



Dacre House Veterinary Clinic

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Pet Travel

Travelling to the European Union (EU)

EU PETS passports are no longer valid for entry to the EU for pet owners who are resident in Great Britain (GB). If you are a GB resident then before your dog, cat or ferret can travel to the EU you will need to take the following steps:

1. Have your dog, cat or ferret microchipped.
2. Vaccinate your dog, cat or ferret against rabies – your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before it can be vaccinated.
3. Wait 21 days after the primary vaccination.
4. Visit your vet to get an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) for your pet, no more than 10 days before travel to the EU.

The AHC needs to be signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV). Currently, at Dacre House, the following vets are OVs: Bradley Curtis, Hannah Wallace, Jane Fairham, Matthew Field, Nora Vancsisin and Rebecca Clark. To be able to issue your AHC, we will need proof of your pet's microchipping date and vaccination history. If the microchipping or vaccinations have not been carried out at Dacre House you will need to bring this proof with you to your appointment.

Your pet's AHC will be valid for:

- 10 days after the date of issue for entry into the EU;
- onward travel within the EU for 4 months after the date of issue;
- re-entry to GB for 4 months after the date of issue.

Your pet will need a new AHC for each trip to the EU. To get a new AHC, you must take your pet to an OV no more than 10 days before you travel. As long as you keep your pet's rabies vaccinations up-to-date, you will not need to get repeat vaccinations for repeat trips.

If you are travelling to Finland, Republic of Ireland, Norway or Malta with a dog, your dog will also need to receive a tapeworm treatment 1-5 days before arriving in these countries. This treatment will need to be given by a vet, as proof of its administration needs to be recorded on the AHC.

Travelling to Northern Ireland (NI)

GB residents wishing to take their pet dog, cat or ferret to NI will need to obtain a free Northern Ireland Pet Travel Document (PTD). You only need to apply for this once and you do not need a vet appointment for this, you can apply online. If you are planning onward travel from NI to EU you will need a valid AHC.

Returning to the UK

Your pet must have one of the following documents when returning to GB from the EU:

- a valid EU PETS passport;
- a valid pet passport from a Part 1 Listed Third Country;
- the AHC issued in GB used to travel to the EU – which you can use up to 4 months after it was issued;
- a valid GB pet health certificate (for travel into GB only).

Your pet will not need this documentation if it's entering GB from NI, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

In addition, dogs travelling from EU countries other than Finland, Republic of Ireland, NI, Norway or Malta need proof they have been treated for tapeworm no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours (5 days) before entering GB. The treatment must:

- be approved for use in the country where the treatment is applied;
- contain praziquantel or an equivalent proven to be effective against tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*).

This information was correct to the best of our knowledge as of 22nd April 2026 but always check the UK APHA website before travel and the relevant agency of your destination country: it is your responsibility as pet owner to ensure you have met the import and export requirements of your origin and destination countries.

For more specific advice, you can arrange an appointment with one of our OVs by contacting reception on 01892 546000 or at reception@dacrehouse.co.uk.