

## Travelling abroad after Brexit

The UK has now left the EU and became a Part 2 listed third country under the EU Pet Travel Scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. **This means the requirements for travelling to the EU and Northern Ireland with your pets have changed.**

**Current UK pet passports are no longer valid for travel.** Travelling with your pet to the EU and Northern Ireland is still possible but if you do not hold an EU pet passport you will need an Animal Health Certificate. Please read the following information to ensure you understand what is now required.

Travel requirements:

- **Microchip**
- Valid **Rabies vaccination**
  - Pets must be older than 12 weeks before vaccination
  - Rabies vaccination must be at least 21 days prior to travel
  - An AHC can only be issued 21 days after the Rabies vaccination
- An **Animal Health Certificate (AHC)** issued by an Official Veterinarian (OV) OR a valid EU Pet Passport
- **Tapeworm treatment 24-120 hours before scheduled entry into the territory** if travelling to Northern Ireland, Ireland, Finland, Norway, or Malta

Animal Health Certificates (AHCs):

- Must be issued **within 10 days of travel** to the EU or Northern Ireland
- May be used for up to **5 pets**
- Can only be used for **non-commercial purposes** such as a holiday
- Are only valid for a **single trip** to the EU or Northern Ireland
- Last for 4 months for onward travel within the EU and/or re-entry to the UK
- **Cannot be issued until 21 days after the qualifying Rabies vaccination**

Frequently asked questions:

### How much will an AHC cost?

An Animal Health Certificate is an 11-page bilingual document completed by an Official Veterinarian. The cost is £130 for one pet, and this includes the consultation fee and completion of the certificate. Additional pets travelling at the same time will cost £85 each.

### What additional fees do I need to be aware of?

Rabies vaccinations, microchipping and tape worm treatments are **not** included in the cost of the AHC. There is also an additional surcharge of £55 for AHCs requested at short notice.

Do I still need to arrange for tapeworm treatment before returning to the UK?

Dogs will still require tapeworm treatment 24-120 hours prior to travelling into the UK unless they are travelling directly from Finland, Norway, Malta, Northern Ireland, or Ireland. The treatment will need to be recorded on the AHC by a veterinarian. This does NOT apply to cats or ferrets.

If you are planning a day trip to the EU, the tapeworm treatment can be administered and documented on your AHC before travel provided the treatment is given 24-120 hours prior to re-entry into the UK.

I have an EU Pet Passport – can I continue to use it?

If you hold an EU Pet Passport for your pet, you can continue to use this while it is valid. Please note that UK vets are unable to certify Rabies vaccinations in EU pet passports. If your pet's vaccinations have lapsed, they will require an AHC.

How do I obtain an AHC?

We require 4 weeks' notice to provide an AHC.

Please complete our **AHC questionnaire** and provide us with proof of your pet's microchip and most recent Rabies vaccination. This can be in the form of a Pet Passport or vaccination certificate (original documents only).

Questionnaires and supporting documents must be returned to reception at least 4 weeks prior to your intended travel date. We will then contact you to make an appointment.

An appointment at the surgery will be required within 10 days of travel.

The named person on the AHC questionnaire must be the same person who is going to travel with the pet and must attend the appointment.

Who needs to come to the appointment?

The pet and the person planning to travel with the pet must attend an appointment with 10 days of travel.

Please note that **the person travelling with the pet** will be required to sign a declaration on the day that the AHC is issued.

**We are experiencing a high level of demand for AHCs, and these documents are very time consuming. Therefore, we are only able to provide them for existing clients and we require as much notice as possible (at least 4 weeks) to be able to fit them into our diary.**

**For urgent requests (less than 2 weeks' notice) there will be an additional surcharge of £55.**

***It is the owner's responsibility to supply accurate documentation and information as we are unable to issue an AHC without it.***