

The EU Pet Travel Scheme: How to Complete Pet Passports

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Overview

The EU Pet Travel Scheme

The EU Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows pet dogs, cats and ferrets to enter Northern Ireland (NI) without quarantine, as long as they meet the conditions of the scheme. NI pet owners can also take their dogs, cats and ferrets to GB and EU Countries and bring them back into NI without the need for quarantine, provided their pets meet the conditions of the scheme.

The general requirements for pet travel from NI to EU (including the Republic of Ireland (ROI)) Countries are:

- Microchip (or legible tattoo imprinted prior to 3 July 2011)
- Rabies vaccination (pet must be at least 12 weeks of age)
- 21-day wait (**where vaccine data sheet advises a longer wait period, this guidance must be adhered to**), following rabies vaccination, before being eligible to travel to other EU countries
- Pet passport.

See <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/travelling-pets> for further details regarding pet travel to EU and non-EU countries (including travel to and from mainland Great Britain (GB)).

Issuing a Pet Passport

A passport can be issued for an animal that has been microchipped and vaccinated against rabies. **If an animal is going to re-enter NI from an [unlisted](#) Third Country, it must also pass a serology test for rabies. To avoid delays on return to NI, it is recommended the serology test be undertaken prior to leaving NI and results recorded within the pet passport.**

A passport can also be issued for an animal that was accompanied by a [Third Country health certificate](#) which had been issued in a non-EU country. The animal must be microchipped and have a current rabies vaccination (and have been blood tested, in the case of an unlisted Third Country). The Third Country certificate is valid for up to four months for further movement within the EU from date of entry. The EHC can be exchanged for a pet passport at any time as long as the rabies vaccination is current.

Issuing a Pet Passport to GB resident pets

EU Pet Travel Regulations require pets entering NI from GB to be accompanied by a valid Animal Health Certificate (AHC). Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs), authorised to issue Pet Passports, should, therefore, issue an EU Pet Passport to pets normally residing in GB only on presentation of a valid AHC for pets which have arrived in NI on or after 1 January 2021. The information contained in the AHC can be transferred to the Pet Passport. The owner does not need to have a NI address.

aPVPs should keep a copy of the AHC for their records.

Information supplied in Pet Passports issued in GB or vaccination certificates containing details of rabies vaccinations are not valid in this situation. **Please note a Northern Ireland Pet Travel Document (PTD) cannot be exchanged for a NI (EU)Pet Passport.** The information must come from an AHC.

Exceptionally an EU Pet Passport may be issued as replacement for a GB issued Pet Passport if the following criteria can be met:

- On presentation of GB issued Pet Passport; and
- Residence in NI prior to January 2021 being satisfactorily established e.g. treatment recorded by an NI Veterinarian or Local Authority licence, or other relevant information.

If these requirements are met, a new EU Pet Passport can be issued and information transferred from the GB issued Pet Passport.

Completing the Sections of a Pet Passport

The passport should be stamped, and signed by an aPVP. Other sections of the passport may be completed, signed and stamped on the basis of evidence of procedures carried out by another registered veterinary surgeon or authorised veterinarian. This evidence may be in the form of:

- a completed EU pet passport issued by another authorised veterinarian (aPVP)
- a record or certificate of current rabies vaccination which bears the microchip/tattoo number of the animal, from an aPVP
- a blood test result provided by a [recognised laboratory](#) showing a test result indicating a rabies antibody titre of equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. This document must also bear the animal's microchip/tattoo number and date of rabies vaccination carried out, prior to blood sampling (sampling **must** be undertaken by an authorised veterinarian. In the case of animals coming from GB or another country, this information must be contained in the relevant AHC).

An aPVP in Northern Ireland can also enter details, such as rabies vaccination boosters or of tapeworm treatment (if appropriate), in a passport issued in another EU country.

The pet passport can be completed in any colour of ink.

Relabelling an EU UK Pet Passport issued in NI:

Following the UK's exit from the EU, it is necessary to differentiate between NI and GB issued Pet Passports and ensure that NI pet owners can continue to travel within the EU (or return to Northern Ireland from GB); a relabelling to UK(NI) is required as provided for in Article 7 of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The following steps must be followed:

Step 1: Apply one UK(NI) Label to front cover



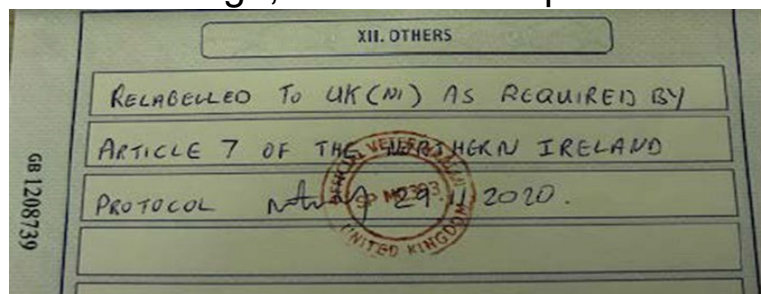
Step 2: Apply one UK(NI) Label to the page 1:



Step 3: aPVP to annotate the Pet Passport at Section XII. Others – page 31

RELABELLED TO UK(NI) AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 7 OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROTOCOL

aPVP must sign, date and stamp



Section II: Description of Animal

II. DESCRIPTION OF ANIMAL

PICTURE OF THE ANIMAL
(optional)

1. Name*: _____
Benji

2. Species: _____
Dog

3. Breed*: _____
Labrador

4. Sex _____
Male

5. Date of Birth*: _____
01/01/2001

6. Colour: _____
Black

7. Any notable or discernable features or characteristics: _____

* as stated by owner

ISO Country Code + Number

- Insertion of a photograph of the animal is optional, and at the owner's expense. The owner is responsible for affixing the photograph to the passport. The borders of the photograph must remain within the marked area and not obscure any other part of this page.
- Parts 1-7 of this section can be completed by practice support staff or a veterinarian.
- The entry for species must be either dog, cat or ferret.
- The date of birth entry may contain the animal's full date of birth, month and year of birth, or just year of birth, as stated by the owner. If the date of birth is not known, an approximate date may be entered.

Section III: Marking of Animal

- Can be completed by practice support staff or a veterinarian.
- The microchip/transponder must be scanned and read before any entry is made in this section.

III. MARKING OF ANIMAL

1. Transponder alphanumeric code
985 000 111 000 111

2. Date of application ~~or reading~~ of the transponder
01/01/2017

3. Location of the transponder
Between shoulder blades

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

Date of application or reading of the transponder

The date of application or reading must not postdate any compulsory vaccination or treatment. The entry should be in the format dd/mm/yyyy. This section must not be left blank. Do not enter 'not known'.

- If a microchip has been implanted and can be read, but the exact date of microchipping is not known, enter the date of the reading. The appropriate deletion should be made to show which date is being declared.

Location of transponder

Insert location of microchip as indicated by passing the reader over the animal.

Tattooing

Tattoos are not acceptable as a means of identification, unless administered before 3 July 2011. If an inspection of the animal reveals a clearly legible tattoo number, this can be entered in this section.

Lamination

Once this section is completed, the page must be laminated using the laminate sheet provided. If a mistake is identified after the lamination is sealed, a new passport will need to be issued.

Section IV: Issuing of the Passport

IV. ISSUING OF THE PASSPORT

Name of the authorised veterinarian:
Helen Bright

Address: 1 Low Street

Post-code: BT1 1AB

City: Belfast

Country: N.Ireland

Telephone number: 01000 001100

E-mail address: tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

Date of issuing: 01/01/2018

Signature


OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN
UNITED KINGDOM

STAMP & SIGNATURE

ISO Country Code + Number

- The passport should only be issued when Sections I, II, III, IV and V are completed.
- **This page must be completed by an aPVP and the aPVP stamp used.**
- The address and telephone number should be that of the practice where the aPVP is registered. aPVPs must enter their practice email address in this section.

Section V: Vaccination against Rabies

V. VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES			
MANUFACTURER & NAME OF VACCINE	BATCH NUMBER	VACCINATION DATE ¹ VALID FROM ² VALID UNTIL ³	AUTHORISED VETERINARIAN
Place vaccine sticker or handwrite: Manufacturer, Name of Vaccine and Batch Number		1 05/01/2017	Name, Address, Telephone number, Signature & aPVP Code
		2 26/01/2017	
		3 As per datasheet	
		1	
		2	
		3	

* At least name, address, telephone number and signature.

• This page must be completed by an aPVP.

• Before any entry is made in any part of this section, the animal's microchip number must be read and verified against the entry in section III of the passport. Details of the current rabies vaccination must be recorded in the passport.

• An approved inactivated rabies vaccine or recombinant vaccine must be used **and administered by the aPVP** in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Manufacturer, Name of Vaccine and Batch number

Where possible, the sticker supplied with each dose of vaccine should be inserted in this box. If the sticker does not provide all the required information, please enter any missing information immediately below or adjacent to the sticker. Where a sticker is not available, the required information may be entered by hand. There are additional lamination sheets included in the passport which are 'kiss-cut', and individual sections must be removed and placed over the vaccination sticker for each entry.

Vaccination Date/Valid From/Valid Until

If an animal is already vaccinated, the date of vaccination can be entered based on practice records or suitable supporting evidence, which must show the animal's microchip number. A **'valid from'** date should be entered for the first recorded vaccine. Date vaccine is valid for travel from; if a primary vaccination, this must be at least 21 days later but where the data sheet for the vaccination used advises a longer period, e.g. if the data sheet 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 22nd, 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

The **'valid until'** date is the date when the next booster is due; and should, where possible, be based on the information in the manufacturer's datasheet. If this is not available, valid until dates can be entered based on practice records or suitable supporting evidence, which must show the animal's microchip number.

Authorised Veterinarian

In new style pet passports, **the aPVP stamp must not be used in this section.** The aPVP should sign in this section and must enter their name, address, telephone number and aPVP Code. A stamp with these details can be used.

Old style pet passports

Old style pet passports (issued prior to December 2014) are valid for travel until all of the treatment spaces are filled. Rabies vaccinations can be added to old style pet passports, even if there has been a break in vaccine cover.

As old style pet passports do not have a box for the 'valid from' date, this information does not need to be included. The vaccine sticker does not need to be laminated.



A signature and aPVP stamp must be added to the 'authorised veterinarian' box in old style pet passports.

Booster vaccinations

After a pet has been vaccinated, it will need regular booster vaccinations in accordance with the manufacturer's datasheet. These must be given by the 'Valid until' date. If this date is missed the animal will not meet the conditions of the scheme and will have to be re-vaccinated. The animal will only be eligible to travel 21 days after the re-vaccination.

If a booster has been missed since a blood test was carried out, the blood test will no longer be valid and the pet must be revaccinated and a further blood test performed at least 30 days after vaccination (if returning from an unlisted country).

Administering rabies vaccines with other medications

In order to be able to certify a vaccination for pet travel, it must comply with the datasheet. If the datasheet indicates that the vaccine would not be effective when mixed with other drugs/vaccines or might otherwise not be protective (e.g. in immunocompromised animals), aPVPs must seek advice from the vaccine manufacturer. aPVPs should only certify a rabies vaccination if the manufacturer can confirm that the animal will be protected in the proposed circumstances.

Address and Details of Northern Ireland Certifying Vet

To avoid any issue at EU Border Control Posts the address and details of the Northern Ireland Certifying Vet must be clear from the passport.

In the New Style, pet passports Section V: Vaccination against Rabies, the aPVP should sign this section and must enter their name, address, telephone number and aPVP code as per instruction above in Section V.

In the Old Style pet passports (issued prior to December 2014), an aPVP stamp is required in Section V, so in this case aPVP to annotate in the Notes Section: Rabies Vaccination administered in Northern Ireland. aPVP must enter their name, address, date and sign.

Section VI: Rabies Antibody Titration Test

Pets travelling to [unlisted Third Countries](#) and returning to the EU must have a blood sample taken by the aPVP at least 30 days after vaccination (with the date of vaccination counting as day 0) and details of a successful serological test recorded on this page of the passport.

The form is titled "VI. RABIES ANTIBODY TITRATION TEST". It contains a declaration: "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." Below this are fields for "Sample collected on:", "Name of the authorised veterinarian:", "Address:", "Telephone number:", and "Date:". A red circle highlights the "Telephone number:" field. To the right of the form is a circular stamp that says "OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN UNITED KINGDOM" and "STAMP & SIGNATURE" with a signature over it. On the left side of the form, there is a vertical label "ISO Country Code + Number".

- **This page must be completed by an aPVP and the aPVP stamp used.**
- Before any entry is made in this section, the animal's microchip number must be read and verified against the entry in section III of the passport.
- A satisfactory result must indicate a titre level equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.
- When a satisfactory test result is received from the laboratory, please complete this section of the passport. The date when the blood sample for the rabies serology was drawn must be entered.

Approved laboratories

The blood sample must be sent to a [European Union \(EU\) approved laboratory](#) for testing. Before taking the sample, contact the laboratory to obtain the appropriate sample submission form and seek advice on the correct labelling and means of packaging and transportation of the sample.

Missed booster vaccinations

If a booster has been missed since a blood test was carried out, the pet should be re-prepared accordingly. An entry in section XII must be made to indicate that the titre results are no longer valid for EU entry from unlisted Third Countries. The original blood test result in this section must be crossed out, and a new entry made under 'in case of a further test'.

Section VII: Anti-Echinococcus Treatment

VII. ANTI-ECHINOCOCCUS TREATMENT		
MANUFACTURER & NAME OF PRODUCT	DATE ¹ TIME ²	VETERINARIAN
E.g. Elanco Milbemax	1 dd/mm/yyyy 2 In 24 hour format E.g. 20:00	STAMP & SIGNATURE
	1 2	STAMP & SIGNATURE
	1 2	STAMP & SIGNATURE

ISO Country Code + Number

- Before any entry is made in this section, the animal's microchip number must be read and verified against the entry in section III of the passport.
- Before entering or re-entering NI, a dog must be treated by a qualified veterinarian against the tapeworm *Echinococcus Multilocularis*, (unless travelling directly from Finland, Ireland, Malta or Norway). The treatment must be carried out not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours before the pet is landed in NI.
- Dogs leaving NI on short trips may need to have this treatment administered prior to departure from NI. This is so the timing requirement described above can be satisfied.

Treatment

The tapeworm treatment must contain praziquantel, or be a treatment proven to be effective against *Echinococcus multilocularis*. It must be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Completion

The product details should be entered in the box marked 'Manufacturer and name of product'. The date and time of treatment should be entered in the boxes marked 'Date/Time'. Please enter the date in dd/mm/yyyy format. For the time, enter using 24-hour clock, e.g. 15:30.

If the veterinarian administering treatment is an aPVP, their stamp must be entered in the box marked 'veterinarian'. If the veterinarian administering treatment is not an aPVP, the practice stamp must be entered in the box. In both cases, the administering veterinarian must also sign in the box.

Sections VIII, IX, X, XI and XII

Section VIII: Other Anti-Parasite Treatments

Tick treatment in any pet - and tapeworm treatment in cats - is no longer mandatory. It is however recommended that additional attention is paid to these conditions for animals which travel under the Pet Travel Scheme. The use of this section is optional.

Section IX: Other Vaccinations

It is not mandatory to complete this section. It may need to be completed if it is decided in the future that the passport can be accepted as an export document to enter a non-EU country. However, veterinarians may enter details of vaccinations administered to the animal, other than against rabies, in this section.

Section X: Clinical Examination

Whilst the entry for clinical examination is not required for the movement of dogs and cats to other EU countries, some transport companies may still require owners to produce evidence of an animal's fitness to travel. aPVPs may therefore, complete section X of the passport if they wish to do so. **The aPVP should sign in this section and must enter name, address, telephone number and aPVP number.** A stamp with these details can be used. The aPVP stamp must not be used in the signature field. See the [full passports section](#) for information on what to do if this section is full.

Section XI: Legalisation

This section is not required to be completed at this time. It may need to be completed if it is decided in the future that the passport can be accepted as an export document to enter a non-EU country.

Section XII: Others

This section should normally be left blank unless there are special circumstances or conditions that need to be recorded in relation to the passport. See section VI above in relation to missed rabies boosters.

Other important information

Record keeping

It is mandatory to retain the following records for at least three years.

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

Once a passport has been issued, it is recommended that you take a photocopy/scan of the passport pages covering passport number, identification, vaccination and serology and retain them for reference.

Full passports

If the clinical examination section is full, aPVPs can use the following statement if issuing a letter to a client regarding an animal's fitness to travel. "On (date), I examined the animal described in UK(NI) pet passport serial no (number) and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease, including external parasites, and in my opinion, is fit for travel".

If an essential section has become filled (rabies vaccinations or tapeworm treatment), a new passport must be issued. If the need for a replacement is specifically due to the tapeworm treatment section being full (e.g. a frequent traveller), a second passport may be issued for the dog, in which only sections I-IV are completed and the latest tapeworm treatment is recorded. There is no requirement to add previous rabies vaccination details to the second passport but both passports must be presented for checks until a further vaccination is required.

Lost or stolen passports

If a passport is lost or stolen, it can be replaced on evidence of the animal's vaccination record and blood test result (if applicable); both of which must show the animal's microchip number. Details of the lost or stolen passport, including its serial number, country, date of issue (if known), should be recorded on the Pet Passport Control Sheet.

Young animals

The EU Regulation requires pets to be at least 12 weeks old when vaccinated. This means that no pet can enter NI unless they are 15 weeks old (12 weeks + 21 day wait). NI does not permit the entry of young, unvaccinated pets.

[Some EU Member States](#) may accept dogs and cats under 12 weeks of age, which have not been vaccinated against rabies, but are accompanied by a pet passport. In such cases, it is possible to issue a passport without vaccinating the animal. There must be written evidence to support this.

Vet certifying own pet

The RCVS Principles of Certification state that "Veterinarians should not issue a certificate which might raise questions of a possible conflict of interest e.g. in relation to their own animals". Based on this, it is advised that treatment/certification to meet PETS requirements should be carried out by an appropriately qualified or authorised veterinarian who is not the owner of the pet.

Failed microchips

In the event that the original microchip is unable to be scanned and read, the pet must be re-chipped. If the pet has been previously prepared for travel, then it must be re-prepared in accordance with pet travel rules and a new pet passport issued. A note should be added in Section XII of the passport, advising that there is another microchip present that cannot be scanned and read. This is in case the fault is intermittent and the failing chip is picked up at the port on entry.

Two microchips present

In the event that an animal has two microchips, a passport should be issued with **both microchip numbers** recorded in Section III. Both entries must be covered by the lamination.

aPVPs should add a signed and stamped statement to Section XII of the passport that advises of the existence of another microchip. This statement may only be provided having read both microchips, and should state the following (or similar): *“On (date) I scanned and read microchip number (number associated with PETS preparations). On the same occasion, I also successfully scanned and read microchip number (second microchip number).”*

Intermittent microchips

Should a pet have an intermittent (i.e. occasionally readable) microchip, the vet **must** firstly obtain a reading of the intermittent microchip. Having gained a reading, the vet may then insert a new microchip. This chip should be scanned, both before and after insertion, to ensure functionality. A new passport should be issued with **both microchip numbers** recorded in Section III and both entries must be covered by the lamination. The vet must then add a comment in the ‘Others’ section of the passport, stating: *“On (date) I scanned and read microchip number (intermittent chip number). Having gained a reading, I then inserted chip number (new chip number) on the same day, and in accordance with DAERA requirements.”*

This statement should be signed and stamped by the aPVP. When travelling, pet owners should advise portal staff to check the ‘Others’ section, in order that they can be assured a new microchip has been inserted to requirements.

Requesting further supplies of Pet Passports/Labels

When further pet passports are required, the completed Control Sheet should be emailed to tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk. The control sheet must provide evidence that at least 15 of the previously received passports have been used. A further batch will not be forwarded, without first receiving this evidence. Additional labels can also be obtained by contacting the above email address.

Amendments/Corrections

Spoiled passports should be cancelled by cutting off the top right hand corner of the passport. Cancelled passports should be returned to the owner, or destroyed. When a passport becomes full, it should be cancelled as above and returned to the owner.

Any amendments to the passport must be made by the aPVP by drawing a single line over the incorrect entry. The correct information must be written legibly above the deleted entry and then initialled and stamped by the aPVP with the official stamp. The use of correction fluid is not permitted.

If an error is made in the date of rabies vaccination or the expiry date of that vaccine (Section V of the passport), the whole entry for that vaccination should be deleted, and initialled, and stamped.

A new entry for that vaccination should be entered in the next line in that section of the passport.

The diagram shows a form titled "V. VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES". It has four columns: "MANUFACTURER & NAME OF VACCINE", "BATCH NUMBER", "VACCINATION DATE¹ VALID FROM² VALID UNTIL³", and "AUTHORIZED VETERINARIAN". A pink circular stamp "OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN UNITED KINGDOM" is stamped over the form. The first entry is crossed out with a red X. The second entry is empty. A red arrow points from the text "A new entry for that vaccination should be entered in the next line in that section of the passport." to the second empty entry. The form also includes a box for "Name, Address Telephone No, Signature, AVI No." and a box for "ISO Country Code + Number".

MANUFACTURER & NAME OF VACCINE	BATCH NUMBER	VACCINATION DATE ¹ VALID FROM ² VALID UNTIL ³	AUTHORIZED VETERINARIAN
Place vaccine sticker or handwrite manufacturer, name of vaccine and batch number		1 Day 0 2 21 days after 1 3 As per datasheet	Name, Address Telephone No, Signature, AVI No.
		1 2 3	

* At least name, address, telephone number and signature.

Suspected Illegal Imports

If you suspect that an animal is not compliant with the rules of the EU Pet Travel Scheme you should contact DAERA Trade Imports 028 90524412 or daeratradeimports@daera-ni.gov.uk

Foreign microchips:

- A foreign microchip is not necessarily evidence that an animal has been imported (it indicates where the microchip was manufactured). The microchip may have been purchased and implanted in NI. An animal with a foreign microchip may also have been legally imported, strayed and then re-homed.

Further information

For further information on the EU Pet Travel Scheme please see: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/travelling-pets>

If you are travelling with more than 5 pets this is regarded as commercial travel unless you apply for an exemption e.g. if you are travelling to a show or exhibition. A link to the pet travel rules, including the exemption rules is provided [here](#).

The EU Commission website also has some useful information regarding the movement of pets: <https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/carry/animal-plant/>

If you need more information on the completion of the pet passport please contact the Trade section DAERA via tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

