



EU Pet Passport Guidance Notes for Completion of Old Model Passports Issued before 29 December 2014

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Cats, Dogs and Ferrets

General

1. Introduction

1.1 Regulation 998/2003 of the European Council and Parliament sets out the animal health requirements for the movement of pet animals between Member States of the European Union (EU) and into the EU from non-EU countries listed in the Regulation.

2. The EU Pet Passport

2.1 The Regulation requires that dogs, cats and ferrets moving between Member States shall be accompanied by an EU pet passport. When accompanied by a valid pet passport an animal can also re-enter the EU from a non- EU country. See the following website for further details: <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>. To enter some non EU countries, an animal may still need to be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate. For further details contact the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC).

3. Export of Animals under Three Months Old

3.1 Some EU Member States may accept dogs and cats under three months of age which have not been vaccinated against rabies but are accompanied by a pet passport.

3.2 If an animal is to travel direct to a country which will accept animals that are not vaccinated against rabies, then it is possible to issue a passport without vaccinating the animal. In this case, the owner must be advised that vaccination against rabies would be required if the animal were to be moved to another country at a later date.

4. Issuing a passport

4.1 A passport can be issued for an animal which has been fitted with a microchip and vaccinated against rabies after the microchip has been implanted. It becomes eligible to travel 21 days after the completion of the recommended vaccination programme, as per the vaccine manufacturer recommendation in the data sheet, being day 0 the day that the vaccination is administered. Please remember that if an animal is going to re-enter the UK from an unlisted Third Country, it must also pass a serology test for rabies and the details recorded in Part V of the passport. The blood sample for the test must be drawn at least 30 days after the animal has been vaccinated against rabies.

4.2 A passport can also be issued for an animal accompanied by a Third Country certificate headed Annex I or Annex II entering the European Community for non-commercial movements (Regulation (EC) No. 998/2003' (Decision (EC) No. 2011/874) which has been issued in a non-EU country, provided the animal has been implanted with a microchip and is covered by a current rabies vaccination (and has been blood tested in the case of an unlisted Third Country) as noted in section IV of that certificate.

4.3 Please note that in some countries they can use tattooing as a valid method of animal identification, but the tattoo must have been placed before the rabies vaccination and before 3rd July 2011. Passports issued for those animals should bear the tattoo number and date of tattooing. Further information is available on the APHA website.

5. Who Completes and Issues the Passport

5.1 Where required, the passport should be stamped and signed by a Panel 2 Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Government or the Welsh Government as an OV for export purposes. The passport must be signed and stamped with the OV stamp in any ink colour other than black.

5.2 Relevant sections of the passport may be completed, signed and stamped on the basis of evidence of procedures carried out by any registered veterinary surgeon. This evidence may be in the form of:

- a completed EU pet passport issued by another authorised veterinarian
- a record or certificate of current rabies vaccination which bears the microchip/tattoo number of the animal

- a blood test result provided by a recognised laboratory showing a test result indicating a rabies antibody titre of 0.5 IU/ml or above and bearing the animal's microchip/tattoo number and date of rabies vaccination carried out prior to blood sampling.

5.3 Government authorised veterinarians in the UK can also enter details, such as rabies vaccination boosters or of tapeworm treatment (if appropriate), in a passport issued by another EU country.

6. Passport sections

Sections I-III: can be completed by practice support staff or veterinarian. The owner may affix the photograph in Section II.

Section IV: the first two boxes can be completed by a practice veterinarian. The final box (authorised veterinarian) must be completed by an OV.

Section V: must be completed by a Panel 2 OV.

Section VII: can be completed by a practice veterinarian.

Section VIII: can be completed by a practice veterinarian.

Section IX: can be completed by a practice veterinarian.

6.1 Once you have issued a passport, ensure the relevant details are entered on the Pet Passport Control Sheet. This is now an electronic form which can be obtained from CITC. We recommend that you take a photocopy/scan of the passport pages covering identification, vaccination and serology and retain them for reference.

6.2 When further supplies of pet passports are required, the complete Control Sheet should be emailed to petpassportsCarlisle@apha.gsi.gov.uk. The control sheet must provide evidence that at least 20 of the previously received passports have been used and that a further batch will not be forwarded without first receiving this evidence.

7. Amendments/Corrections/Replacement

7.1 Any amendments to the passport must be made by the OV by drawing a single line over the incorrect entry. The correct information must be written legibly above the deleted entry and then signed and stamped by the OV with the official stamp. The use of correction fluid is not permitted.

7.2 If an error is made in the date of rabies vaccination or the expiry date of that vaccine (Section IV of the passport), the whole entry for that vaccination should be deleted and signed and stamped as above. A new entry for that vaccination should be entered in the next line in that section of the passport.

7.3 Spoiled front covers should be cancelled by cutting off the top right hand corner of the passport and returning the passport and destroyed. When a passport becomes full, it should be cancelled as above and returned to the owner.

7.4 If a passport is lost or stolen, it can be replaced on production of the animal's vaccination record and blood test result (if applicable), both of which must show the animal's microchip number. Details of the lost or stolen passport, including its serial number, country and date of issue (if known) and should be recorded on the Pet Passport Control Sheet.

Passport Sections

Completing Each Section

The animal must be present so that its microchip/tattoo number can be checked when all sections of the passport, other than section 1 (name and address of owner), are completed or updated.

	Title	Passport page(s)
I	Owner	1
II	Description of animal	2
III	Identification of animal	3
IV	Vaccination against Rabies	4-7
V	Rabies serological test	8-9
VI		

VII	Echinococcus treatment	16-21
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Cover

We recommend that the issuing veterinary practice is put its practice stamp on the inside of the front cover.

Section I: Owner

The first name(s) surname and full address of the person to whom the passport is first issued should be entered in part 1 of this page. If there is a change of owner, the name and address of the new owner should be entered on this page. Please note the passport may be issued in respect of any dog, cat or ferret which meets the requirements of the Regulation. This means that a passport may be issued to an owner who may not be a citizen or resident of the United Kingdom.

Change of address

If the owner of the animal subsequently reports a change of address to a veterinary practice, the details of the new address along with the owner's name should be entered in the next available section on page 1 of the passport.

Section II: Description of animal

Photograph

The insertion of the photograph of the animal is optional and at the owner's expense. The owner is responsible for affixing a photograph to the passport. The borders of the photograph must remain within the marked area and not obscure any other part of this page.

Description of Animal

Sections 1-6 can be completed by practice support staff or veterinarian. The entry for species must be either dog, cat or ferret. The entry for date of birth can contain either the animal's date of birth or month and year of birth or year of birth or approximate age.

Section III: Identification of animal

A microchip must be implanted in the animal to identify it. We recommend that the microchip conforms to ISO (International Standards Organisation) Standard 11784 or Annex A to Standard 11785. If the microchip does not conform to either Standard, the owner or person responsible for the animal on behalf of the owner must provide their own microchip reader to enable the microchip number to be read at the time of any inspection.

Before entering the number in this section, the full number of the implanted microchip must be read with a suitable reader or scanner by the veterinary nurse or practice veterinarian. The number must not be entered on the basis of any supporting documentation. If a bar code sticker is inserted in the passport, it must be confirmed as the original number by over stamping the edge with an official OV stamp.

Date of Microchipping

This should be entered on the basis of veterinary records or a record/certificate of implantation. The information may also be available by contacting/accessing one of the animal pet identification databases to which microchip manufacturers subscribe. The entry should be in the format dd/mm/yy. This section must not be left blank. Do not enter 'not known'. In cases where a microchip has been implanted and can be read but the exact date of microchipping cannot be established, the following guidelines can be followed:

(a) For animals which have been vaccinated against rabies but not blood tested: If the vaccination record card bears the microchip number, enter 'Before (insert date last rabies vaccination was administered)'. Practice records should be consulted or confirmation obtained from the practice where the vaccination was administered that the

microchip was present at the time of the vaccination where there is any doubt that the microchip may have been inserted after the rabies vaccination. If the vaccination card does not bear the microchip number, administer a booster vaccination and enter 'Before (insert date booster vaccination administered)'

(b) For animals which have not been vaccinated against rabies or blood tested or where evidence of these procedures is not available: Administer a rabies vaccination and enter 'Before (insert date rabies vaccination was administered)'

Location of Microchip

Please insert location of microchip as indicated by passing the reader over the animal.

Tattoo Number and Date of Tattooing

Tattoos are not acceptable as a means of identification unless administered before 3 July 2011. If an inspection of the animal reveals a tattoo number, this can be entered in this section. The date of tattooing can be entered on the basis of veterinary records or a certificate/record of tattooing.

Section IV: Vaccination against rabies

Before any entry is made in any part of this section, the animal's microchip number must be read and verified against the entry in section III of the passport. Details of the current rabies vaccination must be recorded in the passport.

Vaccination Prior to Blood Testing

Blood test needs to be carried out at least 30 days post-vaccination if travelling to/from an unlisted Third Country. To show that the animal was vaccinated against rabies prior to a satisfactory blood test, we recommend that for animals which have already passed a blood test and which have been subsequently vaccinated, the details of the vaccination administered prior to the date of blood sampling, if available, be entered in the section of the passport. Details should be shown as the first entry in this section.

Details of all subsequent rabies vaccinations may also be entered in the passport if available.

Remember, the current rabies vaccination must be recorded in the passport.

Vaccine Type

An approved inactivated rabies vaccine must be used and administered in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Manufacturer, Name of Vaccine and Batch Number

Where possible, the sticker supplied with each dose of vaccine should be inserted in this box. If the sticker does not provide all the required information, please enter any missing information immediately below or adjacent to the sticker. In the case of an animal currently vaccinated, the required information should be entered by hand using practice records, suitable supporting evidence issued by another veterinary practice or a vaccination record card which shows the animal's microchip number. Please ensure that the information is clearly legible.

Vaccination Date/Valid Until

The expiry date of the vaccine (i.e. its use by date) should not be entered as the 'valid until' date. Both parts of the box must be completed and entries must be in dd/mm/yy format, e.g. 01/05/12. In the case of an animal currently vaccinated, the date of vaccination can be entered on the basis of practice records, suitable supporting evidence issued by another veterinary practice or a vaccination record card, all of which must show the animal's microchip number. Please ensure that the information entered in the passport is clearly legible.

The valid until date should, where possible, be based on information supplied by the vaccine manufacturer's datasheet. If this is not available, the date can be entered on the basis of practice records, suitable supporting evidence issued by another veterinary practice or a vaccination record card which shows the animal's microchip number.

Authorised Veterinarian

In England, Scotland and Wales this section can only be completed by an OV. The OV must apply their own OV stamp in the box and add their signature. Please ensure that the signature does not obscure the OV stamp number.

Booster vaccinations

The European rules require that to comply with the movement regulations animals must be given regular rabies booster vaccinations in accordance with manufacturers' datasheets.

An animal which has not been blood tested, but is currently vaccinated against rabies, can enter other EU and listed countries which do not require a blood test to be carried out before entry provided that at least 21 days have passed since the initial rabies vaccination date (there is no need to wait 21 days after any booster vaccinations have been given, provided that the rabies vaccination chain was not broken at any time). It must be accompanied by a passport with sections I - IV completed.

Because not all rabies vaccinations (other than the current vaccination) administered before a passport is issued are required to be recorded in the passport, the animal's vaccination record will need to be checked if a booster vaccination appears to have been missed.

If a veterinarian completing a pet passport detects that a booster has been missed since a blood test was carried out, the pet should be re-prepared accordingly.

For EU moves the only derogation from issuing a new passport without any rabies vaccination details is when an OV has written evidence that the receiving country is prepared to accept young unvaccinated animals.

Section V: Rabies Serological Test for Pet Animals Travelling to Unlisted Third Countries only where they are/may return to the EU.

Before any entry is made in this section, the animal's microchip number must be read and verified against the entry in section III of the passport.

For a cat or dog to re-enter the EU under the Regulation, it must obtain a satisfactory result for rabies antibodies and the blood sample must be taken at least 30 days following a valid vaccination (being day 0 the day of vaccination and day 1 the day after).

A satisfactory result must indicate a titre level equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

A blood sample must be taken and sent for testing at a laboratory approved under EC Decision 2000/258/EC (as amended). See http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/approved_establishments/other_laboratories_en.htm for EU country lab list and http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm for 3rd countries.

Before taking the sample, contact the laboratory to obtain the appropriate sample submission form and seek advice on the correct labelling and means of packaging and transportation of the sample. The sample must be sent from the practice to the laboratory using an appropriate courier. Do not pass the sample to your clients.

When a satisfactory test result is received from the laboratory, please complete this section of the passport. The date when the blood sample for the rabies serology was drawn must be entered. The details of the authorised veterinarian must be completed by an OV. Only one signature is required in this section. This should be written in the box where the OV stamp is entered. Please ensure the signature does not obscure the OV stamp number.

In Case of a Further Test

If an animal is not administered with a rabies booster vaccination by the due date according to the manufacturer's datasheet, it must be revaccinated and a further blood test performed at least 30 days after vaccination. A satisfactory result must indicate a titre level equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. If a UK passport is issued, the animal will be able to exit and re-enter the EU after the result is confirmed.

The animal will not be able to enter the UK for three calendar months from the date the blood sample was collected and submitted from a Third Country.

The date the blood sample was drawn for this further blood test must be entered in this section of the passport.

Section VI: Tick Treatment is no Longer a Requirement for Pets to Enter the UK

Tick treatment in any pet and tapeworm treatment in cats (see below) is no longer mandatory. It is however recommended that additional attention is paid to these conditions for animals which travel under the Pet Travel Scheme.

Section VII: Tapeworm Treatment - Dogs Only

Before any entry is made in this section, the animal's microchip number must be read and verified against the entry in section III of the passport.

Before entering or re-entering the UK, a dog must be treated by a qualified veterinarian against the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis*. The treatment must be carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours before the pet is landed in the UK. Approved transport companies and routes are listed on the [APHA](#) website.

Dogs leaving the UK on a day trip will need to have this treatment administered prior to departure from the UK. This is so the timing requirement described above can be satisfied.

Treatment

The tapeworm treatment must contain praziquantel or be a treatment proven to be effective against *Echinococcus multilocularis* and be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The product details should be entered in the box marked 'Manufacturer and name of product'. The date and time of treatment should be entered in the boxes marked 'Date/Time'. For the date please enter in dd/mm/yy format. For the time, please enter using 24-hour clock, e.g. 15:30. If the veterinarian administering treatment is an OV, his/her stamp must be entered in the box marked 'veterinarian'.

If the veterinarian administering treatment is not an OV, the practice stamp must be entered in the box. In both cases, the administering veterinarian must also enter their signature in the box.

Section VIII: Other Vaccinations

It is not mandatory to complete this section. It may need to be completed if it is decided in the future that the passport can be accepted as an export document to enter a non-EU country. However, veterinarians may, if they wish, enter details of vaccinations administered to the animal, other than against rabies, in this section.

Section IX: Clinical Examination

Fitness for Travel

Whilst the entry for clinical examination is not required to be completed for the movement of dogs and cats to other EU countries, some transport companies may still require owners to produce evidence of an animal's fitness to travel.

Veterinarians may, therefore, complete section IX of the passport if they wish to do so. Alternatively, the following statement could be used as a guide if issuing a letter to a client regarding an animal's fitness to travel:

'On (enter date), I examined the animal described in UK pet passport serial no (enter number) and found it to be free from clinical sign of infectious or contagious disease, including external parasites, and in my opinion, is fit for travel'.

Section X: Legalisation

This section is not required to be completed at this time. It may need to be completed if it is decided in the future that the passport can be accepted as an export document to enter a non-EU country.

Section XI: Others

This section should normally be left blank unless there are special circumstances or conditions that need to be recorded in relation to the passport. See section IV above in relation to missed rabies boosters.

Replacement Passports

An OV can issue a passport based on the information available in a Third Country certificate with supporting documents. In addition, when a passport becomes full, a new passport will be issued. A replacement passport will generally only need the latest vaccination included. If the expected travel is within the next 21 days, the owner will need to also present their old passport for checks by the carrier or pets checkers at airports to demonstrate that this recorded vaccine is a valid booster and not a primary vaccination.

If serology predates the only recorded vaccination, the owner is also advised to carry supporting documents showing a previous vaccination which validates the blood result. If the need for a replacement is specifically due to section VII (Echinococcus treatment) being full (e.g. a frequent traveller) a second passport can be issued for the dog in which only the microchip details are duplicated and the latest tapeworm treatment is recorded.

There is no requirement to add historic vaccination details to the second passport but both passports must be presented for checks until a further vaccination is required.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.