

PET TRAVEL SCHEME PAPERWORK TIPS

We like to try and help as much as possible with pet paperwork, so we've assembled a list of common issues and their resolutions, so please read this list when preparing your pet's paperwork. There are two important things to note- 1st is that we cannot give official advice can accept no responsibility for unforeseen errors. The second thing to note is that legislation states that it is the owner's responsibility to make sure that the paperwork is correct, so please read these notes carefully, along with the DEFRA website.

We've got a separate page for Pet Passports, so here's some information on pets coming in with 3rd country health certificates:

"Is a 3rd Country Health Certificate Necessary?"

Yes. All pets entering the UK from outside the EU must have a completed 3rd Country Health Certificate. The only exception is if your pet has a valid Pet Passport that complies with the Pet Travel Scheme. If a pet entering the UK does not have a Pet Passport or endorsed 3rd Country Health Certificate then a passport will need to be issued. This can result in delays (and extra costs) as a vet will need to be called out and proofs of the date of microchipping, appropriate valid rabies vaccination and blood test result will need to be supplied.

"Can I still use the old-style 3rd country health certificate?"

No, the old-style certificate is no longer valid.

"Can my vet complete all of the 3rd Country Health Certificate"

No. At some stage an official vet will need to endorse the Health Certificate. This means that a practice stamp from the vet is not sufficient- there must be a second stamp- this is the endorsement by the "competent authority". There are examples of these stamps on the right hand side of this page. If a 3rd Country Health Certificate has not been endorsed then a Pet Passport will need to be issued. This can result in delays (and extra costs) as a vet will need to be called out and proofs of the date of microchipping, appropriate valid rabies vaccination and blood test result will need to be supplied.

"Is all of the Health Certificate completed at the same time?"

Not necessarily. Depending on the location of the place of endorsement, this can be done at different times. For instance, your vet can complete the majority of the certificate (all except the tick and tapeworm treatments) in one location, the certificate can then be endorsed, and a separate vet could complete the tick and tapeworm treatments (at the appropriate time) ****Please note that this must now all be done in the same country USA/Canada overlap is no longer applicable****. Please note- the procedure may differ between countries- for instance, some endorsements are done at the airport at check in. You should check with your vet/authorities. The main points are that the certificate **MUST** be endorsed and there **MUST** be a certificate reference number on each page. The reference number comes from the endorsing vet and the format varies per country.

"Where do I get my blood test done?"

If a rabies blood test is required, it must be done at an approved lab. The labs in the UK can be found [here](#) and the approved labs worldwide can be found [here](#).

"What do the results mean?"

A satisfactory blood test result must show the rabies antibody titre was equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. If the test result is satisfactory, the date the blood sample was taken will be recorded by the vet in the official third country veterinary health certificate and the vet will sign the certificate to show that the pet passed the blood test.

"My cat has a microchip but it never leaves the house. Does it still need to have the rabies vaccination and blood test?"

Yes, if your cat is coming from an unlisted country, there must be a rabies vaccination, a 30 day wait and then a blood test. 3 months must pass after the blood test before the pet can enter the UK.

Coming to the UK from a listed country, the cat will just need a rabies vaccination then must wait 21 days before coming to the UK.

"I treat my dog regularly for tapeworms- must I treat my pet again prior to the flight to the UK?"

Yes

"What happens if my dog misses the flight for which it was treated for tapeworm due to technical problems with the flight?"

If this happens outside of the 24-120 hours prior to arrival in the UK then your dog will need to stay in isolation at the airport, with no contact with any other animals. The airline or the shipping company responsible for this isolated boarding will need to write a letter to the effect, so that essentially the treatment will remain valid. If there are no facilities at the airport or you would rather your pet not stay at the airport then it will need re-treating for tapeworms. This should not be harmful to your pet.

For further information on the Pet Travel Scheme, please visit the ["Pet Travel Scheme Overview"](#) page, along with our [update page](#). Or see the links on the right for the Animal Health (DEFRA) free handout on the Pet Travel Scheme.

"Why do I need supporting paperwork?"

This is to double check that the information in the 3rd country health certificate is correct. The rabies vaccination certificate must have the pet's microchip number on in order to identify the animal, as well as the product name, batch number and batch expiry date. Without this information further proof may be required, which may result in delays and costs.

If you do not have a microchip certificate then a set of patient notes with the date of microchipping (along with the chip number) will suffice. If you have neither then we recommend that you get the vet that vaccinated your pet to write a note on headed paper stating all the pet's details and that the chip was checked when the vaccination was given.

Supporting paperwork can be copies, but the 3rd Country Health Certificate must be original (and endorsed!).

"When can I vaccinate the pet?"

As per the DEFRA site, the vaccination must be given when the pet is at least 12 weeks old, NOT as per the manufacturer's instructions.