



24th October 2023

Transcribing information into Pet Passports

Can I transfer details of a previous rabies vaccination from a Health Certificate from a non-EU country into a Pet Passport issued in Ireland?

The identity of the pet must be confirmed, by scanning and reading the microchip number of the animal and matching these details to the microchip number and corresponding details in the health certificate.

PVPs reading a microchip of a dog for the purposes of issuing a pet passport should not issue the passport without confirming that current ownership is registered on an approved Irish database. This obligation includes non-EU dogs who have travelled to Ireland on a valid EU Health Certificate and who are requesting an Irish pet passport. The microchip should be registered on one of the authorised microchip databases, as dogs in Ireland are required to be microchipped, but note this is separate legislation from the pet passport legislation.

Many people will have an address in Ireland that can be entered into the pet passport. If a person does not have an Irish address, it is acceptable to put another address into an EU pet passport, provided the dog is correctly identified and the pet passport is correctly issued. Instructions for completing an EU pet passport can be found at gov.ie - [Pet Travel \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie).

Details from the official health certificate (e.g., microchipping date, rabies vaccination dates and batch numbers) may be transferred to the new pet passport issued in Ireland **only if there is evidence that the pet underwent a compliance check on entry into the EU** and this is properly recorded on the last page of the certificate. This means the details have been verified by a government vet in the non-EU country of origin initially, and subsequently checked by an authorised EU person on entry. This is confirmed by an authorised person's signature and stamp on the last page of the certificate

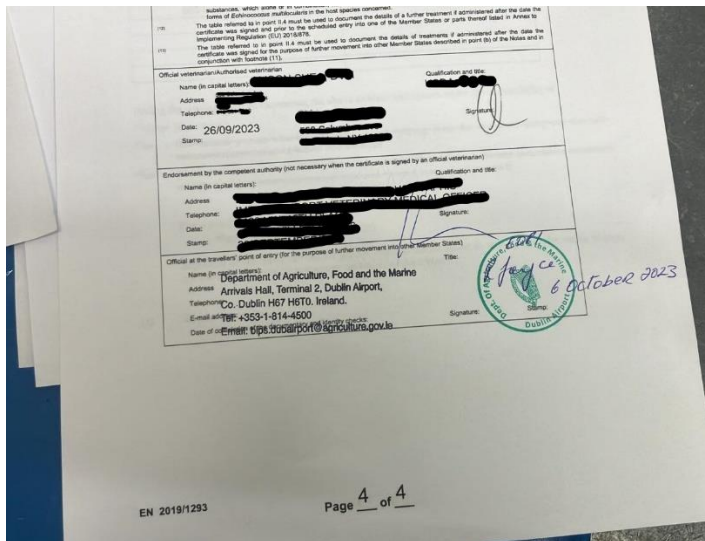


Figure 1. Example of a stamp and signature received in Dublin Airport.

Details should not be copied from non-official documents such as non-EU pet passports.

When transcribing, the veterinary practitioner should **fully complete the passport in the usual way**, i.e., write in the required details and their own details, and make a note next to the details to clarify that these were copied from a previous document, e.g., “*copied from health certificate no. 123456789”. The pet owner should be advised to retain the health certificate, perhaps stapled into the back cover of the EU pet passport or similar. The veterinary practitioner should make photocopies of the documents for their own records.

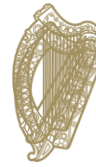
Note: when entering the “valid until” date for rabies vaccinations given in North America, please see our [website](#) which contains links to the [USDA](#) and [CFIA](#) webpages as there are differences in the rules re: booster vs primary vaccines in North America vs EU, and you may need to verify if it is valid for one or three years.

It is important to note that **the recorded date of microchipping or reading of microchip recorded in the pet passport must be before (or same day of, once administered in advance) any recorded rabies vaccination**, i.e. a veterinary practitioner must check the microchip today before issuing a pet passport, but cannot enter into the passport that it was checked in 2023 if the rabies vaccination being transcribed is from 2022. This microchip information can also be transcribed, and a note kept in clinical records that the chip was read today.

Restarting the process is another option that may be discussed with the owner – i.e., reading the microchip today and administering a new rabies vaccination and completing a pet passport in the usual manner. Vets are not obliged to provide official certification by transcribing details.

Owners should be warned that vets outside of the EU cannot enter rabies vaccination details into EU pet passports – the only section non-EU vets may complete is the anti-Echinococcus treatments. This means if their pet gets its rabies booster outside of the EU, the non-EU vet cannot put this into the pet passport, and the pet passport cannot be used

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



for travel when it is no longer up to date, and in this circumstance they will have to travel on an EU health certificate. Please see [gov.ie - Pet Travel \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie) for details.

For questions, please contact livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie.