to, and even enjoy, journeys. If you can acclimatise young pets to travelling from an early age it will help them to overcome fear and motion sickness.

Plan well ahead

It is best to plan your trip well in advance as the process to allow your pet to travel out and back in to the UK will take a minimum of 21 days.

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) is the process that allows dogs and cats to travel to a number of EU and non EU countries without having to undergo quarantine. You will need a pet passport, and we are happy to organise this for you if required.

A full list of the countries who operate the Pet Travel Scheme can be found on the Defra website:

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifepets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm

Travel within the EU

In order to travel to countries where the PETS scheme is in operation, you will need to complete the following steps, in order:

- 1. Have your pet microchipped so that it can be properly identified.**
- 2. Have your pet vaccinated against rabies**
- 3. Obtain PETS documentation – the passport**
- 4. Wait a minimum of 21 days before travel**

Travel outside the EU

Travelling with your pets to countries outside the PETS scheme will require you to comply with the import conditions of that individual country.

Your local Animal Health Divisional Office or the embassy of the country to which you are travelling will be able to advise whether an Export Health Certificate and / or an import licence are required. Costs will vary depending on pre-departure health checks and certification requested by non-EU countries of destination.

(Rules changed as of 1st Jan 2012)

Practical considerations

Dogs and cats from the UK may experience difficulties in different environments, unless allowed time to acclimatise. Extreme heat, very cold temperature and high altitudes may cause your pets distress or illness, especially if they are young, old or chronically ill. Please speak to your vet before you go for individual advice.

When you travel abroad you may not be able to take pet food with you, so try to obtain food that is most similar to your pet's usual diet to minimise the risk of digestive upsets.

While travelling always use a collar and lead for your dog and only use designated dog walking areas.

If your journey is very long, choose a pet carrier that is large enough to accommodate a litter tray and a secured water bowl. Try to avoid letting your cat out of the carrier, and ensure that car doors and windows are closed to prevent escape.

Returning to the UK

Before you travel back to the UK, your pet must be treated by a registered veterinarian against tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours (1-5 days) before re-entering the UK. There will no longer be any mandatory tick treatment but the BVA and BSAVA strongly advise that you continue to do this to safeguard the health of your pet on return to the UK.

If there are any problems, entry will be refused and the animal will be returned to the country of departure or have to undergo quarantine, so it is important that you comply with all requirements. The very latest advice can be obtained by contacting the Animal Health Divisional Office on 0118 959 6695 at least 21 days before you plan to travel for full details.

Helplines

Further information is available from the PETS helpline

By phone +44 (0)870 241 1710

Monday to Friday - 8am to 6pm

By e-mail quarantine@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

or at www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifepets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm

If you would like further information relating to your own pet's health, or to begin the PETS application procedure, please contact us on 01435 864422.

Heathfield Vets look forward to helping you prepare for a happy and trouble free trip with your pets.

