



## EU Pet Passport Guidance Notes for Completion of New Model Passports Issued after 28 December 2014

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## Cats, Dogs and Ferrets

### General

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 Regulation EU No. 576/2013 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. The passport alone is needed for non-commercial movements of accompanied pet dogs, cats and ferrets. The trade rules for the movements of dogs, cats and ferrets under Council Directive 92/65/EEC, require additional certification as well as the pet passport.

#### 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 non-EU countries, an animal will usually need to be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate. For further details contact the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

#### 3. Movement of Animals under 12 weeks of Age

3.1 Some EU Member States may accept dogs and cats under 12 weeks 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 Member State which will accept animals that are not vaccinated against rabies, then it is possible to issue a passport without vaccinating the animal. There must be written evidence to support this. In this case, the owner must be advised that vaccination against rabies would be required if the animal were to be moved to another Member State 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. The pet must be at least 12 weeks old at the time a valid vaccine is administered. A valid vaccine is one in which the data sheet requirements have been met, if it is a primary vaccine in 2 parts, it is the second vaccination which determines validity. The pet becomes eligible to travel 21 days after the completion of the recommended vaccination programme, counting day 0 as the day that the vaccination is administered and day 21 as the travel date. 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 VI 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 IV entering the European Community for non-commercial movements (Regulation (EC) No. 577/2013) 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 II.3 of that certificate. The Third Country certificate in Annex IV of 577/2013 is valid for up to four months for further movement within the EU after entry.

4.3 Please note that some countries used tattooing as a valid method of animal identification, but the tattoo must have been placed before the rabies vaccination and before 3 July 2011. Passports issued for those animals should bear the tattoo number and date of tattooing.

4.4 Passports issued before 29 December 2014 (the 'old' model under 2003/803/EC) can continue to be used by the owner and can be updated with further treatments until full. Any passports issued after that date must be the 'new' model based on Regulation EU No. 577/2013.

#### 5. Who Completes and Issues the Passport

5.1 Where required, the passport should be stamped and signed by an Official Veterinarian (OV) (OCQ(V)CA Listed) authorised by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Government or the

Welsh Government as an Official Veterinarian (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, from any registered veterinarian
- 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 OVs 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: is to be completed by an OV.

Section V: if required, must be completed by an 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.

Section X: must be completed by an OV.

Section XI and Section XII: see below for further details.

6.1 Once you have issued a passport, we recommend that you take a photocopy/scan of the passport pages covering passport number, identification, vaccination and serology and retain them for reference. It is mandatory to retain these records for at least three years. The required records to be kept are:

- the passport number
- the location of transponder or tattoo and number as well as the date of application or reading of that number
- pets name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth as stated by owner and any other notable characteristics
- name and contact information of the owner.

6.2 When further supplies of pet passports are required, the complete Control Sheet should be emailed to [petpassportsCarlisle@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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	4
II	Description of animal	5
III	Identification of animal	6
IV	Details of vet issuing passport	7
V	Vaccination against Rabies	8-11
VI	Rabies serological test	12-13
VII	Echinococcus treatment	14-21
VIII	Other parasite treatments	22-25
IX	Other vaccinations	26-27
X	Clinical examination	28-29
XI	Legalisation	30
XI	Others	31-32

### 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 by the new owner and prior to a move. 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. The owner must sign in this section of the passport.

#### 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 and again have an owner signature.

#### Change of Ownership

If there is a subsequent change of ownership, the client can enter the details in the next section and sign.

### 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 1-7 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 as stated by owner.

## 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.

### 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, enter the date of the reading. This cannot postdate any vaccination or treatment.

### 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.

### Lamination

There are three lamination sheets in the passport. The first, which is adjacent to page 6 is a full page sheet and if carefully peeled and separated from the backing will cover all of page 6.

## Section IV: Details of Issuing OV

Complete all sections. The date of issuing must be on or after 29 December 2014. The OV stamp should be used in the space below the date of issuing.

## Section V: 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 the pet is to be returned to the EU after visiting 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 or recombinant 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 previously vaccinated, where a sticker is not available the required information should be entered by hand using practice records, suitable supporting evidence issued by another veterinary practice or a vaccination record card signed by a veterinarian which shows the animal's microchip number. Please ensure that the information is clearly legible.

## Vaccination Date/Valid From/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/yyyy format, e.g. 01/05/2012. 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 signed by a veterinarian, all of which must show the animal's microchip number. Please ensure that the information entered in the passport is clearly legible. For the first recorded vaccine, a 'valid from' date should be entered. This date is the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the first vaccination where the day of vaccination is day 0. Subsequent booster vaccines given within the validity period of the previous vaccine do not need an entry in the 'valid from' field.

The valid until date should, where possible, be based on information supplied by the vaccine manufacturer's datasheet and is the date when the next booster is due. 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. The vaccination batch number must be covered by a laminated sheet for each entry before issuing. There are two additional sheets for lamination included in the passport. The second and third sheets are 'kiss-cut' and individual sections can be removed and must be placed over the rabies vaccination sticker for each entry.

## Authorised Veterinarian

In England, Scotland and Wales this section can only be completed by an OV. The OV should sign in this section and must enter name, address, telephone number and SP number. A stamp with these details can be used. The SP stamp must not be used in the signature field.

## 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 has a current vaccine against rabies, can enter other EU countries 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 - V 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 and an entry in section XII made to indicate that the titre results are no longer valid for EU entry from unlisted Third Countries. A line should be drawn across the entry in section VI and signed as a deletion only when the OV is clear that the previous vaccine is no longer within a validity period.

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 VI: 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 (day 0 being 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 sent to a laboratory approved under EC Decision 2000/258/EC (as amended). See [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/approved\\_establishments/other\\_laboratories\\_en.htm](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](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm) for Third 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. 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.

If the blood sample was collected in and submitted from a Third Country, the animal will not be able to enter the EU for three calendar months from that collection date. Only an EU authorised vet can make an entry in section VI which will allow the derogation from the three month wait, post sampling.

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

## 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.

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/yyyy format. For the time, enter using 24-hour clock, e.g. 15:30. If the veterinarian administering treatment is an OV, their 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 Anti-Parasite Treatments

Tick treatment in any pet and tapeworm treatment in cats 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. The use of this section is optional.

## Section IX: 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 X: 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.

OVs may, therefore, complete section IX of the passport if they wish to do so. The OV should sign in this section and must enter name, address, telephone number and SP number. A stamp with these details can be used. The SP stamp must not be used in the signature field. 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 XI: 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 XII: 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 veterinary certificate with supporting documents. These supporting documents are required for entry to the EU and must be sufficient to allow a passport to be issued. 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.