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TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET in 2024

Under new 'Part 2 listed status', any current UK (Euro) pet passport will NO LONGER BE VALID to travel to Europe or Northern Ireland.

Instead, a pet will need a SINGLE-USE Animal Health Certificate (AHC). This document will be valid for a **single-journey** into Europe / Northern Ireland and must be issued within 10 days of travel to a specified location. Precise timing will vary so please ask for your specific scenario (Ireland is within 5 days as need to worm also).

You can read more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad>

The document can cover non-commercial travel of up to 5 pets and is valid for up to 4 months of ongoing travel. The AHC will be in both English and the language of the country you arrive in.

You will need to attend for a physical appointment at Brampton, during the working week, between 1 - 10 days before your confirmed travel date. This appointment is likely to take at least an hour as there is a lot of paperwork to get through and in 2 languages in many cases! You will need proof of travel booking and vaccination records with you.

Travel to approved countries is allowed a **minimum of 21 days** after **rabies vaccination**. Certain countries also have extra requirements for vaccination, documentation & parasite treatment – we can guide you but it is your responsibility to check this information before travel.

Rabies booster vaccinations must be given before the date stated otherwise a 21-day wait will be required before being allowed to travel again. We can no longer update an EU Pet Passport. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure rabies booster vaccinations are given on time.

If you are permanently moving abroad or it is a commercial transaction, please discuss this with us and with the authorities in the country you are moving to as the requirements may be different.

When re-entering the UK dogs require treatment for worms using an approved medication. This needs to be witnessed & certified by a vet prior to return to the UK & will be entered on your dog's AHC. This treatment must be done not less than 24 hours & no longer that 120 hours before your pet is scheduled to arrive in the UK. Tick treatment is not mandatory prior to entry into the UK but we would strongly advise owners to treat their pet with an effective tick treatment to stop European ticks coming to the UK

Capontree Limited, Veterinary Surgeons

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carrying fatal exotic diseases & also for your own pet's safety (see over for more details....)

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Disease risks to your pet

The regulations regarding the pet travel are primarily to protect human health by stopping rabies coming to the UK; they are not designed as disease protection for animals. We strongly recommend that you consider the health risks to your pet before travelling abroad with them. Our pets in the UK have no natural protection against diseases they may encounter while abroad. Some of those diseases can be fatal but symptoms are not always immediately apparent & in some cases can take years to develop.

We suggest you contact a vet in the area you are travelling to & clarify what diseases are in that area. Then appropriate steps can be taken to try & protect your pet, although no protection will be guaranteed. Information & disease distribution maps are available at www.esccapuk.org.uk which can be used as an initial guide to disease risk. However, many of these diseases are gradually moving into new areas so if in doubt it is better to take precautions.

Diseases of most concern are carried by ticks, mosquitoes & sand flies. It is best to avoid areas where these insects may be encountered, especially at dusk. Various anti-parasite medications can be used; it is best to find out what risks exist in the area you are travelling to then one of our vets can advise on which medications can be used. Often several products need to be used together.

Ticks carry ehrlichiosis & babesiosis (blood-borne diseases), which they pass to animals when they attach to the skin. Ticks like to attach in areas such as the head, feet & underneath the neck, but can be found anywhere. The immature ticks are very small & hard to find but are more likely to transmit diseases. There is no vaccine against these diseases so stopping ticks attaching to your pet is the best approach. Try & avoid rough ground & forests, especially where animals graze. Using a product that is effective at killing ticks quickly is strongly advised as well as removing any ticks you see, using a twisting device such as a Tom O'Hook.

Sand flies carry leishmaniosis which is a parasite that can cause disease of the skin & internal organs. It is very difficult to treat & can be fatal. There is now a vaccine which provides protection for dogs for this disease but it needs 3 separate injections so the course must be started at least 10 weeks prior to travel. Sand flies are found in wooded areas & gardens; they feed on blood & are particularly active at night in the summer months. There are collars that can deter sand flies & these also have some effect against ticks. The collar needs to be applied to the dog 1-2 weeks before leaving the UK to get the full effect of the product. There are no products suitable for cats.

Mosquitoes carry heart worm, a parasite which lives in the major vessels leaving the animal's heart & can cause sudden heart disease & breathing problems. It is best to treat your pet monthly while abroad with a product effective against heart worm & again once your pet has been home for a month.