

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

Introduction to the European Regulation on the movement of pet animals

1. Background

This fact sheet replaces fact sheet 1 dated October 2005. European Regulation 998/2003 took effect on 3 July 2004. It sets out the animal health requirements for the movement of pet animals travelling between European Union (EU) countries and into the EU from other countries.

The Regulation covers the requirements for the movement of pet dogs, cats, ferrets, domestic rabbits and rodents (including guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils and chinchillas). It also covers birds (except certain poultry), ornamental tropical fish, invertebrates (except bees and crustaceans), amphibians and reptiles.

Animals covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) remain subject to the provisions of Council Regulation 388/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora.

The UK is continuing to use the name "Pet Travel Scheme" (PETS). The main changes to the PETS rules are noted in section 4. The major change for dogs and cats entering the UK is that the PETS certificate, the tick and tapeworm certificate and the declaration of residence have been replaced by an EU pet passport. Only dogs, cats and ferrets require a passport.

The passport allows these animals to enter or re-enter the UK from the EU and other countries listed below. It also replaces the export health certificate for travel from the UK to other EU countries and permits travel between EU countries.

Dogs and cats with a PETS certificate can continue to use it to enter the UK and certain other EU countries until the "Valid until" date on the certificate. *See section 5.*

Please note that animals being licensed into quarantine in the UK for 6 months are not required to meet the PETS rules. Use the Defra, SEERAD or DARD contacts in section 9 to check the requirements.

For details of other fact sheets in this series and contact points see section 9.

2. Listed countries

The Regulation covers 2 groups of countries. The first are the EU Member States and territories (referred to as **EU countries**):

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Austria | Estonia | Hungary | Netherlands |
| Azores | Faroe Islands | Ireland ³ | Poland |
| Balearic Islands | Finland | Italy | Portugal |
| Belgium | France | Latvia | Réunion |
| Bulgaria | French Guiana | Lithuania | Romania |
| Canary Islands | Germany | Luxembourg | Slovakia |
| Ceuta | Gibraltar | Madeira | Slovenia |
| Cyprus ¹ | Greece | Malta | Spain |
| Czech Republic | Greenland | Martinique | Sweden |
| Denmark | Guadeloupe ² | Melilla | United Kingdom |

¹ Pets may only enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine from the Republic of Cyprus. As at October 2005, pets 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 There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland

The UK comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are treated as part of the UK for the purposes of the Regulation.

The second group are certain countries and territories outside the EU (referred to as **non-EU listed countries**):

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Andorra | Cayman Islands | Liechtenstein | St Kitts & Nevis |
| Antigua & Barbuda | Chile | Malaysia (Peninsular) | St Pierre & Miquelon |
| Argentina | Croatia | Mauritius | St Vincent |
| Aruba | Falkland Islands | Mayotte | San Marino |
| Ascension Island | Fiji | Mexico | Singapore |
| Australia | French Polynesia | Monaco | Switzerland |
| Bahrain | Grenadines | Montserrat | Taiwan |
| Barbados | Gwam | Netherlands Antilles | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Belarus | Hawaii | New Caledonia | United Arab Emirates |
| Bermuda | Hong Kong | New Zealand | USA (mainland) |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Iceland | Norway | Vanuatu |
| British Virgin Islands | Jamaica ¹ | Russian Federation | Vatican |
| Canada | Japan | St Helena | Wallis & Futuna |

¹ Jamaican law as at October 2005 prevents their involvement in PETS. See the website or contact the Helpline to check for any change in this situation.

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

Any country not listed is referred to as an **unlisted country** in these fact sheets.

3. What has not changed from 3 July 2004

- To enter the UK without quarantine from a listed country, **dogs and cats** still have to be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and blood tested. Your pet must be vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturing laboratory.
- The 6 calendar month wait to enter or re-enter the UK from the date a blood sample was taken that gave a satisfactory test result still applies. Animals must not have been outside any of the listed countries in the 6 calendar months before entering the UK.
- The tick and tapeworm treatment, carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 48 hours before being checked-in with an approved transport company to travel into the UK, is still required.
- Dogs and cats must still enter the UK using an approved transport company and route.
- The free movement of animals within the UK and directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland continues.
- Special rules remain for animals that have been prepared in a different order in accordance with the national laws of certain countries (*see fact sheet 3*).

4. What has changed from 3 July 2004

For **dogs and cats** the following changes apply.

- Those prepared for PETS in the **EU** require an **EU pet passport**. For entry or re-entry to the UK, this replaces the PETS certificate, the certificate of tick and tapeworm treatment and the declaration of residence. See section 5 if your dog or cat has a PETS certificate with a current “Valid until” date. *Fact sheet 3 gives more details about the passport.*
- The passport has replaced the export health certificate for entry to other EU countries from the UK and permits travel between EU countries. It also replaces the PETS 5 certificate for entering France from the UK. See section 7 for more details about taking your pet out of the UK.
- Dogs and cats prepared in a **non-EU listed country** require a **third country official veterinary certificate**, instead of a PETS certificate, to enter any EU country, including the UK. The certificate includes details of the microchip, rabies vaccination, blood test and tick and tapeworm treatment. Pets with an EU pet passport may re-enter the EU from non-EU listed countries using the passport. *Fact sheet 4 gives more details.*

- Dogs and cats travelling to the EU from an **unlisted country** must meet EU import requirements before leaving that country. **If travelling direct to the UK, this means they will have to be licensed into quarantine for 6 months on arrival.** This should be arranged before your pet travels. *Fact sheet 4 gives more details.*
- The number of laboratories where the rabies blood test can be done has increased.
- The number of countries from which dogs and cats may enter the UK under PETS without 6 months quarantine has increased. Certain territories of EU countries are regarded as part of the EU under the Regulation. See *section 2.*

Ferrets may now enter the UK from listed countries without quarantine provided they meet the rules. *Fact sheet 5 gives more details.*

For **all types of pet animals**, you may bring no more than 5 animals into the UK under the EU Regulation from most non-EU listed countries. *Fact sheets 4 or 5 give more details.*

5. Transitional arrangements

There are special rules for owners of dogs and cats who have a PETS entry or re-entry certificate with a current “Valid until” date. These certificates can be used to enter or re-enter the UK and certain other EU countries until they expire. *Fact sheet 2 gives more details.*

6. Other pet animals

For details about the movement of **pet rabbits and rodents**, see fact sheet 6.

Details about the movement of other pets listed in section 1 will be issued when they become available. Until then, to bring these animals into the UK they must meet either national import rules or the general rules for trade in the animal species.

For information on import licences for birds and guidance on the import of invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles please see <http://defra/animalh/int-trde/default.htm>, or e-mail iah-imports@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

7. Taking animals out of the UK

There is a 21 day rule about taking dogs, cats and ferrets to other EU countries. *Fact sheets 3 and 4* give more details about this with other advice about taking **dogs and cats** to other listed countries. *Fact sheet 5* gives advice about taking **ferrets** to other listed countries. There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

8. Animals that don't meet the PETS requirements

If an animal arrives in the UK and does not meet the PETS requirements, the authority responsible for carrying out the checks will decide, in consultation with the owner and a vet, whether to re-export the animal; to put it into quarantine (possibly for up to 6 months) until it can comply with the PETS rules; or, as a last resort, to put the animal down.

9. More information

Other fact sheets

- *Fact sheet 2* explains the special arrangements that have been made for dogs and cats to travel within or into the EU with a valid PETS certificate.
- *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

P.T.O.

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

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

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