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Dear Official Veterinarian,

I am writing about the arrangements applying to people fleeing from Ukraine who want to come to the UK with their pets, as well as to other people or bodies who may be seeking to bring pets here (e.g. commercial and rescue movements).

We recognise that individuals fleeing Ukraine may not have had time to complete the correct health preparations to travel with their pets, or may not possess information verifying that their pets have received the correct health preparations. All such people will still be able to enter the UK with their pets, but they will first need to secure a licence to do so from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

We have streamlined the processes for providing licences, and APHA should be providing these very quickly. We are encouraging people to contact APHA as far ahead of travelling to the UK as possible. If they do not do this themselves but instead approach a carrier to arrange travel to the UK, their carrier should at that stage contact APHA. In addition to providing quick approval, APHA will arrange any required quarantine places. The pet may need to stay in quarantine for up to four months if it has had no rabies treatment. If the pet has received some preparations, the length of time it would need to remain in quarantine would be reduced accordingly. We will also be covering the costs of quarantine. Individuals are being asked to contact APHA at [pettravel@apha.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@apha.gov.uk) or to call +44 3000 200 301 option 2.

These arrangements are in place for cats, dogs, and ferrets as well as any other domesticated animals that are commonly viewed as pets but are not legally part of the pet travel scheme. These arrangements apply to all people fleeing Ukraine, without a residency test or a nationality test applying to applicants.

These arrangements do not apply to commercial movements including rescue animals being evacuated from Ukraine, nor will we be covering the costs of unaccompanied pets or animals without owners. Commercial movements, including rescue animals will not be provided with licences from APHA. Instead, all such movements will only be permitted to enter the UK if they are already fully compliant prior to departing for the UK.

Any assistance you can provide to affected travellers on this matter would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

*Marc Casale*

Marc Casale

Deputy Director, Animal Welfare, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs