



## Pet Passports - Information for PVPs

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### 1. Legal Obligations

**(PET PASSPORT (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 2014 - (S.I. No. 602 of 2014))**

***Private veterinary practitioners are authorised by the Minister to issue pet passports in Ireland.***

A veterinary practitioner shall—

- (a) store blank passports in a secure manner that prevents loss or theft and in accordance with the directions (if any) of an authorised officer,
- (b) maintain a record of the information mentioned in [Article 21 \(1\) and \(3\)\\* of the Pet Travel Regulation](#) in respect of passports issued by him or her, in a form (if any) as the Minister may determine, and
- (c) make such returns to the Minister as the Minister may require.

A record maintained under point (b) above shall be kept for a period of 3 years and be made available for inspection on request to an authorised officer.

\*Records must include:

- The microchip number, its location and the date of application/date of reading (**see over for important information on the microchip**)
- The pet's name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth as stated by owner
- Name and contact information of the owner
- The passport number issued

A veterinary practitioner shall not sell or supply a blank or incomplete passport.

#### **Completing the Pet Passport:**

**PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE PASSPORT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.**

Note in particular:

**Section I. Details of ownership:** passport must be signed by the owner of the dog/cat.

**Section III. Marking of animal:** must be laminated after completion with the laminate page provided within the passport. If stickers are used elsewhere on the passport, they too must be laminated (use the spare laminate page for this). Date of application or reading of microchip number should be **BEFORE** or **the same day** as the rabies vaccine administration (provided the microchip was applied/read first).

**Section V. Vaccination against rabies:** Rabies vaccination dates must be inserted in all three columns (1, 2 & 3) in the centre of the page.



Box no 1: Date of vaccination

Box no 2: Date vaccine is valid for travel from; if a primary vaccination, this must be **at least** 21 days later but should reflect whatever the data sheet for the vaccination used advises, e.g. if the datasheet states “Immunity has been demonstrated from 30 days after primary vaccination” then you should put in a date 30 days later (day of vaccination counts as day 0, e.g. if pet vaccinated on the 1st of the month the earliest it can travel is the 22<sup>nd</sup> but may be longer depending on the datasheet for the vaccination used) or if it is a booster vaccination administered within the period of validity of the previous valid rabies vaccine, this date is the same as the date administered.

Box no 3: Date vaccine is valid until as per manufacturers’ instructions, either one or three years from date of vaccination, vet’s name, address, telephone number and signature must be entered in the Authorised veterinarian column.

**Section VII. Anti-Echinococcus treatment**: this is not required for direct travel out of Ireland but is required for animals entering Ireland from countries not listed as free from Echinococcus.

**Section X. Clinical Examination**: (must be completed by PVP when movement is for **trade** purposes only) for **commercial** movement, not in cases of pets travelling with their owners for the purpose of a holiday or relocation: Certification that the ‘animal shows no signs of diseases’ during a clinical examination is required. ‘No signs of diseases’ should be taken as meaning no outward or a clinical sign of disease and no further testing (e.g., serology) is required. ‘Fitness to be transported for the intended journey’ should take account of the actual journey proposed i.e. whether the animal is destined for Britain or further afield.

### **Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015**

As from 31 March 2016, all dogs must be identified by a microchip and details of current ownership must be registered on one of the authorised databases — Animark, Fido, The Irish Coursing Club or The Irish Kennel Club.

Accordingly, PVPs inserting a microchip or reading a microchip 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.

Following internal reviews of the legislation, the Department confirms that this obligation includes pets who have travelled to Ireland on a valid EU Health Certificate and who are requesting an Irish pet passport. The microchip **must** be registered on one of the authorised databases.

The Department would encourage all PVPs to work with this requirement when issuing pet passports. Failure to comply with the foregoing may result in the Department withdrawing approval to issue passports to you. Previously issued passports to owners who are resident outside Ireland will remain valid.



## 2. Non- Commercial (Pet) Travel

### Cats, dogs or ferrets to other Member States of the EU.

Persons travelling on holiday or to permanently relocate their residence (or other non-commercial movement where there is no sale or change of ownership involved) from Ireland to another EU Member State may bring their pet cat, dog, or ferret with them provided the following conditions are met:

- The pet must be identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785); **Inserted before rabies vaccination is administered.**
- The animal must be accompanied by an EU Pet Passport in respect of the animal which demonstrates that the animal is currently immunised against rabies; Pet animals cannot travel to another Member State until at least 21 days after their primary rabies vaccination; 12 weeks of age is the minimum age at which primary rabies vaccination can be administered for the purposes of EU pet travel.<sup>1</sup>
- A maximum of 5 animals per person can travel as pets. A derogation to this five-animal rule exists if the owner can show proof that the animals are being brought to compete in a sporting event or other competition or training for such events. All other travel rules still apply. Please contact [livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie) with enquiries about this derogation.
- The owner, or a person delegated in writing by the owner to act on his/her behalf and travelling within five days of the owners own journey, must **accompany** the pet during travel.

## 3. Commercial movements (i.e. sale or any change of ownership) of all dogs, cats and ferrets

### Exports of dogs, cats or ferrets to other Member States

Persons wishing to trade dogs, cats or ferrets to other EU Member States must register the premises on which the animals were born and/or reared (from which they are being exported) with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Pet animals of these species may only be traded from registered premises. Please contact [livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie) for details if required.

They must also ensure that each animal (including each pup/kitten) is

1. identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785) and is
2. accompanied by an EU Pet Passport **showing a record of**

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<sup>1</sup> Some EU countries have a derogation from this requirement, please see [Young Animals \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu) for details



- a) Microchip identification of the animal, including date of insertion or reading (which must precede date of vaccination);
  - b) Proof of immunization against rabies. Animals must be a minimum of 12 weeks old before a rabies vaccine can be administered. The animal is only allowed to travel from 21 days after **primary** vaccination, so in fact pups must be a minimum of 15 weeks old before they are eligible to travel between Member States of the EU<sup>2</sup>;
  - c) Certification in Section X of the EU pet passport that the animal underwent a clinical veterinary examination within 48 hours of departure, to confirm that the animal shows no signs of diseases and is fit to be transported for the intended journey;
  - d) Details of veterinary treatments (anti-echinococcus treatment, other anti-parasite treatments and other vaccinations) administered as required.
3. Ensure that each consignment is accompanied by an official veterinary health certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) within 48 hours of scheduled departure time. (health certificates available from local offices of DAFM, contact details here: [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Contact Details \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)).
  4. Ensure that animals have access to food and water for the duration of the journey. Detailed guidelines on the welfare of these animals during transport are included in a document on the Department website at the following link: [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Transport of Live Animals \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)
  5. Ensure that animals are consigned out of the country by an approved Type 2 transporter only. For list of type 2 transporters see [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Transport of Live Animals \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

For more information, please visit [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Commercial Dog, Cat or Ferret Movements \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

**When issuing a pet passport, it is advisable to inform the owners that, in addition to ensuring they have made the correct preparations to leave Ireland, they also have made the correct preparations to get back into Ireland. This is especially important if the animal will be visiting a country from which a rabies antibody titration test is required for entry into Ireland.**

Further information may be obtained by visiting website [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Pet Travel \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie) or by contacting: [livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie)

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<sup>2</sup> Some EU countries have a derogation from this requirement, please see [Young Animals \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu) for details



## 4. Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Can I transfer details of a previous rabies vaccination from a EU Pet Passport which has been filled up or Health Certificate 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 full up EU pet passport, Great Britain-issued (if issued prior to Brexit) pet passport, or valid health certificate (see [Pet Travel: Home](#)). PVPs reading a microchip 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 pets from Great Britain or other countries who have travelled to Ireland on a valid EU Health Certificate and who are requesting an Irish pet passport. The microchip must be registered on one of the authorised databases. Details from the full EU pet passport, Great Britain-issued pet passport or health certificate (e.g., rabies vaccination dates and batch numbers) may be transferred to the new pet passport issued in Ireland.

In such cases, the veterinary practitioner should make a note next to the details to clarify that these were copied from a previous document, e.g., “\*copied from EU health cert no. 123456789”. The pet owner should be advised to retain both documents and keep them together. The veterinary practitioner should make photocopies for their own records. The same rules apply for a pet that enters with a health certificate that has been correctly endorsed (checked, signed and stamped by an official) on entry into Ireland. 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 a UK or other 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 \(www.gov.ie\)](#).

Please note the date of application or reading of microchip number recorded in the pet passport should be **BEFORE** or **the same day** as the rabies vaccine administration (provided the microchip was applied/read first). This applies even if this date is prior to the pet passport being issued and refers to the original date the microchip was read by the PVP who administered the rabies vaccine. You must be confident to certify that the microchip was read before or on the date of the rabies vaccine administration.

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