



Taking your pet to Europe can be a great way to involve your family pets in holiday but the costs and issues should be fully considered before going ahead. Cats generally should not be taken on holiday due to the high risk of straying. As well as going on holiday, pets may need to emigrate with you.

Taking your dog abroad is much simpler than it used to be thanks to the Pet Travel Scheme ('PETS'), however it should be considered alongside the disease risks to your pet, paperwork and expense and that hot climates may not suit all breeds of dog.



The main requirements for travelling within the EU and back to the UK are:

- **A microchip**
- **A rabies vaccination** (your pet must be microchipped first). This lasts for three years. We do not send booster reminders for Rabies.
- **A pet passport** issued before travel
- **Appropriate tapeworm treatment:** 24-120 hours before re-entry into the UK. This must be performed and certified by a local vet.

You must wait 21 days from the date of the rabies vaccination before travelling. Preventive treatment is important whilst abroad and we can advise on and supply appropriate products.

It is also important to remember that pet animals may only travel on approved routes and carriers. Air travel often requires an extra fit-to-travel certificate. Booking for animals should be done well in advance as spaces often fill up quickly. If a pet carrier/cage is required, this must be an approved model. During your trip, you must not travel outside the qualifying EU/EEA countries with your dog.

Staying for more than 6 months in some countries (particularly Germany, Spain and Switzerland) will require the rabies booster vaccine to be done every year. Running out may require lengthy delays while they are re-vaccinated.

Travelling outside the EU

If you want to travel with your pet outside the EU and other qualifying countries, extra vaccines, blood tests and quarantine periods may be required depending on the country. We would usually not recommend this for holiday purposes.

If you are planning to emigrate with your pet please let us know well in advance (at least 3 months, or 12 months for Australia/New Zealand) and our experienced team can help you.



Tips on keeping your pet healthy on holidays...

Here are some tips to help keep your dog happy...

- Make sure your dog always has fresh, clean water. If your dog starts drinking sea water it could cause diarrhoea and dehydration. If you need to use bottled water it's a good idea for your dog too!
- Take a supply of your dog's normal food and stay away from exotic treats. A sudden change in your dog's diet could leave them with an upset tummy, which could ruin your holiday.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a car or caravan during the day, temperatures soar in seconds!
- If your dog is staying in the car when travelling on a ferry, remember they will need a water bowl, absorbent bedding and a window guard for ventilation.
- Try to keep your dog as cool as possible. If you are left on the dockside waiting to board, try to take your dog for a walk or find some shade.
- Small dogs can travel in a container and large dogs behind a dog-guard or ask about car harnesses.
- Remember that dogs can burn as much as we can, especially on hairless and white areas. Protect them from the sun's harmful rays by applying appropriate sunblock (such as babies or special pet sunscreen)

It is your responsibility to check passport/certificate details to ensure they are correct. Please ask our staff to check your pet's chip when purchasing preventive parasite treatments

The effort involved may sound a bit daunting at first but thousands of animals go on trouble free holiday each year. Thorough preparation will help minimise the risks. Our experienced team are here to help guide you through the process and can be contacted on **01443 491433**. Remember that leaving plenty of time is important. Full rules and more guidance including country lists can be found here:

www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad



Going abroad can present several extra disease risks

- **Babesia**—present throughout continental Europe and carried by Ticks
- **Ehrlichiosis**—present throughout continental Europe and carried by Ticks
- **Hepatozoonosis**—southern Europe and carried by Ticks
- **Heartworm**—Southern Europe up to Brittany and carried by Mosquitoes
- **Leishmaniasis**—Southern Europe/Mediterranean and carried by Sandflies.

We strongly recommend using a parasite killing and repellent product on a frequent basis throughout the trip, particularly one that is highly effective against ticks such as Advantix®. Monthly tapeworm treatment is advisable if away for more than one month as well.

We offer vaccination against Leishmaniasis where necessary and help you select appropriate parasite control products for the area to which you are going. In areas where mosquitoes and sandflies are common it can be helpful to have a mosquito net for your dog at night time.

Take a tick remover and check your dog regularly for ticks, especially after walking in woodland.

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