

Frequently asked questions for pet travel

When is it NOT an AHC

- Different species (not dog, cat or ferret)
- Non-EU country
- Change of ownership

For any of the above, they will need to apply to the APHA for an EHC and there may be different requirements to travel to that country

Pet owners should investigate what is needed and inform us of what they require so we can facilitate.

Refer query to an OV to liaise with the owner

Rabies vaccination

Is this rabies vaccination valid?

The rabies vaccination certificate should have a "Valid Until" date - this must be used
If not available then speak to a vet

How long after a rabies vaccination can a pet travel?

A first rabies vaccination is valid 21 days after the date of vaccination.

An AHC may not be issued before this date.

Top tip: If you look at a weekly calendar, 21 days is the same day of the week in 3 weeks time.
Eg If they have a vaccine on Monday 1st, they can travel on Monday 22nd.

There is no 21 day wait if they have a booster rabies vaccine while they are still inside the valid date of the last vaccination. If they are over the "valid until" date then treat it like a first vaccination and apply the 21 day rule.

Always encourage people to book their rabies vaccination well in advance of their planned travel (at least a month) so that they can book their AHC appointment any day within the 10 days before travel.

Is my EU pet passport valid?

Pets can travel on an EU pet passport so long as the rabies vaccination is valid (check “valid until” date)

UK vets may not enter a rabies vaccination on an EU passport. Boosters are recorded separately and an AHC may be required for travel to the EU.

If the rabies vaccination is out of date then a vet may administer a rabies vaccination and issue an AHC after 21 days

Tapeworm Treatment

These countries require tapeworm treatment for DOGS only:

Malta, Ireland, Finland, Norway

This must be administered 24-120 hours before entering those countries.

If you can, book the AHC appointment a couple of days before travel so the tapeworm treatment can be administered at the same time as the AHC is issued

Alternatively you can book the tapeworm treatment after the AHC appointment

The tapeworm treatment can be administered by any vet (they don't have to be an OV and can use the practice stamp)

Tapeworm treatment is required for DOGS coming back to the UK 24-120 hours before entry. Occasionally we administer it before they go if they are coming back to the UK within 120 hours of their AHC appointment eg. weekend in France

Northern Ireland

Pets should have a valid rabies vaccination, tapeworm treatment (dogs) and a valid AHC

HOWEVER

Northern Ireland is not checking documents of pets traveling from the UK to Northern Ireland

This might change!

Owners should be encouraged to check the DAERA website to see what the current requirements are

It is up to them whether they want to get an AHC or not

Non direct flights to the EU

The AHC has to be in the language of the country where the documents are checked

If it is a non-direct flight the owner should check with the airline where the AHC will be processed so that the OV can issue the document in the correct language