



22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

## Brexit Notice

### Changes to the rules for pet travel (cats, dogs, ferrets) between Ireland and Great Britain after the transition period ends

#### To: Pet owners and the general public

The UK left the European Union on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. A transition period will apply until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, and during this time, EU rules will continue to apply to pet travel between Ireland and the UK.

“Pet” in this information note refers to **dogs, cats and ferrets** travelling with their owner.

After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, rules for pet travel to and from Northern Ireland will not change, as Northern Ireland will continue to be treated as an EU Member State with regard to pet travel.

**Pet owners who are considering travelling from Ireland to GB, and then returning to Ireland, after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 are advised to contact their vet at least three months in advance of their travel date to ensure that their pet has the correct documentation.**

After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, EU rules on pet travel into the EU from non-EU countries will apply to pet travel from Great Britain (GB). It is important for pet owners resident in Ireland to be aware of this, as these rules will apply to a pet returning from GB to Ireland, even if the pet was born and is resident in Ireland, and has an EU pet passport.

The EU assigns each non-EU country into one of three categories. Requirements for entry of a pet from GB into EU countries after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will depend on the category assigned to GB by the European Commission - this category has not yet been decided on.

The requirements for each category are listed below.

#### Basic Requirements

Whatever category is assigned to GB, there are certain **basic requirements** for pet travel into the EU or between EU countries.

Each pet must:

1. be microchipped **before** the rabies vaccination is administered. (Pets may be tattooed instead of microchipped, only if tattoo applied before 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011.);
2. be vaccinated against rabies by a vet;

3. have a valid EU pet identification document (either a pet passport or an EU health cert). An EU pet passport issued by the UK will no longer be valid for travel to the EU (see below). Pet owners are advised to retain any UK-issued EU pet passport, as it may contain important information about vaccinations, treatments, etc.

### **Category 1**

If the UK is assigned to Category 1, there will be one new additional requirement for pet dog owners who have an EU pet passport issued in Ireland, and who are travelling from GB to Ireland, including returning to Ireland after a visit to GB.

Dogs travelling from, or returning from, GB to Ireland will require treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) by a veterinarian 24 to 120 hours (1 to 5 days) before arrival in Ireland.

A pet passport issued by the UK will be valid for pet travel to EU countries if the UK is assigned to this category.

### **Category 2 – “listed” countries**

The basic requirements apply. In addition, if the UK is assigned to Category 2, dogs travelling from, or returning from GB to Ireland will require treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) by a veterinarian 24 to 120 hours (1 to 5 days) before arrival in Ireland.

All pets entering the EU from GB must be accompanied by a health certificate, or by an EU pet passport. If your pet has a valid EU pet passport issued in Ireland, it can be used to travel between Ireland and GB provided the pet meets all other requirements.

If the pet doesn't have an EU pet passport, it must be accompanied into Ireland by a health certificate issued by the UK authorities before each entry into the EU. Pet owners should [contact the UK authorities](#) for information on how to apply for this health certificate.

Pets from Category 2 countries may only enter Ireland through certain Travellers' Points of Entry: Dublin Airport, Rosslare Port, Port of Cork at Ringaskiddy, Shannon Airport and Cork Airport. Dublin Port will be added to this list if the UK is added to Category 2.

Pet owners travelling, or returning, from Category 2 countries into Ireland must give the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) advance notice of the arrival, and arrange a compliance check in advance of entry into Ireland. The compliance check is carried out by a DAFM official at the port of entry, and the health certificate must be endorsed by the official. The health certificate will be valid for:

- 10 days for entry into the EU/Ireland, from the date of issue of the certificate, and
- 4 months for onward travel within the EU, from the date of endorsement of the certificate on entry into the EU. (Please note, the health cert is immediately invalidated if the pet leaves the EU.)

### **Category 3 – “unlisted” countries**

The basic requirements and all the Category 2 requirements apply to Category 3 countries. In addition, pet owners must arrange a rabies antibody titration test (blood test) for their

pet before they travel from GB into Ireland. This also applies to pets that have travelled to GB from Ireland and are returning to Ireland.

**IMPORTANT:** Pet owners resident in Ireland who plan to visit GB and return to Ireland should **arrange the rabies titration test in Ireland before they travel to GB**. If the blood sample for the test is drawn in GB after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, or if the pet has left Ireland after vaccination, before the EU vet has entered the results into the pet passport, the pet must wait three months in GB from the date the blood sample was taken before it may travel to an EU country. **This three month wait is not necessary if the blood sample is drawn and the results entered into the pet passport by a vet in an EU country prior to leaving the EU**. Under EU pet travel rules, an EU pet passport becomes invalid for travel if a vet in a non-EU country enters information about a rabies vaccination or the result of a titration test. (A vet in a non-EU country is permitted to enter details of a treatment against *Echinococcus* given to a dog into the dog's EU pet passport).

The pet must wait **at least 30 days** after the rabies vaccine was administered before the blood test may be carried out. The vet must send the blood sample to an EU-approved blood testing laboratory. Currently, there are no EU-approved rabies serology laboratories in Ireland. The current list of EU-approved laboratories is available at this link: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs_en).

It may take several weeks for the blood test to be processed (for exact processing times, the laboratory should be contacted).

A successful blood test will show a rabies antibody level of **at least 0.5 IU/ml**.

If, following a successful blood test result, the pet's rabies booster vaccinations are kept up to date, the titration test will not have to be repeated.

If the blood test is not successful, a repeat vaccination will be needed and a blood test must be carried out at least 30 days after this repeat vaccination.

The vet must give the pet owner a copy of the test results and record in the pet passport confirmation that the test was carried out and that the result was successful. This must be done **before** the pet leaves Ireland.

*The UK Government has indicated that rules for **entry into GB** with a pet dog, cat or ferret will not change after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. However, it is advised that anyone planning a visit to the UK with their pet consult the UK guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>.*

Further queries may be directed to [livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie).