

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

PETS certificates and transitional arrangements - dogs and cats

1. Introduction

This fact sheet replaces fact sheet 2 dated October 2005. European Regulation 998/2003 took effect on 3 July 2004. It sets out the animal health requirements for pet animals travelling between European Union (EU) countries and into the EU from other countries.

In this fact sheet, “pet” refers to a dog or cat and includes assistance dogs.

This fact sheet explains how you can still use a valid PETS certificate until the “Valid until” date.

For details of other fact sheets in this series and contact points see section 3.

2. Transitional arrangements for using PETS certificates

Transitional arrangements mean that PETS certificates issued before 1 October 2004 can be used to enter or re-enter the UK from certain countries up to their “Valid until” date (*see the first list in Annex A*). However, we strongly recommend that you use an EU pet passport (*see fact sheet 3*) or a third country official veterinary certificate (*see fact sheet 4*) where possible. PETS certificates issued after 30 September 2004 will not be accepted for entry to the UK.

Although PETS certificates may be used from 1 October 2004 until their expiry date to enter certain other EU countries, you are strongly advised to get an EU pet passport. There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and Ireland.

You no longer need an Export Health Certificate (or a PETS 5 for France) to enter other EU countries from the UK.

- ***Replacing a PETS certificate***

When your certificate expires, if you are in an EU country you will need to ask a vet for an EU pet passport. If you are in a non-EU listed country, you will need to get a third country official veterinary certificate. You can replace a PETS certificate with a passport before it expires. Fact sheet 3 explains how to get a passport.

- ***Tick and tapeworm treatment documentation***

When you bring your dog or cat into the UK with a PETS certificate, you will also need an official certificate showing that it has been treated against ticks and tapeworms. The countries in which you may be able to obtain this certificate are shown in the first list in Annex A.

For details of the treatment required and when it must be done see fact sheets 3 or 4.

To show that the tick and tapeworm treatment has been done, a vet must give you an **official** certificate. An official certificate is one issued for the purposes of the Scheme by a government authority of the country in which the treatment is carried out. It usually has the name of the government department at the top. The certificate must be in English, but may also contain a translation in another language. A private veterinary certificate or headed letter is **not** acceptable.

Check in advance that the vet will be able to provide the necessary certificate.

Make sure the certificate shows your animal's microchip number and the *date* and *time* of treatment (using the 24 hour clock) and the product used. The vet must sign, date and enter their address on the certificate. Make sure all these details are correctly recorded before you leave the vet.

Keep your documents safe because the transport company checking your pet will need to see them.

You are responsible for obtaining the correct documents for your pet to enter the UK. Make sure that they are completed correctly and your pet meets all the rules. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and cost you money.

See fact sheets 3 or 4 for the rules about travelling to the UK with your pet.

3. More information

Other fact sheets

- *Fact sheet 1* gives a general introduction to the European Regulation on the movement of pet animals.
- *Fact sheet 3* explains the rules for dogs and cats travelling between EU countries with an EU pet passport.

- *Fact sheet 4* explains the rules for dogs and cats entering the UK from non-EU listed countries with an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate.
- *Fact sheet 5* explains the rules for the movement of ferrets into the UK.
- *Fact sheet 6* explains the rules for the movement of pet rabbits and rodents into the UK.

Contacts

State Veterinary Service (SVS)

PETS

- PETS website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm
- PETS Helpline: 0870 241 1710 (Monday to Friday - 08.30 to 17.00 UK time)
- E-mail: pets.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk (enclose your postal address and daytime telephone number)
- Fax: 01245 351162

Quarantine

- Website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/rabies/default.htm
- Telephone: 01245 358383
- E-mail: quarantine@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 01245 351162

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)

- Telephone: 0131 244 6182/1
- E-mail: animal.health@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Fax: 0131 244 6616

P.T.O.

National Assembly for Wales Department of Environment, Planning and Countryside (NAWDEPC)

- Telephone: 01286 662027 (English and Welsh)
- E-mail: AnimalByProductsCaernarfon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD)

- Telephone: 02890 524622

Check with one of the contact points above if your questions are not answered by our fact sheets, and to make sure you have the latest information.

Annex A

Listed countries are subject to change. For the latest situation see the PETS website or ring the Helpline.

Countries and territories from which a valid PETS certificate can be used to enter or re-enter the UK

Andorra	*Denmark	*Luxembourg	St Vincent
Antigua & Barbuda	Falkland Islands	Madeira	San Marino
Ascension Island	Fiji	*Malta	Singapore
Australia	*Finland	*Martinique	*Spain
*Austria	*France	Mauritius	*Sweden
*Azores	French Polynesia	Mayotte	Switzerland
Bahrain	*Germany	Monaco	USA (mainland)
Balearic Islands	*Gibraltar	Montserrat	Vanuatu
Barbados	*Greece	*Netherlands	Vatican
*Belgium	*Guadeloupe ²	New Caledonia	Wallis & Futuna
Bermuda	Hawaii	New Zealand	
British Virgin Islands	Iceland	Norway	
Canada	*Italy	*Portugal	
Canary Islands	Jamaica ³	*Réunion	
Cayman Islands	Japan	St Helena	
*Cyprus ¹	Liechtenstein	St Kitts & Nevis	

¹ Dogs and cats prepared for PETS in, or returning under PETS to the UK from, the Republic of Cyprus may enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine. However, as at October 2005, PETS compliant animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) must be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival in the UK. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

² Includes St Barthelemy and St Martin (French part of the island)

³ Jamaican law as at February 2005 prevents their involvement in PETS. See the website or

contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

* EU country or territory

To re-enter the UK direct from the following countries under PETS, your animal must have either an EU pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate. Dogs and cats prepared for PETS in these countries will be given either a passport or a third country official veterinary certificate (see *fact sheets 3 or 4*).

Argentina	*Estonia	*Latvia	St Pierre & Miquelon
Aruba	*Faroe Islands	*Lithuania	*Slovakia
Bulgaria	*French Guiana	*Melilla	*Slovenia
Chile	*Greenland	Netherlands Antilles	Taiwan
Croatia	Grenadines	*Poland	United Arab Emirates
*Ceuta	Hong Kong	Romania	
*Czech Republic	*Hungary	Russian Federation	

* EU country or territory

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