

Exporting a Pet from NI using the DAERA Export Certification System (DECS)

Before you start:

- Guidance and advice on the export of pets is available on the DAERA website at [Pets Exports](#) including advice on how to check if a suitable Export Health Certificate (EHC) is available.
- A DECS application is only required if you are exporting a pet to a destination outside the European Union (EU).
- DECS is an online application system for exports from Northern Ireland. Access is restricted to the UK and EU to reduce exposure to external cyber threats and protect the security of organisational services and data.
- DECS is used to create the EHC, which is sent to your nominated vet for completion, along with any relevant supporting documentation.
- Before you start your application for an EHC you should engage the services of a vet who is authorised to certify pet exports. A list of practices with authorised vets is available online at [Northern Ireland Veterinary Practices](#).
- It is important to make your chosen vet aware of your intended export and the planned date of export as soon as possible as the preparation for some exports can be extensive and may require significant planning in advance.
- You should discuss the requirements of your export with your chosen vet. The vet should familiarise themselves with the example certificate and guidance notes available on DEFRA - Find an Export Health Certificate webpage as soon as possible (see further guidance below).
- You can apply for an EHC on the DECS system up to 10 days before the planned date of the export, and no later than 2 days before the planned date.

Identify the required EHC:

- Check that an EHC to match your export is available via the [Defra / APHA Find an export health certificate](#) – using the available search tools. You can search by country or by commodity (i.e. what you want to export):

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website interface for finding an export health certificate. The search bar contains the text 'dog'. Below the search bar, there is a dropdown menu for 'Destination country' with 'Cameroon' and 'Canada' listed. 'Canada' is selected. The search results show '1 export health certificate' for 'Export cats and dogs to Canada: certificate 2923'. A red box highlights the search bar and the 'Canada' selection in the dropdown menu.

- Click to view the EHC webpage and review the advice for exporters in Northern Ireland. You should read any guidance notes and review the EHC itself to understand the information required. Your vet should be able to advise you on the specific requirements highlighted within the guidance notes/EHC.

Exporting from Northern Ireland

If you're in Northern Ireland, you no longer need to download this EHC. You will complete the EHC template as part of the DAERA online application process (DECS).

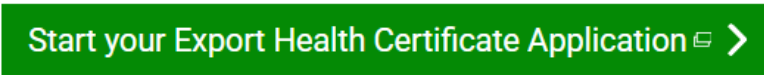
For more information, see the [DECS Application User Guide](#)

1. Find out about the requirements for export in the [guidance notes](#) and [EHC 2923, version 5: Export cats and dogs to Canada](#).
2. [Start your application](#).

Make sure you examine the latest version of the EHC and guidance notes as they are sometimes updated. The latest versions are on this page.

- Note the 4-digit reference number (in the example above it is 2923), you'll need it to make your application. You should also share this with your vet, so they can review the requirements in advance.

- If there is no EHC in place for the intended destination or no option to ‘start your application’, you should contact Trade.Exports@daera-ni.gov.uk for further advice.
- Applications can be started directly from the DEFRA / APHA - Find an Export Health Certificate page, by clicking ‘Start your application’ or from the [DAERA Pet Export](#) page:



- This will take you to the DECS message board where you will see further important information about the system:



- Scroll down to the  button to begin your application.

Making your application:

- Remember to use the **green** 'Save and Continue' buttons to progress through the application.
- Screen 1: **What are the exporter details?** – as the pet owner you are considered to be the exporter and should enter **your** details (business name / email / phone number) here:

What are the exporter details?

Requesting Exporter Name
Enter your business name

Email Address
Where appropriate, please enter a generic business email address, instead of a personal email address linked to your business.

Confirm your email address by entering it again

Phone Number

[Save and continue](#)

NB: The email address you provide as the exporter is important as you will receive a confirmation email containing a link that will allow you to make changes and updates to your application if required. This email address will also be the one used by DAERA to contact you should there be any queries about your application. Also note that in respect of the Requesting Exporter Name field, if you don't have a business then you should use your personal name. For pet exports your personal name will usually be applicable.

- Screen 2: **What type of application is this?** – for new applications you should select 'New Export Health Certificate':

What type of application is this?

New Export Health Certificate

Replacement Export Health Certificate

[Save and continue](#)

- If you have completed an application and received a signed Export Health Certificate but your export details (e.g. dates / flight numbers) change before

the export takes place, you will need to apply for a Replacement Certificate. You should contact the **DAERA Direct Armagh Office** which processed your original application for advice.

- Screen 3: **What are the details of the consignment?** This is where you provide information on the planned export. You will select from options on drop down lists for commodity, country and processing office. You'll need the 4-digit reference number from the DEFRA / APHA - Find an Export Health Certificate webpage you visited previously.

What are the details of the consignment?

What commodity are you exporting?

What country are you exporting to?

Processing office

Certificate Form

Product details

[▶ Help with product details](#)

Exporter reference (optional)
 Include a reference to help identify your consignment

- Screen 4: **Should your application be processed by an authorised veterinary practice?**
 Select 'Yes' - EHCs for pets are certified by authorised veterinary practices rather than DAERA vets:

Should your application be processed by an authorised veterinary practice?

No
 Yes

Which authorised veterinary practice will process your application?

[▶ I can't find the authorised veterinary practice in the list](#)

You should enter your authorised veterinary practice name and select your veterinary practice from the list. If your veterinary practice is not listed, you will be asked to provide their details:

▼ [I can't find the authorised veterinary practice in the list](#)

If the authorised veterinary practice is not in the list then enter the details of it below

Authorised veterinary practice name

Email

Phone (optional)

Address Line 1 (optional)

Address Line 2 (optional)

Town / City (optional)

County (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Save and continue

- Screen 5: **What are the dispatch details of the consignment?** – For pets this means the address the pet will be leaving from. You should enter the Northern Ireland premises at which the pet is resident before the planned export, and the date on which the export journey will begin:

What are the dispatch details of the consignment?

Where will the product be dispatched from?

▼ [I can't find the dispatch premises in the list](#)

If the dispatch premises is not in the list then enter the name of it below

When will you load the product onto the transport vehicle at the dispatch premises?
 Enter a date between 27/05/2026 and 08/06/2026.

Day	Month	Year	Time
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	--:-- <input type="text"/>

Save and continue

NB: The EHC is certifying the journey from Northern Ireland to the destination country and must always reflect that the journey began in Northern Ireland.

- Screen 6: **Export Health Certificate Template** – you will be presented with the template for the export journey you have selected. You should add any details you can to the form, including your details as the exporter (e.g. name / address). Please scroll down and across as needed to see and fill in all the relevant boxes. The remainder of the form will be for your vet to complete.

Certificate 2923 - Export cats and dogs to Canada

Complete the Certificate Application form fields below.

**APPLICATION ONLY
NOT TO BE CERTIFIED**



DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT NORTHERN IRELAND
WELSH GOVERNMENT

No:

EXPORT OF PET DOGS*/CATS* FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO CANADA

HEALTH CERTIFICATE

EXPORTING COUNTRY: UNITED KINGDOM

CERTIFYING VETERINARIAN: OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

I. Number and identification of the animal

Identification (including description, tattoo no. or microchip no. as applicable)	Breed	Colour/markings	Date of birth/Age	Sex	Weight

Save and Continue

Ensure you use the **green** 'Save and Continue' button to proceed.

- Screen 7: **Supporting Documents** – some certificates will require you to provide supporting documents such as an import permit or owner's declaration. You can upload them here, but you must also present these to the vet who will be completing the certificate:

Supporting documents

Do you have any other documentation to support your application?

No

Yes

Select files to upload

You can select multiple files to upload simultaneously. Maximum file size: 5MB per file.

Select one or more files...

Save and continue

- Screen 8: **Is there anything else that may be important to let us know?** – you should provide any details that are important to the processing of your application:

Is there anything else that may be important to let us know?

Enter any additional information relating to the application. For example:

- Important information that supports your application
- Details of any essential documents that are not available when you submit your application.

! Provide all necessary information for your application promptly, or it will delay the export certification process.

Additional information (optional)

Snoopy is flying out of Dublin, but I am attending vet on Tuesday. Flight details may change.

[Save and continue](#)

- Screen 9: **Check these details are correct** – this screen provides a summary of your application:

Check that these details are correct

You can change any of the details if they are incorrect.

Exporter details	Name: Test Email: Phone:	Change
Application type	Application type: New	Change
Consignment details	Certificate form: Export cats and dogs to Canada (Ref.2923) Commodity: Live Animal - Private export of Pet dogs, cats, small mammals, avian, exotics Destination country: Canada Product details: Dog - Airedale Terrier Processing office: DAERA Direct Armagh Exporter reference: Snoopy	Change
Dispatch Details	Dispatch premises: Clare House, Belfast BT3 9ED Loading date and time: 28/05/2026 12:30	Change
Authorised veterinary practice	Required: Yes Name: Test - DO NOT USE	Change
Application form	Certificate 2923 - Export cats and dogs to Canada	Change
Supporting documents	1	Change
Additional information	Snoopy is flying out of Dublin, but I am attending vet on Tuesday. Flight details may change.	Change

Details at each section can be amended using the 'Change' function.

- You are also required to read and confirm the statements in relation to the accuracy of the application, and to confirm that you understand that it is your responsibility to ensure you have received an issued EHC before the export takes place:

I, the exporter or agent acting on behalf of the exporter, certify that the information provided in the export application and supporting documentation (where required) is accurate.

I confirm that I have read the requirements for export outlined in the Export Health Certificate and associated Notes for Guidance. To the best of my knowledge, the consignment complies with these requirements.

I understand and accept the following:

- It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure an Export Health Certificate (EHC) has been issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) or the exporter's nominated Authorised Veterinary Practice (AVP) before the consignment leaves Northern Ireland (NI). Submitting an application does not guarantee that an EHC will be issued.
- DAERA takes no responsibility for consignments without certification in place before departure. Veterinary certification cannot be issued after the consignment leaves NI.
- Any EHC issued on behalf of DAERA is provided with the understanding that it may not fully comply with the requirements of the importing country. It is the responsibility of the exporter to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.
- In processing the EHC, DAERA does not verify the content or accuracy of the application.
- DAERA and/or the issuing certifying body will not be held responsible for any losses incurred if the certificate is not accepted by the importing country.
- If there is suspicion or confirmation of disease after certification, DAERA may need to withdraw or cancel the health certificate without notice. DAERA cannot accept liability for any losses in such circumstances.
- DAERA takes data protection, freedom of information, and environmental information issues seriously. Any personal information received will be handled in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2016). Personal information will be processed principally for the purposes for which it was provided. DAERA is also under a duty to protect public funds and may use the information provided for this purpose. A full copy of the DAERA Privacy Statement can be found on the [DAERA website](#).

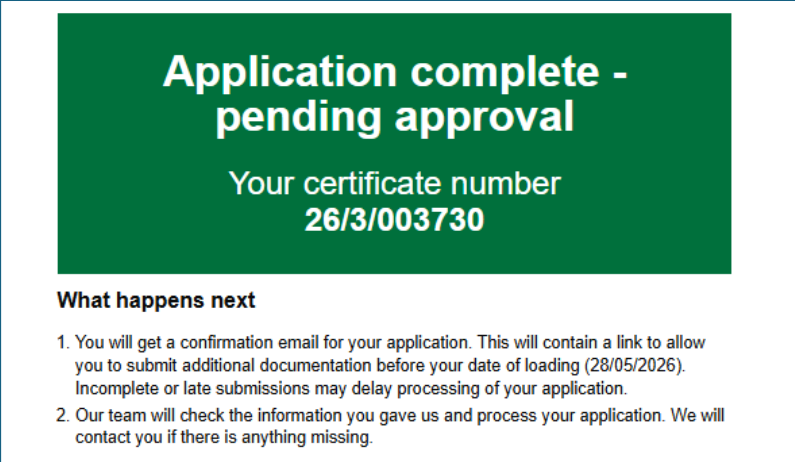
I confirm that I have read and understand the above statements.

[Submit completed application](#)

- You cannot submit your application without confirming you have read and understood the conditions.

Confirmation of your application

- You will receive a certificate number and advice on what happens next:



Application complete - pending approval

Your certificate number
26/3/003730

What happens next

1. You will get a confirmation email for your application. This will contain a link to allow you to submit additional documentation before your date of loading (28/05/2026). Incomplete or late submissions may delay processing of your application.
2. Our team will check the information you gave us and process your application. We will contact you if there is anything missing.

- You should quote this number in any correspondence about your application.
- You will also receive an email to the email address you provided at Screen 1:
What are the exporter details.
- This email contains a link to your application allowing updates to be made to your application, if needed, up to 23.59hrs on the Date of Loading that you entered when making the application.

In you require further advice regarding a pet export:

- check the DAERA [Pets Exports](#) page, or
- contact DAERA Direct Armagh or
- email your query to Trade.Exports@daera-ni.gov.uk