

Animal Health Certificates (AHCs) for Pet Travel to the EU (and Northern Ireland)

Since Brexit, it is now a legal requirement for pet dogs, cats and ferrets travelling from the UK to the EU and Northern Ireland to have an Animal Health Certificate issued by a UK Official Veterinarian. The best way to think of this certificate is to liken it to a Visa.

It can take 3-4 weeks to get a pet ready to travel, so we advise that you give Quantock Vets 6 weeks notice of your plans to travel to the EU or Northern Ireland (NI).

Please note that Animal Health certificates are only valid for non-commercial travel of pets. If you intend to take your pet for commercial purposes (eg: sale of a bred puppy/kitten) then a different document, an Export Health Certificate (EHC), will be required.

A pre-Brexit EU pet passport, ISSUED IN GB, has not been valid for travel to the EU or Northern Ireland (NI) since January 2021

UK Issued EU Pet Passports

- Are no longer official documents recognised by the EU and cannot be up-dated or certified by Official Veterinarians (OV).
- Cannot be used for travel to the EU.

EU Issued Pet Passports

- Can be used for entry to the EU and for re-entry into to the UK.
- Cannot be updated or certified in the UK by Official Veterinarians.
- If you need a rabies vaccine whilst in the UK, this can NOT be up-dated and certified in an EU passport.
- To remain valid for travel to the EU, EU issued Pet Passports have to be up-dated and certified by EU Official Veterinarians in an EU country.

Before you travel, don't forget to check for any additional restrictions or requirements of the country you are travelling to.

***Depending on your destination/reason for travel, you may only be able to travel within the EU, for a maximum of 90 days within any 180 day period. Please check the gov.uk website for more information**

What your pet will need to travel to the EU or Northern Ireland

1. To be Microchipped
2. To be vaccinated against Rabies
 - Your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before he/ she can be vaccinated against rabies.
 - After your pet's first rabies vaccination, travel to the EU is not allowed until 21 days from the day after the rabies vaccine
3. To have a valid Animal Health Certificate (AHC):
 - This can be issued **no more than 10 days** before you enter an EU country.
 - You will need to take proof, certified by an Official Veterinarian, of:
 - Your pet's microchip implantation

- Your pet's rabies vaccination record
- Planned entry to the EU via a Travellers Point of Entry (TPE).
- Your pet will need a new AHC for each trip to the EU or Northern Ireland.
- Up to 5 pets can be included on a single AHC.
- We will need to know with whom the pet will travel – either the owner or a person designated by the owner to have permission to transport the pet on their behalf. In such an instance the pet must travel within 5 days of the owner and an additional formal written statement is required from the owner stating who has permission to transport the animal. If the animal will be travelling NOT within 5 days of the owner, then an EHC document is needed and that document is NOT valid for re-entry in to the UK.

Animal Health Certificates (AHC)

Using the AHC for:	After the date of issue, how long is the AHC Valid For?
Entry to the EU/NI	10 days after the issue date
Onward Travel within the EU	4 months after the date of issue, or until the expiry of the rabies vaccine (whichever is earlier)
Re-entry to GB	4 months after the date of issue, or until the expiry of the rabies vaccine (whichever is earlier)

Once you have entered the EU, you can use the same certificate to travel in-between EU countries. For example: If you plan to travel to Spain, but will be entering the EU in France, travelling only within the EU to get there, then you can do so on one AHC which will be issued in English and French as France is the point of entry.

If your travel plans include entering the EU, then leaving the EU (eg: Enter via France, with onward travel to Italy via Switzerland) then an AHC will not be sufficient for this trip and additional certificated will be needed.

Travelling with your dog to Finland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway or Malta

- He/she needs be treated against tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*)
- This treatment must be given by an Official Veterinarian **1 to 5 days** before arriving in any of these countries.
- The Official Veterinarian must enter full details of this treatment on the AHC.

On Arrival in the EU/NI

- Owners need to enter through a designated **Travellers' Point of Entry**
- You may need to present your original AHC with all of it's certified supporting documents.

Returning to GB

You will use the same AHC issued to enter the EU to re-enter the UK.

Tapeworm Treatment

1-5 days before returning to the UK, you will need to take your dog to see a vet for them to administer an approved tapeworm treatment. This must contain Praziquantel.

This is not necessary if you're travelling directly to the UK from Finland, Republic or Ireland, NI, Malta or Norway

Travelling with more than 5 pets

You cannot take more than 5 pets to an EU country or NI unless you are attending or training for a competition, show or sporting event.

You will need written evidence of registration for the event when you travel.

All your pets must be attending the event or training, they must be over 6 months old and must meet the pet travel rules.

DISCLAIMER

Please note: we will prepare and issue an AHC based on the information you provide us. If the information is not provided in the required time or if it is not accurate, correct or easily legible, including errors and omissions, then Quantock Veterinary Hospital and our Official Veterinarians will take no responsibility for being unable to complete and issue an AHC OR for issuing an AHC with incorrect information contained in it. This could potentially stop you from leaving the UK with your pet or it could prevent you from entering the EU or NI with your pet.

Applying for an EHC involves two appointments, where both you and your pet/s will need to be present. Please ensure that you bring all of the required documents to both sessions, and please ensure that the person under whose name the animals are travelling (The Owner on the attached application form) is the person who is present for both appointments.

Unfortunately, the Owner cannot send someone to these appointments in their stead, they must be present themselves. In the instances of spouses/legal partners who share ownership and who are travelling together, the person whose name is listed as the owner on the application form and in the animal's vaccination card must be the one to attend the appointments. Failure of the Owner to attend the appointments will mean that we cannot issue the certificate.

The Official Vet has time allocated at the time of the first appointment to start working on the AHC. If you do not have all of the required documents at the time of the first AHC appointment then an additional professional time will have to be set aside for the Official Vet to work on the certificate and this time will be charged for.

Should your travel plans change (eg: you were initially planning to drive your pet yourself and indicated as such on your application form, but have since decided to use an animal transport agency or any other person who is not listed as the owner, then we must be informed about this as we need to specify who is transporting the animal on the certificate. Likewise, if your Traveler's point of entry were to change we would have to re-issue the entire certificate in the appropriate language. Should such a change to the certificate be required, then an additional surcharge will be levied.

Checklist for appointment 1:

Appointment 1 occurs minimum 3 weeks prior to your planned departure date.

1) Both the pet(s) who will be travelling and the person who is listed as the Owner on the application form must be present for this appointment.

2) Proof of microchipping.

- When your pet was first microchipped you should have been e-mailed details by the company with which it is microchipped. You can also request a proof of microchipping certificate by logging in to the pet owner's portal on the website of the company with whom your pet is registered.

- If you do not know with which company your pet is registered, then you are welcome to bring them in to the clinic to have their microchip number scanned BEFORE the first AHC appointment such that we can type their number in to the microchip databases to see with which company they are registered. Please note that the companies will need a few days to answer your reply to your request for a microchip certificate, so it is not appropriate for us to scan your pet's microchip for this purpose in the day of your first appointment.
- Alternatively, we can issue a proof of microchipping certificate at the time of the first appointment for an additional fee.

3) Proof of Rabies vaccination (A completed UK Vaccination Card)

- A Rabies vaccination administered in the UK is valid for 3 years from the date of issue. Please note that should the rabies vaccine have been administered in a EU country it may only be valid for 1 year after administration – the law differs from country to country based on the prevalence of rabies in that country.
- The pet's microchip number must be read and recorded on the day the Rabies vaccination is administered.
- If your Pet had their rabies vaccination administered by a UK Vet other than Quantock Vets then we will need the clinical records from the Vet who administered the vaccination in order to certify the validity of the vaccination.
- If your pet has not yet been vaccinated for Rabies then this can be done at the time of the first appointment. They are only allowed to enter the EU 21 days after the Rabies vaccination has been administered.

4) Completed and signed application form

Please take care in ensuring that the information on your application form is accurate and easily legible. Use block capitals if needed.

5) In the event animals are travelling to attend an event/show, then proof of registration for that event must be provided.

Checklist for Appointment 2:

Appointment 2 occurs within the last 10 days before you plan to leave the UK to enter the EU.

1. Both the pet(s) who will be travelling and the person who is listed as the Owner on the application form must be present for this appointment.
2. Please bring your original proof of rabies vaccination with you to this appointment as well.
3. If it is not the owner who will be transporting the pet(s), then we will require a written and signed affidavit which includes the details of the person who has authorization from the owner to transport the pet(s).

Fees:

AHC including both appointment 1 and appointment 2 is **£240 for first pet and £120 for additional pets on same certificate**. (one certificate can include up to 5 pets):

Non registered Client surcharge £120

Proof of microchipping certificate (if required): £35

Additional professional time needing to be charged due to required documentation not being present or correct at the time of the first appointment: £50/hour

Certificate needing to be changed due to a change in travel plans: £50

Useful contacts and references:

UK Government advice on pet travel to the EU

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-an-eu-country-or-northern-ireland>

Pet Travel Helpline

Email: pettravel@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0370 241 1710 [Mon – Fri 08:30 – 17:00]

Travellers Point of Entry (TPE)

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en

AHC application form

Please submit the completed form either:

- By post or by hand
Quantock Veterinary Hospital
Quantock Terrace
The Drove
Bridgwater TA6 4BA
- By email
info@quantockvets.co.uk

Once we have received this completed form we can schedule a Part 1 Travel Appointment. Please familiarize yourself with the checklist for appointment 1.

For further information please contact:

- The team at Quantock Veterinary Hospital
- Government Pet Travel helpline:
- Email: pettravel@apha.gov.uk
 - Telephone: 0370 241 1710
[Mon – Fri 08:30 – 17:00 excluding bank holidays]

AHC Application Form

Owner Details

Title	Forename	Surname

Contact details: Address

House name / number	
Street	
Town / city	
County	
Postcode	

Contact details: Telephone number (only one telephone number, mobile preferred)

Telephone number	
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Travel Plans

Point of Entry into the EU (which EU member state are you entering into FIRST)

Country of destination	
Travellers Point of Entry	
Do your travel plans include traveling through non-EU countries once you have left the UK?	
Date Of Departure from the UK	
Date of entry in to the EU	

Pet Details

No more than 5 pets can be included on an AHC

PET 1	Details	
Species		
Sex (F / FN / M / MN)		
Breed		
Colour		
Microchip number	Chip number:	Date of implantation:
Date of birth		
Rabies vaccination	Vaccinated: Y / N.	Date of last vaccine:

PET 2	Details	
Species		
Sex (F / FN / M / MN)		
Breed		
Colour		
Microchip number	Chip number:	Date of implantation:
Date of birth		
Rabies vaccination	Vaccinated: Y / N.	Date of last vaccine:

PET 3	Details	
Species		
Sex (F / FN / M / MN)		
Breed		
Colour		
Microchip number	Chip number:	Date of implantation:
Date of birth		
Rabies vaccination	Vaccinated: Y / N.	Date of last vaccine:

PET 4	Details	
Species		
Sex (F / FN / M / MN)		
Breed		
Colour		
Microchip number	Chip number:	Date of implantation:

Date of birth	
Rabies vaccination	Vaccinated: Y / N. Date of last vaccine:

PET 5	Details
Species	
Sex (F / FN / M / MN)	
Breed	
Colour	
Microchip number	Chip number: Date of implantation:
Date of birth	
Rabies vaccination	Vaccinated: Y / N. Date of last vaccine:

Documentation

Do you have the following documentation for your pet/s, showing the following information clearly:

- Rabies vaccination documentation (eg Vaccination card): **Yes / No**
 - Dates of vaccination
 - Vaccine name and manufacturer
- Microchipping documentation (proof of ID): **Yes / No**
 - Transponder / chip number
 - Date of transponder / chip implantation
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Who will be travelling with the pet (please select one, and provide further details if appropriate):

- Owner
- Person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to travel with the pet (with name, address and telephone number provided)
- Designated carrier contracted by the owner to travel with the pet (with name, address and telephone number provided)
- If the owner is not accompanying the pet/s, written authorisation from the owner, detailing their authorisation, their name, address and telephone number and that of the authorised person, is required. This needs to be dated within not more than 5 days of their travel.
- Owners / authorised agents will be required to show evidence of travel arrangements, such as ferry ticket, flight ticket, boarding pass etc.

Tapeworm treatment

Tapeworm treatment is required for dogs when travelling from GB to EU-listed tapeworm-free countries including Northern Ireland, Malta, Republic of Ireland and Finland.

These dogs must be treated for tapeworm, with an authorized treatment, not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before entry into one of these countries. This treatment needs to be administered and certified by an Official Veterinarian.

I am travelling with my dog/s to (please select):

- ☐ Northern Ireland
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Republic of Ireland
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ None of the above

Are any of these pets traveling for the purpose of attending an event or show?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Declaration

I declare that the information provided above is accurate and correct. By submitting this form, I agree and understand that Quantock Veterinary Hospital will use this information to complete an Animal Health Certificate for the purposes of my pet (s) travel to EU / NI, and that any errors or omissions in this form are my responsibility, and I understand that this may result in my pet/s not being able to travel or delay in travel.

Signed:

Date:

Print name:
