

## Taking your pets abroad

### Where can you travel?

Not all countries are included in the [PETS travel scheme](#). At present you can travel to EU countries, North America and rabies-free islands. Export health certificates or import permits may be required for countries that you are passing through. Check carefully with the relevant authorities before travelling. It is always advisable to contact the PETS Helpline or DEFRA for the latest information as conditions do change.

### Which animals can travel under PETS?

Dogs, cats and ferrets are currently eligible, although you should check with [DEFRA](#) before planning any travel. (New requirements from 1st January 2012)

### Before travelling

- Pet must first be microchipped
- Rabies vaccine must be given
- A blood test is no longer required
- PET passport issued
- PET passport is then valid, meaning that the pet can re-enter the UK (from an approved country) 21 days from the 1st vaccination date
- Rabies boosters must be kept in date (see individual passport as varies between vaccine manufacturers)
- Check with airlines/ferry companies for any specific requirements

### Returning to the UK

- Appropriate tapeworm (praziquantel) treatment (dogs only now) administered by an approved veterinarian within 24-120 hours of expected arrival in the UK.
- This must be certified by the vet
- Travel on authorised route with approved company.
- NB. Tick treatment no longer mandatory.
- There are other requirements from other areas of the world, check DEFRA website

### Considering your animal

- Any pet must be fit and healthy before travelling. This can be a stressful experience for any pet
- Consider whether travel is the best option for your pet. Would they be better in kennels or cattery or with house sitters?
- Remember your pet will experience climate change too and this may be difficult to cope with
- Pet carriers must be safe and secure and can be uncomfortable
- Your journey will need frequent breaks for your pet to relieve itself
- The use of sedatives may not be appropriate for travel abroad (consult your vet)
- Your pet is at risk of different diseases in a new environment (especially in warmer climates) Some preventative treatments are available - please ask the vet for details