

Pet Passports and the Pet Travel scheme

Pet Passport requirements have changed as of January 1, 2012. The new rules are outlined below.

Since the introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme in February 2000 dogs, cats and ferrets have been able to travel more freely across European Union countries without the need to go through quarantine provided they are in possession of a valid Pet Passport.

At Evergreen Veterinary Centre we have a wealth of experience in advising clients on all aspects of pet travel. Please contact us if you have any further queries.

For your pet to be issued with a passport for travel within the EU and other listed PETS-qualifying countries, you must complete the following steps in order:

1. Identification of the animal with a recognised microchip.
2. Vaccination against Rabies - this can be done at the same time as implanting the microchip provided your pet is over 12 weeks old.
3. Animals must wait 21 days after vaccination before they can travel.
4. Animals must be treated with a tapeworm tablet, administered by a certified veterinarian, between 1 and 5 days before re-entry to the UK.

For animals travelling from non PETS-qualifying countries will have to complete the following steps in order:

1. Identification of the animal with a recognised microchip.
2. Vaccination against Rabies - this can be done at the same time as implanting the microchip provided your pet is over 12 weeks old.
3. A blood test must be taken at least 30 days after vaccination to ensure an effective antibody response has occurred.
4. Animals must wait three months after the blood sample before they can enter (or re-enter) the UK.
5. Animals must be treated with a tapeworm tablet, administered by a certified veterinarian, between 24 and 120 hours before re-entry to the UK.

It is recognised that a small percentage of animals will not respond adequately to the rabies vaccination and will need to be injected and blood tested a second time. In some animals that may be immune compromised (animals less than 1 year old and over 9 years old), we may recommend a primary course of two inoculations two weeks apart. This will improve your pet's immune response to the vaccine and increase the chances of passing the blood test.

Once these initial stages have been completed, further blood testing is not required provided that booster rabies vaccinations are given within the manufacturer's recommended time span. The vaccine we currently stock gives immunity against rabies for 3 years in both dogs and cats.

The most recent introduction is the new EU Pet Passport which looks much more like our own passport. It holds details of Rabies vaccination, microchip number, Rabies blood test results and tick and tapeworm treatments. The passport is then updated as more treatments are given. An up to date list of PETS-qualifying countries and authorised routes can be found on the [DEFRA website](#).