



APHA Briefing Note 15/16

Amended Third Country certificate - Non-commercial pets travelling abroad

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of recent amendments to '*The non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets from territories or Third Countries animal health certificate*' (Annex IV).
2. To ask OVs to remind pet owners of the importance of tick treatment when travelling abroad with their pets.

Background

3. The [new amended model](#) certificate is laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 and will be valid from 1 September 2016.
4. You should note that the previous version can continue to be used for direct entry into the EU from territories or Third Countries until 10 September 2016, and for onward travelling within the European Union until 31 December 2016.
5. The appearance of the amended certificate is extremely similar to the previous version except for the following two points:
 - A specific guidance note that the rabies antibody titre test should not be certified unless the authenticity of the laboratory report has been verified to avoid forged laboratory reports.
 - The date of implantation or reading of the identification marking of dogs, cats or ferrets is now required in Part II of the certificate as part of the rabies vaccination table. This change has been included as the entry regarding the date of marking in Part I of the animal health

certificate had been misinterpreted by certifying officials in Third Countries and has therefore caused problems during compliance checks at Pet entry points.

6. OV's holding the appropriate OCQ(V) (SX and/or CA) can issue a Pet Passport based on the evidence provided on the amended certificate and following Defra guidance on the completion of a [Pet Passport](#) and the [RCVS Principles of Certification](#).
7. APHA strongly encourages OV's to use any opportunity (e.g. when clients apply for a new passport or need the passport updated as vaccinations become due) to remind owners of the animal and public health disease risks associated with travelling abroad. In addition to the rabies and tapeworm risk, pets can also be at risk of other potentially fatal diseases, many of which are transmitted by ticks and biting flies. Although tick treatments are no longer compulsory, treatment will safeguard their pets and help prevent ticks and tick transmitted diseases being introduced into the UK.

Pet Passports

8. APHA's Centre for International Trade Carlisle is responsible for the issuing and control of pet passports.
9. Enquires and requests for new pet passports (issued as a box of 20) should be sent to petpassportscarlisle@apha.gsi.gov.uk and include:
 - Completed control sheet showing a minimum of 15 passports used (existing pet passport practices only).
 - Full postal address of Vet Practice, including SP numbers of any OV's on module CA and/or SX.
10. All passport requests will be actioned and sent out within the agreed times. You will receive a postal confirmation with a blank control sheet attached.
11. Pet Passports are recorded and issued to a practice for their sole use only, and should not be distributed to sub branches/practices. Sub practices should request and maintain their own supply.

Further Information

- If you need further assistance you can contact the Pet Travel helpline on 03702 411 710, or Pettravel@apha.gsi.gov.uk

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