



## Guidance for Authorised Pet Carriers and Checkers

---

### Contents

1. [Overview of the Pet Travel Scheme](#)
2. [Types of Authorisation/Agreement](#)
3. [Responsibilities](#)
4. [Requirements to enter GB](#)
  - i) [EU, Listed and Unlisted countries](#)
  - ii) [Documentation](#)
  - iii) [Checking the documents for compliance](#)
    - a. [Owner and pet information](#)
    - b. [Identification of the animal](#)
    - c. [Rabies vaccination](#)
    - d. [Post vaccination waiting period](#)
    - e. [Blood draw and test](#)
    - f. [Tapeworm Treatment \(dogs only\)](#)
    - g. [Additional checks on cats from Australia and dogs and cats from Peninsular Malaysia](#)
  - iv) [Rules applying to ALL movements](#)
    - a. [Correct Order of Preparation](#)
    - b. [Movement of pet must be of a non-commercial nature](#)
    - c. [Five pets or less per person](#)
    - d. [Additional responsibilities](#)
5. [Assistance Dogs](#)
  - i) [Sea routes](#)
  - ii) [Air routes](#)

6. [Dealing with Non-Compliance](#)
  - i) [Completing a Pet Travel Scheme: Non-compliance return for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets \(PETS08\)](#)
  - ii) [Unlawful commercial movements moving under the Pet Travel Scheme](#)
7. [Suspected smuggling and fraud](#)
8. [Data recording](#)
9. [Identifying and checking animals not travelling under PETS](#)
  - i) [Commercial movements of pets](#)
  - ii) [Pets entering GB to go into quarantine](#)
10. [Stowaways](#)
11. [Dead pets](#)
  - i) [Death Prior to transport](#)
  - ii) [Death during transport](#)
12. [Animal Welfare Responsibilities](#)

# 1. Overview of the Pet Travel Scheme

The Pet Travel Scheme allows pet cats, dogs and ferrets from other countries, to enter Great Britain (GB) without quarantine as long as they meet certain conditions. The Scheme allows pets from GB to re-enter GB when returning from countries within or outside the European Union (EU) and can only be used for pet dogs, cats and ferrets that are moved for non-commercial reasons (with no intention for sale or transfer of ownership) and where the move is associated with the move of the owner.

Under the Pet Travel Scheme, pet dogs, cats and ferrets can only travel to GB by air, sea or via the Channel Tunnel on approved routes with an authorised carrier. Pets do not have to travel on an approved route or with an authorised carrier if they travel from the Republic of Ireland. Registered assistance dogs can travel on additional routes and into additional ports. It is the key responsibility of the authorised carrier to ensure that checks on pets are carried out as required under the Pet Travel Scheme. This guide explains how these checks should be done.

Before a dog, cat or ferret can enter or re-enter GB under the Pet Travel Scheme, it must be checked either at the point of departure (for ferry and Eurotunnel) or at the point of arrival (for airlines and some cruise and rail services).

The number of animals per person that can be moved under the Pet Travel Scheme is limited to five or less. More than five cats, dogs and ferrets per person will require different certification or a declaration if moving for a competition or show.

Under EU law, an accompanied pet does not have to travel with the owner, but can travel independently of the owner as long as the movement of the animal is taking place as a result of the owner's movement and is within five days of the movement of the owner.

EU disability legislation means cruise, ferry operators and airlines operating EU routes must accept recognised assistance dogs when their owner is travelling with them. Recognised assistance dogs are therefore not subject to the same 'approved' routes as other pets within the EU, but carriers should register with APHA and sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the agreed procedure on how carriers will facilitate the carriage of recognised assistance dogs and carry out compliance checks. Checks for compliance with the Pet Travel Scheme must still be completed and it is the responsibility of the carrier to ensure checks on assistance dogs are carried out in accordance with this guide.

Please be aware that an F1 hybrid cat or dog **cannot** enter Great Britain by use of the Pet Travel Scheme rules. An F1 hybrid of a dog or cat with a non-domestic species e.g. a wolf or serval must be entered into a "zoo" approved quarantine premises and an import license is required. An import license will not be issued without confirmation from the chosen quarantine premises and carrying agent that they will house and transport the animals on their arrival into Great Britain. Please see the following link for further information <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/bip/iin/bliv-5a.pdf>

## 2. Types of Authorisation/Agreements

Carrier and pet checking staff should be aware of the type and content of the authorisation applicable and check the content of these agreements for any logistical queries on how compliance checks should be completed.

### a) Required Method of Operation – RMOP:

To become authorised to transport animals under the Pet Travel Scheme, a carrier must conclude an agreement with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) called a Required Method of Operation (RMOP). A RMOP describes how the checks will be carried out and must be arranged in the following circumstances

- any route into a GB airport/port where a carrier wishes to transport pet cats/dogs/ferrets (excluding Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands) under the Pet Travel Scheme
- any Third Country airline that wishes to transport assistance animals to GB.

APHA officials will be available to assist with the development of the RMOP and will be responsible for monitoring its implementation.

### b) Approval of Airport Checker and Facilities:

Checkers at airports may carry out compliance checks for multiple carriers and their systems and procedures to do this will be authorised

APHA officials will be available to assist in the development and approval of checking facilities and will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the approval

#### c) Memorandum of Understanding - MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is applicable to carriers transporting recognised assistance dogs in the following circumstances

- Cruise and ferry operators based in the EU
- Cruise operators based in Third Countries, with a port of embarkation in the EU
- EU based airlines

## 3. Responsibilities

### Sea and Rail Routes

- Authorised ferry operators and Eurotunnel will perform individual checks on **all** pets at their port of departure outside GB. Companies will have different methods for conducting these checks that are outlined in their RMOP including how routes are marked and any instruction given to other control authorities operating between check-in and the Pet Passport inspection.
- They must perform visual checks of all vehicles for the presence of any animals and perform compliance checks on those which are traveling under the Pet Travel Scheme
- Identify and perform checks on foot passengers with pets (only where included as part of the RMOP)
- Identify how unaccompanied pets will be handled
- Cruise operators may carry out checks at embarkation in GB and depending on the length and ports of call of the journey, will also have to check that dogs have received the required tapeworm treatment prior to disembarkation.

### Air Routes

- Official checks for authorised airlines are carried out upon arrival in GB.
- Authorised pets checkers will perform individual checks on all pets on arrival in GB. It is the carrier's responsibility to identify animals which require checking and ensure these animals are presented to be checked upon arrival in GB and safeguards to ensure this should form part of their RMOP.

### Additional Responsibilities:

Carrier check-in staff and PETS checker staff (carrier/PETS checker) responsible for the checks carried out upon arrival in GB will be trained to manage:

- clients with pets that do not meet the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme
- suspect cases of certification fraud
- suspect cases of disguised commercial activity
- suspect cases of smuggling identified anytime between check-in and disembarkation
- data recording in relation to pets that have travelled and those that have been found to be non-compliant

## 4. Requirements to Enter GB

To be eligible to travel under the Pet Travel Scheme to GB the carrier/PETS checker is responsible for ensuring the specified requirements have been fulfilled and that the accompanying documentation has been completed correctly to demonstrate compliance.

The purpose of this section is as a guide to what checks need to be undertaken, what documents a carrier/PETS checker will be presented with and how to verify compliance.

## i) EU, Listed and Unlisted Countries

Pet Travel Scheme requirements vary depending on where the pet is travelling from and the carrier is responsible for ensuring all requirements have been fulfilled.

Countries can be divided into four categories under the Pet Travel Scheme – European Union, EU Territories and Countries that can issue Pet Passports, Listed Third Countries and Unlisted Third Countries.

Listed Third Countries are those countries which the EU considers to be low risk for introducing rabies into the EU.

All other Third Countries not on the table for Listed Third Countries are known as Unlisted Third Countries.

**Animals travelling from Unlisted Third Countries have different (supplementary) requirements for their preparation to enter the EU to those in the other three categories**

### European Union (EU) Countries

<b>Austria</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Portugal</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>
Republic of <b>Cyprus (1)</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Ireland (2)</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>UK</b>

(1) Dogs, cats and ferrets travelling to and from the Republic of Cyprus have to comply with the rules for movements within the EU. Animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the Buffer Zone) have to comply with the rules for movements from unlisted Third Countries.

(2) Pet movements between GB and Republic of Ireland - all pets travelling from the Republic of Ireland to the GB should be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies, wait 21 days and be accompanied by a pet passport. No routine checks are required for pets travelling from the Republic of Ireland, and they do not have to travel on an approved route.

### EU Territories and countries that can issue Pet Passports (listed country status)

Andorra	Iceland	Saint Barthélemy (French Territory)
Azores and Madeira (Portuguese territory)	Liechtenstein	Saint Martin (French part of the island) (French territory)
Faroe Islands	Martinique (French territory)	San Marino
French Guiana (French territory)	Mayotte (French territory)	Switzerland
Gibraltar	Monaco	Vatican City State
Greenland	Norway	
Guadeloupe (French territory)	Réunion (French territory)	

## LISTED Countries

Antigua and Barbuda	Curaçao	Sint Maarten (Dutch part of the island)
Argentina	Falkland Islands	Singapore
Aruba	Fiji	Saint Helena
Ascension Island	French Polynesia	Saint Kitts & Nevis
Australia (6)	Hong Kong	Saint Lucia
Bahrain	Jamaica (1)	Saint Pierre & Miquelon
Barbados	Japan	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Belarus	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Taiwan
Bermuda	Malaysia (3)	Trinidad and Tobago
BES Islands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba) (5)	Mauritius	United Arab Emirates (4)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mexico	USA (include American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands)
British Virgin Islands	Montserrat	Vanuatu
Canada	New Caledonia	Wallis & Futuna
Cayman Islands	New Zealand	
Chile	Russian Federation (2)	

(1) Although Jamaica is a listed country under the EU Regulation, Jamaican law currently prevents the involvement of that country in PETS. PETS-prepared animals may not enter Jamaica and animals may not be prepared for PETS in Jamaica.

(2) The Russian Federation consists of [88 subjects \(regions\)](#). Please note that the following Republics are **NOT** part of the Russian Federation; Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

(3) The import into GB of dogs and cats from Malaysia (Peninsula) is prohibited unless extra health certification is provided – please see the end of Section 4 iii.

(4) The UAE consists of the following states Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Al Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, and Al Fujairah.

(5) Formally known as the Netherland Antilles. The BES Islands are Bonair, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

(6) The import into GB of cats from Australia is prohibited unless extra health certification is provided – please see the end of Section 4 iii.

Please note that from time to time countries may be added to the list of qualifying countries; please check the [GOV.UK website](#) for the most up-to-date list of Pet Travel Scheme qualifying countries.

## ii) Documentation

A pet presented to a carrier/PETS checker must either be accompanied by a Pet Passport or a Third Country certificate; it is the responsibility of the checker to be able to check the animal and documents for compliance with the scheme.

The same rules of preparation apply whether the pet travels on a Pet Passport or a Third Country certificate.

Due to the complexities of Pet Passport checking a detailed explanation of what to look for will be given at each requirement step within this guide – where no specific instruction is given for checking the Third Country certificate adherence to the rules must still be demonstrated.

Entries made into both documents must be made by a veterinarian authorised to do so.

### EU Passport

Carriers/PETS checkers may be presented with two different versions of EU pet passports. A new passport was introduced from the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (under Regulation 576/2013), however passports issued before this date (under regulation 998/2003) will remain valid for the life of the pet or until all the treatment spaces have been used. The date of issue will affect the checks undertaken as passports issued after the 29 December 2014 have additional security features.

The EU pet passport is a small blue booklet. The number of pages within the document will vary depending upon which country produced it. After 29 December 2014 there will be two formats of passport in circulation, those issued under EU Regulation 998/2003 (issued prior to 29 December 2014) and those issued under EU Regulation 576/2013 (issued after 29 December 2014). The correct format must be used based on date of issue and the original passport must be presented.

Date of issue will be ascertained differently depending on the passport version. Date of issue is determined by the date of microchip implantation or reading in Section III of 998/2003 passports. This date should therefore be before 29 December 2014 for these passports. Passports issued under 576/2013 have a date of issue in Section IV.

**Please note that there was a delay in Norway implementing the new pet travel legislation and so they continued to issue old style (998/2003) passports up to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Similarly old style passports from Malta are valid until the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**

The passport number will be on the front of the document. For passports issued under 576/2013 the unique reference number will also be on each page of the passport. **Please note a small number of new style GB pet passports had a printing error. The serial number on the outside page of the passport, differs to the serial number printed on the inside pages. The serial numbers of the passports affected are within the range of GB800,000 to GB830,000 only.**

If you are presented with one of these affected passports, providing the pet meets all the mandatory requirements of PETS, they are permitted to enter the UK. Please advise the pet owner that they must contact their Official Veterinarian (OV) for issue of a new passport before travelling again with their pet. Please still complete a failure return for these passports

As well as all countries in the EU, the UK also accepts pet passports from certain other countries and territories – please see section 4 above.

The vet must complete **all** the details required on the page of the passport being completed. Third Country Vets are not eligible to complete any section of EU Passports except for the tapeworm treatment section. If owners contact pets checkers in advance and it is known that the rabies vaccinations have been done in the Third Country, then the owner should be advised to obtain the Third Country health certificate and the EU passport can be used as the supporting document for the Third Country certificate.

## Third Country Certificates

For dogs, cats and ferrets from Third countries the model certificate is specified in Part 1 of Annex IV to [Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#) and must be used for all consignments of five pets or less, accompanied by their owner or an authorised person within 5 days of the owners move and only when moving for a non-commercial purposes. These certificates can be checked by the Pets checker. The vet should use the current model [Third Country certificate](#). Other health certificates are not valid and should not be accepted.

An alternative certificate as specified in [Commission Implementing Decision 2013/519/EU](#) must be used where the consignment is considered commercial in terms of the pet travel scheme:

- where an owner is travelling with more than five pets with the exception of those consignments over five animals that are over six months old travelling to a competition, exhibition or training event (see below for further information).
- where their owner or authorised person does not travel within five days of the movement of the pet and is therefore considered unaccompanied.

These consignments and certificates must be presented at a Border Inspection Post and should not be accepted by the PETS checkers.

Part I of the Third Country certificate indicates the origin and destination and description of the animals, Section II covers all the health information requirements that are necessary to certify the animal(s) as eligible to come into GB.

All relevant health attestations should be completed on the Third Country Certificate.

The certificate presented must be original.

You must ensure that the certificate has been signed, dated and stamped by an Authorised Veterinarian. This section can be found at the end of the certificate. If the vet who completes the certificate is not an official Competent Authority vet the certificate must also be endorsed by the Competent Authority – the easiest way to identify this is that if the first box “Official veterinarian/Authorised veterinarian” has been completed and stamped with a veterinary practice stamp only, in that case the certificate will also need to have been endorsed in the box below “Endorsement by the competent authority” by a Government vet using an official stamp for that country.

Certificates are only valid for entry into the EU from the Third Country within a 10 day period of the date of the signature of the Official Veterinarian.

In the case of transport by sea, where journeys into the EU exceed 10 days, that period of 10 days is extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea. This should be established during the issuing of the RMOP or MOU and the documentation should be checked in accordance with this.

After entry into the EU, the certificate is valid for a further four months from the date of issue for movements between Member States, or until the date of expiry of the rabies vaccination, whichever date is earlier.

Original or certified copies of the identification and vaccination details and result of the rabies antibody test (where required) must accompany the certificate. The footnotes of the Third Country certificate state that these must be attached to the certificate but can be accepted if they are presented at the same time although not attached. All supporting documents must record the identification number (microchip/tattoo) of the animal. If these documents are not presented with the Third Country certificate, then the animal cannot be allowed to enter GB.

Following the checks the ‘Official at the traveller’s point of entry’ section at the end of the certificate must be completed. Where the point of entry is GB all details in this section must be completed and stamped by the PETS checker. This endorsement allows further movement into other member states and the certificate is then valid for 4 months for this onward travel. Where the PETS checker has endorsed a certificate a copy should be retained for audit purposes for a year. If carriers/PETS checkers are presented with a Third Country Certificate for a pet already in the EU which has not been signed or endorsed by checker in another EU MS, then the carrier/PETS checker should complete full checks and inform APHA using a **Report of Non-Compliant Pet Passport or Third Country Certificate form (IV62)**.

Carriers/PETS checkers on GB routes may therefore be presented with Third Country Certificates which have been stamped at another member state travellers points of entry – carriers/PETS checkers may still check the animal for

compliance and at the very least ensure a tapeworm treatment has been administered (as this may not have been required for entry into other Member States) and that the rabies vaccine is still valid.

### iii) Checking the documents for compliance

#### a. Owner and pet Information

Both details of the owner and of the animal must be specified on the documents

##### Pet Passport check

##### Section I Details of ownership

The owner in the passport must be over 16.

In the 576/2013 passport the signature of the owner is a required field. Telephone number is optional.

The image shows two Pet Passport forms side-by-side. The left form is for 998/2003 and is titled "I. OWNER". It has three sections for owner details (Name, Surname, Address, Post-code, City, Country). The right form is for 576/2013 and is titled "I. DETAILS OF OWNERSHIP". It has two sections for owner details, including a "Telephone number\*" field which is circled in red. Both forms have a footer with "ISO Code MS + Number" and "Page 1 out of X".

The carrier/PETS checker should ascertain that the owner is accompanying the animal or that the person accompanying that animal has a written authorisation to do so in the form of a declaration completed and signed by the owner as named in the passport, which verifies the non-commercial nature of the movement.

##### Section II Description of animal

Date of birth of animal is a required field.

##### Third Country certificate check

Part I indicates the origin and destination and description of the animals. Box 1.1 and 1.5 should show the same name of owner to verify there is no change of ownership – where a pet shipper or transporter is shown in box 1.5 proof of the movement of the owner within 5 days must be verified.

Box I.28 provides information about the identification of the animals being presented including identification number and date of birth which must be completed.

## **b. Identification of the animal**

The pet must be either be:

- fitted with a microchip. If the microchip cannot be read by an International Standard Organisation (ISO) reader, the owner must supply one that will read the microchip **OR**
- identified by a legible tattoo **imprinted prior to 3 July 2011**. Tattoos imprinted after this date are not an acceptable form of identification.

The checker must ensure that they either scan the identification of the animal themselves or witness the owner doing so. The checker must independently read and verify the identification.

The microchip/tattoo must be inserted before any other procedures. The checker should ensure that each animal's identification is checked against what is recorded in the Pet Passport/Third Country certificate and that the date that the animal was identified precedes any subsequent actions taken such as rabies vaccine, blood test or tapeworm treatment.

### **Pet Passport check**

#### **Section III Marking of animal.**

The date of the microchip implantation or tattoo (if relevant) **MUST** be recorded in section III

- In the 998/2003 passport only: where the date of microchipping was not known the vet was permitted to enter 'before (full date of relevant rabies vaccination)' and this is acceptable.
- In the 576/2013 passport the date of chip *reading* can alternatively be entered where the date of chipping is unknown. This date must prove the chip was implanted before any preparations commenced and so must match or precede the relevant rabies vaccination to be compliant. The appropriate deletion should be made to show which date is being declared (it is best practice on issuing the passport to delete the option that does not apply and we would recommend that the certifying vet deletes the non-applicable option). A passport would not technically be invalid if both options were left "open" and as long as the checker is satisfied all other entries are correct, for entry into GB the pet checkers should not fail an animal if this was the only error. In the 576/2013 passport after the required information has been entered in Section III of the passport, a transparent adhesive laminate should be used to seal the page. In the 998/2003 passport any amendment must be signed and stamped by the amending vet.

**998/2003**

**III. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMAL**

1. Microchip Number:  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of Microchipping:  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Location of Microchip:  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tattoo Number:  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Date of Tattooing:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The identification must be verified before any new entry is made on this passport**

ISO Code MS + Number

**576/2013**

**III. MARKING OF ANIMAL**

1. Transponder alphanumeric code  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of application or reading\* of the transponder  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Location of the transponder  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tattoo alphanumeric code  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Date of application/date of reading of the tattoo  
\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

6. Location of the tattoo  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The marking must be verified before any new entry is made on this passport**

\* delete as necessary

ISO Country Code + Number

### Third Country certificate check

The microchip (referred to on the Third Country certificate as the Transponder) or tattoo should be recorded in Part II of the certificate.

As this must be verified before any entry is made on the certificate a date of reading is acceptable as long as it precedes any relevant vaccination or testing carried out on the animals.

### **c. Rabies Vaccination**

The pet must then be vaccinated against rabies with a vaccine authorised for use in the qualifying country and administered according to the manufacturer's data sheet.

For 576/2013 passports issued after the 29/12/14 the animal must be at least 12 weeks old at the time of vaccination. This should be checked against the animal's date of birth as recorded on the document.

The documentation must show that the pet has a current valid vaccination at the time of travel and that the appropriate waiting time after the vaccination was given has passed.

Only rabies vaccinations given *after* identification can be counted towards the preparation of the animal.

### Pet Passport check

#### Section IV (998/2003 passports) or V (576/2013 passports) Vaccination against rabies

- In 998/2003 passports the vaccination must be signed and stamped by the vet.
- In 576/2013 passports the vet must sign and complete full contact details as specified, this may be a stamp or handwritten. In GB Pet Passports the OV SP stamp is not sufficient for this section as it does not have the full contact details required. If the OV SP stamp is used the other required details must also be completed
- In 576/2013 passports if a rabies vaccination sticker is used it must be laminated.
- In 576/2013 passports a 'valid from' field has been introduced - this is the date from which the pet is eligible to travel following the required waiting period. The date of vaccination counts as day 0 not day 1.

This box does not need to be completed for booster vaccinations, providing that the current vaccination took place on or before the 'valid until' date of the previous vaccine and the primary or previous vaccination must have been administered after identification of the animal to be deemed relevant to the preparation of the animal. If a second or subsequent passport has been issued for the pet:

- **Replacement passports will generally only need the latest rabies vaccination included. If 21 days have not passed before travel commences the owner will need to also present their old passport for checks by the carrier/PETS checker to demonstrate that this recorded vaccine is a valid booster and not a primary vaccination. Any primary or previous vaccination must have been administered after identification of the animal to be deemed relevant to the preparation of the animal.**
- **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 and therefore recorded.**

### Third Country certificate check

Details of the rabies vaccination must be entered into section II of the certificate – date of vaccination, name and manufacturer of vaccine and batch number are required.

- 'Validity of vaccination From and to' boxes:
- The 'from' box should record the date from which the pet is eligible to travel once the required waiting period has passed. The date of vaccination counts as day 0 not day 1.
- If the vaccination is a booster the "Validity of vaccine from" box may not be completed. However the checker may be required to check a previous vaccine, to ensure the boosters validity, a previous vaccine can only be accepted providing the current vaccination took place on or before the 'valid until' date of the previous vaccine *and* the primary or previous vaccination must have been administered after identification of the animal to be deemed relevant to the preparation of the animal.
- If the animal is coming from a non-listed 3<sup>rd</sup> country and requires a blood sample the "from" box should still state validity as 21 days after the vaccination was given – though the animal must be compliant with all further requirements as per sections 4 & 5
- The 'to' box must show the date the vaccine expires
- There must be supporting documentation regarding the vaccination history which includes the animal's identification number, with the health certificate.

### **d. Post vaccination waiting period**

For movements from EU and listed countries at least 21 days must have passed since rabies vaccination before the animal enters GB

The waiting time is based on the day of vaccination being day 0, so day 1 is the day after vaccination. The animal can travel on day 21 after vaccination.

The 21 days waiting period does not apply if the last vaccination was a booster vaccination and there was no break in the vaccine cover. If 21 days has not passed since the current vaccination, then checkers must be satisfied that there was no break in the previous vaccination cover. The previous vaccination must have been given after the microchip was implanted in order to count as part of the preparation.

For movements from unlisted third countries a 30 day wait after the rabies vaccination applies followed by a blood test

Following rabies vaccination pets from unlisted third countries must wait at least 30 days before a blood sample is drawn and tested.

The waiting time is based on the day of vaccination being day 0, so day 1 is the day after vaccination.

## **e. Blood draw and test**

A rabies antibody test must have been carried out on a blood sample taken from the animal. The pet checker must ensure:

- At least 30 days have passed since the rabies vaccination was administered before the blood sample was taken
- The blood test was carried out at an approved laboratory. This can be verified using the following links:
  - Third Country Laboratories: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/approval_en.htm)
  - Laboratories in EU Member States: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/approved\\_establishments/laboratories\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/approved_establishments/laboratories_en.htm)
  - Laboratories accredited in GB: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-blood-testing-laboratories-in-the-uk>
- The result of the test is equal to or greater than 0.5IU/ml
- At least three calendar months have passed between the date of the blood sample draw and the date of entry into GB (if prepared in a non-EU country).

## **Pet Passport check**

### **Section V (998/2003 passports) or VI (576/2013 passports) - Rabies Serological Test**

In 576/2013 passports the vet's telephone number is now required.

Pets that have been correctly prepared and blood tested in an EU Member State and have an EU passport may travel to and from an unlisted Third Country without observing the three month waiting period following the blood draw. The blood test result **must** be recorded in the passport.

It is not necessary to check for full vaccination history however:

- if the pre-blood sample vaccination is recorded the details must be used to determine if the correct order of preparation has been followed.
- if the current vaccination, as entered in the passport is after the blood sample and the details of the vaccination administered prior to the date of blood sampling is not recorded in the passport, then supporting documents need to show that there is a valid previous vaccination given at least 30 days prior to blood sampling and there has been no break in the vaccination cover. Any primary or previous vaccination must have been administered after identification of the animal to be deemed relevant to the preparation of the animal.

**V. RABIES SEROLOGICAL TEST**

I have seen an official record of the result of a serological test for the animal, carried out on a sample taken on (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_, and tested in an EU-approved laboratory, which states that the rabies neutralising antibody titre was equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

Name, date and signature of the authorised Veterinarian:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

STAMP &  
SIGNATURE

ISO Code MS + Number

**VI. RABIES ANTIBODY TITRATION TEST**

I, the undersigned, confirm that I have seen an official record stating that the rabies antibody titration test performed at an EU-approved laboratory on a sample of blood collected on the date mentioned below from the above described animal proved a response to anti-rabies vaccination at a level of serum neutralising antibody equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

Sample collected on: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the authorised veterinarian:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

STAMP &  
SIGNATURE

ISO Country Code + Number

**Third Country certificate check**

The date of sampling must be recorded in Part II of the certificate. Carriers/PETS checkers should then use the information on the accompanying blood test result to confirm and verify the laboratory and result as required.

Blood test results should be verified with the issuing laboratory if there is any reason to think they may be fraudulent or tampered with. If non-compliance is found the pet should not be accepted for travel/entry. Non-discriminatory random checks should be made of blood test results where possible in order to verify authenticity. Any non-compliances should be reported to APHA.

If the current vaccination is after the blood sample, then supporting documents need to show that a previous vaccination was at least 30 days prior to blood test and there has been no break in the vaccination cover since the blood was drawn. Any primary or previous vaccination must have been administered after identification of the animal to be deemed relevant to the preparation of the animal.

## **f. Tapeworm Treatment (Dogs only)**

Dogs must be treated using an authorised product effective against the *Echinococcus multilocularis* tapeworm.

No treatment is required for dogs travelling directly from Ireland, Finland, Malta or Norway.

The treatment must be administered by a vet no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours before the expected arrival time in GB. There is no requirement for the vet to be an Official Veterinarian.

Where dogs are presented at check-in and the 120 hours will be exceeded during the journey or while waiting to board the vessel or aircraft animals should be allowed to travel provided that the animal will not leave the vessel, vehicle or transport crate after check-in.

Where the time of treatment has not been provided the animal may be allowed to travel where the checker can ascertain that 24 hours will have elapsed and 120 hours will not be exceeded before arrival in GB.

If a carrier/PETS checker is aware that a treatment is not licensed as effective against *Echinococcus multilocularis* then the treatment must be considered a non-compliance.

Care must be taken to ensure that dogs travelling on cruise ships have received the treatment as agreed in the RMOP/MOU.

### **Pet Passport check**

#### **Sections VII – Echinococcus treatment. Dogs only.**

Each entry must be signed and stamped by the administering vet.

### **Third Country certificate check**

The treatment must be entered in Part II.4 of the third country certificate including the date and time

Each entry requires the name, stamp and signature of the vet.

Tapeworm treatment can be certified by any registered veterinarian and therefore this may be different to the Official Veterinarian or endorsing veterinarian who signs the certificate.

Section II.4 can be used for subsequent treatments for the purpose of further travel within the EU for the validity period of the Third Country certificate and therefore the certifying vet may be in the originating country or a transit country including an EU member state and the date of treatment may post date the date of the Official Veterinarian signature and still be acceptable.

In the case of dogs coming directly to GB from Ireland, Finland, Malta or Norway with a Third Country certificate which has been endorsed at the point of entry, the dogs do not require further treatment. They would have been treated before entering those countries and no further treatment is needed.

## **g. Additional checks on cats from Australia and dogs and cats from Peninsular Malaysia**

### **Cats from Australia**

To bring a cat into the UK from Australia, there must be a certificate from the [Australian Department of Agriculture](#) confirming the cat hasn't been exposed to the Hendra virus in the 60 days before the cat left.

### **Dogs and cats from Peninsular Malaysia**

The import into GB of dogs and cats from Malaysia (Peninsula) is prohibited unless a health certificate is provided by the Malaysian veterinary authorities which confirms that the cat or dog:

- has had no contact with pigs during at least the 60 days prior to export, and
- has not been resident on holdings where during the past 60 days any case of Nipah disease has been confirmed, and
- has been subjected with a negative result to an IgC capture ELISA test carried out in a laboratory approved for testing for antibody against the Nipah disease viruses by the competent veterinary authorities on a sample of blood taken within 10 days of export.

The original health certification must accompany the dog/cat to GB.

#### **iv) Rules which apply to ALL movements**

The following applies to ALL movements:

##### **a. Correct order of preparation**

The above steps must be carried out in the order shown above – the identification of the animal must be before any other step in the preparation and identification must be checked before any entry into the passport or Third Country Certificate. If the microchip fails in an animal then the animal should have a new microchip implanted and preparation must be restarted.

##### **b. Movement of the pet must be of a non-commercial nature**

The Pet Travel Scheme can only be used for pet dogs, cats and ferrets that are moved for non-commercial reasons with no intention for sale or transfer of ownership. The movement of the pet must be associated with the movement of the owner even if the owner is not accompanying the animal.

In order to be considered an accompanied, non-commercial move and eligible to travel under the Pet Travel Scheme the pet must be with the owner or an authorised person:

- *Owner* - natural person identified in the identification document.
- *Authorised person* - natural person who has the authorisation in writing from the owner to carry out the movement on behalf of the owner.

#### **Pet Passports**

The owner's details must be in the pet passport.

Animals travelling with a pet passport but not with the owner (for example transported by a courier) will require a declaration completed and signed by the owner or the person responsible for the movement of the animal to confirm that the animal is accompanied within the definition of EU law.

The declaration should contain the following information:

*I (name of owner in block capitals), authorise (name of natural person in block capitals), to transport my pet(s) (name and identification number of pets). There is no transfer of ownership involved in the movement. Signed (owner)*

A template 'Declaration for the non-commercial movement of animals' can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pet-travel-declaration-for-the-non-commercial-movement-of-animals>. A person other than the owner presenting this declaration must also have written permission from the owner to bring the animal to the UK

The declaration or a copy should be retained by the carrier/PETS checker for a year for audit purposes.

#### **Third country certificate**

Animals travelling on a Third Country certificate must move within 5 days of their owner.

A separate declaration to confirm compliance with non-commercial requirements is not required as a declaration which must be completed by the owner or authorised person forms part of the Third Country Certificate. Supporting evidence (e.g. boarding pass, flight ticket) can be requested to ascertain whether the owner/authorised person is moving within five days of the pet movement if there are any concerns. On this basis a carrying agent cannot be considered an authorised person as the movement of the pet is not as a result of their movement and so the five day requirement cannot be adhered to.

Commercial consignments attempting to travel under the Pet Travel Scheme should be considered non-compliant with the requirements.

### **c. Five Pets or less per person**

Up to five pets moving with an owner or authorised person can move under the Pet Travel Scheme. Anyone wishing to travel with more than five pets will need to comply with the rules of the trade regime (Balai Directive). Further information is available at: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/bip/iin/bliv-5b.pdf>

The only exception to this rule is where the pets are travelling to take part in a competition, show, sporting event or training for such an event. In these situations the pets must be aged over six months. The owner must provide written evidence of attendance/registration and a declaration. The template for the declaration that must accompany these consignments can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pet-travel-declaration-for-more-than-5-pets-moving-for-a-competition-or-show>.

Declarations should be retained by the carrier/PETS checker for a year for audit purposes.

### **d. Additional Responsibilities**

Carrier check-in staff will be trained to manage:

- data recording in relation to pets that have travelled and those that have been found to be non-compliant

Carrier staff will also be trained in the procedures needed to manage:

- clients with pets that do not meet the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme
- suspect cases of certification fraud
- suspect cases of disguised commercial activity
- suspect cases of smuggling identified anytime between check-in and disembarkation

PETS Checker staff responsible for the checks carried out upon arrival in GB, will be trained to manage:

- data recording in relation to pets that have travelled and those that have been found to be non-compliant
- clients with pets that do not meet the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme
- suspect cases of disguised commercial activity
- suspect cases of smuggling identified anytime between check-in and disembarkation
- suspect cases of certification fraud.

Please see Sections 11 and 12 for more information on dealing with non-compliance and reporting.

## **5. Assistance Dogs**

**'Recognised assistance dog'** means guide and other assistance dogs, which are highly trained to assist a wide range of disabled persons with everyday tasks. Guide dogs which are trained primarily to provide mobility assistance to blind or partially sighted people are trained by an organisation that is accepted by and affiliated to the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF). Assistance dogs are trained by an organisation that meets the full membership criteria of Assistance Dogs International (ADI).

Emotional support animals are not considered recognised assistance dogs and carriers are not obliged to handle these dogs.

### **i) Sea routes**

Additional information regarding travel by sea can be found at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/573029/eu-regulation-maritime-passenger-rights-note-4.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573029/eu-regulation-maritime-passenger-rights-note-4.pdf)

## Legal obligations on Ferry Operators/Cruise Operators

Ferry Operators/Cruise Operators have a legal obligation under EU law to accept disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility on their vessels and should not refuse transport on the grounds of disability or lack of mobility except for reasons which are justified on the grounds of safety and prescribed by law. This obligation extends to the carriage of recognised assistance dogs. The legal obligations are set out in full in Regulation (EU) No. 1177/2010 of 24 November 2010 concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by sea.

Ferry and Cruise Operators should complete and agree a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with APHA. This Memorandum of Understanding sets down the common position agreed between APHA and Cruise/ Ferry Operators regarding how they will facilitate the carriage of recognised assistance dogs by sea into Great Britain and ensure assistance dogs are presented to the appropriate persons for checks prior to disembarkation at a port in Great Britain.

These legal obligations only apply to operators based within or operating in the the EU. Any Third Country operators that wish to transport assistance dogs where the point of embarkation is outside of the EU and the first point of disembarkation is in th UK must continue to operate under an RMOP using only approved routes.

### Pets checks on assistance dogs by sea:

Checks on the identification and documentation of assistance dogs do not differ from pets travelling under the Pet Travel Scheme.

### Tapeworm treatment:

Assistance dogs that will accompany passengers on cruise ships will require tapeworm treatment during the journey unless the vessel does not call at ports other than ports in the UK, Finland, Ireland, Norway and Malta. If the cruise ship is calling at ports outside the UK and Ireland and the cruise is short enough for the dog to receive the tapeworm treatment in the UK and return to the UK before 120 hours have elapsed since the treatment, then all checks can be carried out prior to embarkation. In all other cases a check that the dog did receive the tapeworm treatment as required by the Pet Travel Scheme will have to be carried out prior to disembarkation. If the dog does not leave the cruise ship during the voyage the treatment is not required.

APHA will discuss the requirements for tapeworm treatment during the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding including what to do if an itinerary needs to be changed due to bad weather.

## Non-Compliant Assistance Dogs

### Cruises commencing and finishing in Great Britain

If checks are carried out during transport prior to disembarkation in Great Britain, the carrier must:

- inform the dog's owner APHA and the relevant Local Authority of the failure as soon as possible
- the owner must then make arrangements to transfer the dog on disembarkation in GB to the nearest suitable quarantine facilities in accordance with the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended). The link to the list of approved quarantine premises can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rabies-quarantine-authorised-premises-and-carriers>
- On arrival at the UK Port the dog should remain on the vessel whilst awaiting the transfer to the quarantine vehicle. If this is not possible the carrier should direct the owner to a holding area in the Port. During this time the dog should be isolated from PETS compliant animals.

### Cruises commencing and finishing in another EU Member State (with a port of call in GB)

- a) If checks are carried out prior to embarkation in another MS, the carrier should:
  - ensure the owner is aware of the consequences if he or she disembarks the recognised assistance dog in another country without being fully compliant with that country's animal import requirements. This may include a period of quarantine if the dog is landed in GB
  - seek written confirmation from the owner that he or she will not disembark the assistance dog in GB, and are fully aware of the consequences if they attempt to do so. The carrier must inform the Local Authority if the owner disembarks a non-compliant assistance dog. APHA should also be contacted within office hours.

- b) If checks are carried out during transport prior to disembarkation in GB, the carrier must:
- inform the owner of the consequences if they disembark the recognised assistance dog in GB without being fully compliant with Pet Travel Scheme requirements. This may include a period of quarantine if the dog is landed in GB
  - ensure the dog remains on board the ship where possible
  - if the owner insists on disembarking the dog in GB, the carrier must inform APHA and the relevant Local Authority of the failure as soon as possible and make arrangements to transfer the dog on disembarkation in GB to the nearest suitable quarantine facilities in accordance with the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended).

## **ii) Air routes**

### **Legal obligations on air carriers**

EU Regulation 1107/2006 concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air, places obligations on Community air carriers to transport recognised assistance dogs in the cabin of aircraft. It also places obligations on airport managing bodies to provide services for handling these animals at airports. Airports in GB must have appropriate checking facilities in place to confirm assistance dogs meet the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme.

### **Pets checks on assistance dogs:**

Recognised assistance dogs travelling to GB must comply fully with the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme. Upon arrival the compliance of these animals is checked by the Persons with Restricted Mobility (PRM) provider at the Airport by following the instructions in the rest of this Guide. At larger airports pets checks may alternatively be conducted by authorised pet checkers.

Assistance dogs travelling with carriers that are not Community air carriers must enter on approved carriers with an approved route.

### **Non-Compliant Assistance Dogs**

If the assistance dog is found to be non-compliant with the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme the checker must:

- inform the dog's owner, APHA and the Local Authority of the failure as soon as possible and detain the dog in the agreed facility
- make arrangements for the dog to be transferred to the nearest suitable quarantine premises in accordance with the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended) in accordance with their MOU or RMOP and under the direction of the Local Authority.

## **6. Dealing with non-compliances**

Each carrier/PETS checker will have a different operational instruction for conducting the checks for the Pet Travel Scheme, i.e. checking microchips and passports or certificates.

Sometimes the pets presented will be ineligible to enter GB under the Pet Travel Scheme. Any failure to comply with the above conditions whether related to preparation of the animal, documentary or failure to comply with Pet Travel Scheme conditions equates to a non-compliance.

Depending on the nature of the non-compliance the animal may or may not be accepted for travel/entry into the UK. In each case this must be recorded as a failed check and reported to APHA.

In these circumstances, it will be important to:

- communicate the reason for failure to the pet owner/authorised person and know what options are available to them
- provide assistance and information to the pet owner/authorised person whose animals are identified as ineligible to travel.

## i) Completing a Pet Travel Scheme: Non-compliance return for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets (PETS08)

You must complete a **Pet Travel Scheme: Non-compliance return for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets (PETS08)** for any pet that fails Pet Travel Scheme checks. This can be found at the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pet-travel-report-of-non-compliant-certificate>.

There is the facility to record the number and type of animals on the PETS08. This means one form can be used for multiple animals belonging to the same owner but only where the same non-compliance is discovered for each animal. Copies of the PETS08 and non-compliant paperwork must be retained by the carrier/PETS checker for 6 months. There is no requirement to retain copies of compliant paperwork.

Once completed you must provide a copy to the owner keep a copy for your own records and send a copy to APHA.

- Carriers/PETS checkers in England should email the completed PETS08 to [PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gsi.gov.uk).

Carriers /PETS checkers in Scotland should continue to send the completed PETS08 to your local APHA office.

The PETS08 will assist in dealing with the non-compliance as it:

- records the details of a failed check
- provides information to the pet owner on why the pet is ineligible to travel
- outlines the options available to the pet owner and the carrier/PETS checker
- provides a return to APHA

Non-compliances on the PETS08 are separated into three sections depending on the severity of the non-compliance. The action for the carrier/PETS checker will be different depending on what section the non-compliance falls into. On each occasion of non-compliance a copy of the PETS08 and the paperwork accompanying the animal must be retained for a minimum of six months. There is no requirement to submit any supporting paperwork to APHA along with the PETS08 but carriers/PETS checkers must retain all paperwork for six months so that if a pattern of non-compliance is identified by APHA paperwork can be requested to support correspondence with other countries and improve future certification.

Section 1 – Minor administrative non-compliances where travel can be allowed/ pets can be accepted into the UK. These non-compliances must be recorded on the PETS08 and copies of all paperwork must be retained by the carrier/PETS checker but no further action needs to be taken.

Section 2 – Non- compliances/omissions where the carrier/PETS checker must request confirmation from the administering vet, using the PETS09 form. Once confirmation is received travel can be allowed/pets can be accepted into the UK. These non-compliances must be recorded on the PETS08 and copies of all paperwork retained by the carrier/PETS checker.

For both section 1 and 2 non-compliances, the owner must sign the PETS08 form to confirm they are aware that they will not be able to travel into the UK again unless the paperwork is officially amended or replaced. This signature should be obtained prior to copying so that both owner and carrier/PETS checker have evidence of this.

Carriers/PETS Checkers must develop a system to ensure uses of section 1 and 2 discretions are recorded and that animals are not accepted on the same documentation again. This system must be checked before a section 1 or 2 discretion is allowed as failure by the owner to rectify a non-compliance following a previous discretion will result in a refusal to travel/acceptance. It is acknowledged carriers/PETS checkers are only able to maintain and check a system related to their own business. Carriers/PETS checkers may wish to keep the PETS08 for longer than six months as proof to the owner that they were informed of this rule.

Section 3 – Major non-compliances where travel must be refused/pets must not be accepted into the UK based on the paperwork or animal presented. The completed PETS08 form should state what action has been taken.

Serious non-compliances related to paperwork or suspected fraudulent documentation should also be submitted to APHA via the **Report of Non-Compliant Pet Passport or Third Country Certificate form (IV62)**. This should be in addition to completion of the PETS08 and an agreement should be in place with the local APHA office regarding assistance to complete these and how submission will be made.

## ii) Unlawful commercial movements moving under the Pet Travel Scheme

There is common abuse of the PET Travel Scheme where dogs (particularly puppies) being commercially traded or intended for sale in the UK are being moved under the Pet Travel scheme. They do not therefore fulfil the criteria for non-commercial movements and are not allowed to travel under the scheme and carriers/PETS checkers should refuse travel or contact Trading Standards and APHA on arrival in the UK if they suspect this non-compliance. A section 3 non-compliance on the PETS08 should be completed if travel is refused. Where travel is not refused but there is a suspicion of commercial activity which cannot be proved APHA should be informed using **the Report of Non-Compliant Pet Passport or Third Country Certificate form (IV62)** which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pet-travel-report-of-non-compliant-certificate>

Some common indicators are listed below and carriers/PETS checkers should be vigilant regarding these non-compliances:

- the pet is not accompanied by the owner named in passport or by a person with written authorisation from the owner to make the move.
- they are not travelling with an owner or authorised person and do not have a supplementary health certificate (an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITACH)) present, which is required for compliant commercial movement
- more than five pets (maybe under six months of age) using the Pet Travel Scheme without a required ITAHC or proof of attendance at a show or event
- a frequent importer of dogs or cats - regular weekly/monthly movements of different dogs and cats
- Issuing vet page not completed in a pet passport
- Owner information not completed in a pet passport
- Animals vaccinated at less than 12 weeks of age -where this is documented on the entry document it is a non-compliance with PETS and the animal must be refused. A suspicion of this despite documents being in order should be reported to APHA using the **Report of Non-Compliant Pet Passport or Third Country Certificate form (IV62)**.
- Third country move where the owner is not travelling within five days of the pet

## 7. Suspected Smuggling and Fraud

Carriers are responsible for preventing illegal imports of animals into GB, via their own operations. Carriers/PETS checkers need to identify suspect cases of smuggling as well as managing pets that have failed to meet the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme.

Staff training in relation to smuggling awareness and detection can be provided as a component of the training for the Pet Travel Scheme. All training must then be cascaded to new staff as and when they join a carrier/PETS checker team.

### Potential Forms of Smuggling

1. **Unintentional/ignorance** - The advent of the Pet Travel Scheme may have led some people to believe that there is free access to bring your pets into GB. These individuals usually make no attempt to disguise the fact that they are bringing pets into GB. Despite this, they often succeed in importing animals without challenge.
2. **Intentional/personal** - There may be individual cases of smuggling by pet owners wishing to avoid quarantine.
3. **Intentional/organised** - There may also be organised smuggling on behalf of a third party to bring pets or other animals (e.g. dangerous dogs) into GB illegally. It may be that certain routes are targeted as being thought of as 'easier' options, highlighting the importance of the need for uniform high level vigilance on all routes.
4. **Failed PETS check** - It is possible that an owner of a pet, which has failed its PETS check, may attempt to conceal the pet and travel with another carrier.

### How Can Smuggling be Identified and Prevented?

1. **Unintentional Illegal Imports** may be prevented/identified in the following ways:

- good information provided at the first point of contact with the passenger is essential and this information should be repeated at the time of booking and ticket purchase
- training for all contact staff in relation to the requirements for the Pet Travel Scheme
- Providing appropriate accessible information will be important, taking into consideration first language and the individual's ability to understand the rules. The same level of information may not be available either through Government websites or the media depending on country of origin of the animal.

**2. Intentional Smuggling.** Deliberate smuggling is more difficult to counter. The most effective weapon is a well-trained team of staff who can confidently identify and respond to suspicious cases at any point of the journey.

### **Identifying smuggling on sea and rail vehicle routes**

A visual appraisal of the occupants of the vehicle and the contents should be made at the point of embarkation. If there is any suspicion about the behaviour of the occupants or the vehicle's contents then the driver should be asked if there is an animal in the vehicle. If the suspicions remain after this enquiry, a further external visual inspection of the vehicle should be arranged at the earliest convenient time.

Carriers should be clear in their terms and conditions for transport that they can refuse travel if they believe an animal is being smuggled.

Experience has shown that animals are often crudely concealed under a cloth, like a rug, in the back of a car. Frequently the animal is in a pet carrier hidden under other items or in a closed box.

Other obvious signs are pet foods and accessories and indications on the interior of the car such as chewing or scratch damage or pet hairs on the fabric. Signs that car boots have extra ventilation such as being partly open or hatchback parcel shelves not in the normal position should arouse suspicion.

In all cases the relevant local authority and the local APHA office should be informed of the details of the vehicle that is suspected to contain an animal before arrival of the vehicle in GB.

### **Identifying smuggling on air routes**

A visual appraisal of passengers and luggage should be made at the point of check in and embarkation. If there is any suspicion about the behaviour of the passenger or the luggage contents then the traveller should be asked if they are in possession of an animal. If the suspicions remain after this enquiry, the Police or Customs/Immigration Authorities should be approached for further assistance.

Airline staff should be aware of the procedures needed to manage suspect cases of smuggling identified anytime between check-in and disembarkation in GB. Cabin staff should be aware that any animal being carried in the cabin must be met by a checking official at the point of disembarkation and hold the passenger if one is not present, until someone arrives, investigate why no one is present or hand the passenger over to another official such as Border Force. This information should be conveyed during RMOP negotiations but checkers should also confirm this and use any liaison opportunities to reiterate the processes with staff on the ground.

If the passenger has not notified the airline or checking staff, this is a non-compliance with the procedure and the animal should be held by the carrier until inspection can be arranged or the animal is removed by an official or to a quarantine facility.

### **Suspected Fraud**

The range of documents which staff need to be aware of may make assessing cases of fraud appear complex. However, in simple terms, staff can be trained to be confident to report particular situations as suspect fraud.

Staff should be familiar with the usual documents presented to bring pets into GB, and should be as thorough as possible when checking them. Staff are not expected to be able to identify particular breeds of cat and dog. However, there may be cases where a suspect document prompts a closer check of the details on the document and a crosscheck of the pet.

Where check-in staff consider that a document, which is presented as a bona fide document for a pet to enter GB, is fraudulent they should refuse to accept it, and /or refer to a supervisor and/or APHA so a vehicle block can be placed with the other Carriers and the matter be referred to the Local Authority if appropriate.

Examples of documentary fraud could include:

:

- not originally completed and signed (e.g. a colour photocopy)
- tampered with e.g. insertion of an extra number in microchip box, a label which has been tampered with
- unnecessarily amended
- incorrectly signed and stamped
- the description is not a match for the pet presented with the documents.
- non- EU vet issuing a passport
- Rabies vaccination given and certified for travel earlier than 12 weeks
- blank passports issued by one Member State being completed in another Member State
- passports issued where the animal has originated in an unlisted Third Country and not complied with additional requirements.

Should a case be presented where a GB Pet Passport is suspected to be fraudulent, a copy can be emailed to the Centre for international Trade Carlisle on [imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk) for further validation if required. This action must be followed up by a telephone call to ensure an immediate response. If the carrier/PETS checker has any doubt regarding an entry on the document, and as such is unable to satisfy themselves of its validity, this should be considered to be a non-compliance and the owners should be advised of their options for the pet.

All cases of suspected fraud should also be reported to APHA using the **Report of Non-Compliant Pet Passport or Third Country Certificate form (IV62)** which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pet-travel-report-of-non-compliant-certificate>. Copies of the documents should be attached. Reporting these cases will enable APHA to take action against the issuing vet where appropriate.

## 8. Data Recording

Part of the responsibility of carriers and authorised PETS checkers is to submit returns to APHA relating to Pet Travel Scheme data. This data recording is in relation to pets that have travelled and those that have been found to be non-compliant

Carriers must make submissions to APHA in the following ways:

- a. Carriers/PETS checkers should complete the Pets Statistic Websystem as per their RMOP authorisation. This can be found here <https://petscarriers.defra.gov.uk/logon.asp>. A login and password will have been provided in the approval letter issued upon approval of the carrier/PETS checker.
- b. Carriers/PETS checkers must submit all Pet Travel Scheme: Non-compliance return for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets (PETS08) when issued.
- c. At the end of each month all carriers/PETS checkers (including those only authorised to accept Recognised Assistance Dogs) must also submit throughput figures for all Pet Travel Scheme movements. **This should include nil returns** and the information should include a breakdown of whether the animals were dogs, cats, ferrets or assistance dogs.

Data returns b. and c. should be sent to APHA at the following email address [PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or via locally agreed arrangements with the regional APHA office or in Scotland to the APHA office agreed during authorisation.

## 9. Identifying and Checking Animals not travelling under PETS

The carriage of dogs and cats transported for commercial purposes is at the discretion of the sea/rail or air carrier. Although governed by EU legislation regarding animal health and welfare this is not covered by the Pet Travel Scheme Regulation and commercial movements should not be checked by carriers as pets even if they are presented with EU Pet passports.

### i) Commercial Movements of Pets

The health status of any dog or cat being transported for commerce or trade is covered under the Balai Directive 92/65. Commercial consignments must have:

- **an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC)** in accordance with Part 1 Annex E of Directive 92/65/EEC issued by member state of origin. Commission Implementing Decision 2013/518/EU contains the current version required. One valid health certificate may be used for consignments containing multiple

animals but each animal must be individually identified (microchip number/passport) on the health certificate and

- **a valid pet passport** - each animal identified on the (ITAHC) must be travelling with a completed valid pet passport
- **or from Third Countries** a health certificate as specified in **Commission Implementing Decision 2013/519/EU**.

The welfare during transport of all animals is protected by EU Regulation 1/2005. Whilst no person must transport or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering there are further safeguards for commercial movements of dogs and cats. These include the requirement for:

- Transporter Authorisation
- Vehicle approval
- Fitness of the animal for the intended journey
- Journey times, feeding and watering instructions.

## ii) Pets entering GB to go into quarantine

Animals can be imported into GB to go into an approved quarantine kennel with an import licence. A Boarding Document and red label will be provided to all animals coming into GB with a valid import licence. This document allows the airlines/sea and rail carriers to transport the animal.

The back of the document gives a list of conditions attached to the licence. Any animal presented with this document should be identified as a quarantine animal and managed accordingly on arrival in GB.

## 10. Stowaways

Animals found by carriers which have stowed away on a means of transport and therefore have no certification must be treated in one of two ways:

- The local authority must be informed and the animal quarantined in the UK
- The animals must be returned to country of origin. The carrier must contain the animal securely while gaining permission from the competent authority of the country of origin to return the animals and release or hand them over at the port of original embarkation.

## 11. Dead Pets

### i) Death prior to transport

Where a pet dies outside of the UK (before check-in) it can be brought back to GB if it has been cremated. The ashes do not require an APHA licence.

Alternatively, if the owner wishes to bring back the body of their pet, they will have to submit a written request to [Imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Imports@apha.gsi.gov.uk) with a completed application form (available from the Defra website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-products-and-pathogens-application-for-import-licence>) ensuring that the following details are included:

- Consignor name and address
- Consignees name and address
- Name and address of transporter
- Date of departure
- Place of departure
- Identification and description of Dog/Cat
- The cause of death; there being no suspicion of notifiable disease
- That the pet is being imported for cremation purposes only.

The form will then be forwarded to Defra Policy for consideration.

## ii) Death during transport

If an animal dies during transport as long as the animal passed all pet checks at point of embarkation (for sea and rail journeys) the owner may continue their journey to their UK destination with the body of their pet. If an animal is found dead on arrival following air transportation the pet checker may undertake Pet Travel Scheme checks and release the body of the animal to the owner if requested. If the body is not claimed then the animal must be disposed of correctly as clinical waste.

## 12. Animal Welfare

“No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering” - EU Welfare in transport Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

There is guidance on the [GOV.UK website](#) which includes a Defra publication ‘protecting the welfare of pet cats and dogs during journeys’. This is a useful guide that gives practical tips on how to ensure the welfare of a pet is not compromised during a journey.

Private vehicles carrying pets travelling with their owners do not require specific authorisation under the Welfare legislation. Commercial carriers such as ferry companies, airlines or pet transport services will be subject to the authorisation requirements laid down in the EU Welfare in transport Regulation EC 1/2005.

Carrier staff are not expected to make a detailed assessment of any animal’s health or welfare. However, it is within the rights of the carrier to refuse to carry an animal, which appears **unfit** to travel. Staff should be familiar with the guidance available on the [GOV.UK website](#).

For this reason a carrier can specify, under their own terms and conditions of carriage of pet animals, additional requirements which must be complied with before an animal can be transported. This may be that they require the declaration at section IX (old style passports) or Section X (new style passports) of the pet passport ‘Clinical Examination’ to be completed by a veterinary surgeon prior to transportation.

If travelling on one of the longer ferry crossings, owners are recommended to arrive at the port early so that their vehicle can be positioned in the best place in the hold for the welfare of their pet.

The main problems which pets are likely to encounter during a journey are:

- inadequate space to move in, which can cause distress during the journey
- inadequate water and/or ventilation, which can contribute to heat stress
- travel sickness or other illnesses that can make the pet appear lethargic and depressed.

Check-in staff may be able to assess whether the pet’s welfare is being met by checking the following:

- is the pet suitably restrained either in a crate, pet carrier or behind a dog-guard?
- is the pet’s crate or carrier suitable for the animal it contains and does it allow easy access to provide water if needed?
- does the pet’s container appear to have adequate holes for ventilation?

The RMOP that carriers agree for transporting pets under the Pet Travel Scheme does not require a specific strategy for the management of welfare problems. However, carriers are obliged to meet the requirements of the EU Welfare in transport Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 or The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Order 2006 or The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007 depending on where the animals will arrive in GB.

The welfare of a pet is not always easy to assess, particularly if you are concerned that the animal is ill or injured.

**If you have any reason to suspect that the proposed journey will adversely affect the pet then you should not allow the pet to travel.**

Carriers must ensure that pets are carried in accordance with the welfare codes and regulation above. As such they can inform their customers that they are:

- unable to transport pets which are excessively confined

- unable to transport pets which are not reasonably restrained in a crate or pet carrier
- unable to transport pets when there appears to be a high risk of heat or cold stress.
- unable to transport pets which are obviously ill.

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.