



Tips for taking your pet abroad

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) is the system that allows cats and dogs to re-enter the UK without quarantine. Since its launch in 2000, over 350,000 pets have already entered England under the scheme. This leaflet offers advice and guidance on making sure you and your pet can travel trouble free.

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Insurance done properly

Before you go

1 Have your pet fitted with a microchip

Before any of the other procedures for PETS are carried out, your pet must be fitted with a microchip so that it can be properly identified.

Where?	Your local veterinary surgery.
Cost?	Approximately £25.
When?	At least seven months before you go.
Remember!	The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recommend you fit an ISO standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO 11785 chip. Ask your vet to make sure that the microchip meets one of these specifications.

2 Have your pet vaccinated

After the microchip has been fitted your pet must be vaccinated against rabies.

Where?	Your local veterinary surgery.
Cost?	Approximately £40.
When?	Approximately seven months before you go.
Remember!	Your pet must be at least three months old before it can be vaccinated and will also need regular boosters at intervals specified by the vaccine manufacturer. Your vet will advise you further.

3 Arrange a blood test

After having your pet vaccinated ask your vet to arrange a blood test. Your vet will advise you on the timing of this.

Where?	Your vet will take a sample of your pet's blood and send it to an EU approved laboratory.
Cost?	Approximately £75.
When?	At least six months before you go.
Remember!	The six-month rule - A pet cannot enter the UK under PETS until six months after the successful blood sample was taken.

4 Get a PETS certificate

Once these steps have been completed, you can get an official PETS certificate from a Government authorised vet. This takes the form of an EU pet passport if you are visiting an EU listed country, or a third country official veterinary certificate for non-EU listed countries.

Where?	Issued by a local veterinary inspector (LVI). Your local veterinary surgery will help you locate one.
Cost?	Approximately £50.
When?	After the successful blood test, at least six months before you go.
Remember!	The certificate to enable your pet to re-enter the UK will become valid six months after the date a successful blood sample was taken. It will be valid until your pet's rabies vaccination booster is due.

5 Buy a Pet Travel policy from Saga

You can add a pet travel policy to your Saga Pet Insurance for £10 per pet, per year. This will give your pet many of the benefits of our 'Super' cover whilst travelling abroad. Cover is also offered for quarantine costs if, for example, your pet's microchip fails; and for repeat tick and worming treatment, if you incur costs because your return to the United Kingdom is delayed by your transport company.

Where?	Saga Pet Insurance 0800 056 5096.
Cost?	£10 extra per pet, per year when you have a Saga Pet Insurance policy.
Remember!	Saga's Pet Travel policy will give your pet many of the benefits of our 'Super' cover whilst travelling abroad.

Where you can go

For an up-to-date list of destinations check the PETS website at www.defra.gov.uk

Remember!

Some of these countries require another separate certificate (known as an Export Health Certificate), to show that your pet meets certain health conditions set out by them. Additional requirements may apply for destinations outside Europe.

How to return to the UK

Only certain transport companies and routes can be used to bring dogs and cats into the UK. All transport companies shown on the PETS website have been given approval to carry dogs and cats. However, it's worth checking with the individual company before booking to ensure they are willing to transport your pet.

For a complete list of approved transport companies please check the PETS website.

Remember!

Your pet will not be allowed to travel without prior booking and may be confined to the car for the entire crossing. You cannot bring a pet into the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme from a private boat or plane.



Re-entering the UK

Your pet must be treated against ticks and tapeworm 24-48 hours before you re-enter the UK.

Where?	The local British Consulate where you are staying can supply a list of vets. The PETS website (www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/index.htm) contains a search engine for finding a vet in France. Your travel company may also be able to help.
Cost?	Frontline spray against parasites approximately £28. Drontal worming tablets approximately £2-£15.
When?	24-48 hours before you re-enter the UK.
Remember!	Any qualified vet can carry out the treatment. The vet must also issue an official certificate showing the date and time that it has been carried out. If you are going abroad on a day trip with your pet, you may have to have this done before you go.

Upon boarding to return to the UK your transport company will check you have:

- Your PETS certificate
- A veterinary certificate to show your pet has been treated against ticks and tapeworms within the last 24-48 hours
- A declaration of residence, stating that your pet has not been outside any of the PETS qualifying countries. You will be able to get the form from the transport company carrying your pet back to the UK.

In the case of air travellers, the checks are carried out at Heathrow and Gatwick.

The PETS website provides a wealth of information about taking your pet abroad. You can visit the PETS website at

**[www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/
quarantine/pets/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/index.htm)**

Insurance cover for your pet

Don't forget, Saga Pet Insurance offers a comprehensive range of pet policies and can extend cover to allow you to take your pet abroad. Pet travel cover costs only £10 per pet, per year.

To find out more, call Saga free on

0800 056 5096

Stating reference MI4701

Note: Saga Pet Insurance covers cats and dogs only.

Remember this is only a quick guide to PETS. Please call the PETS helpline for the official PETS fact sheet, and to:

- Check if your pet will need an Export Health Certificate for the countries you are visiting
- Obtain a list of vets where you are staying that can treat your pet against ticks and tapeworms
- Obtain a Declaration of Residence form, if your transport company is unable to provide one
- Answer any further questions you may have about the Pet Travel Scheme.

PETS helpline: 0870 241 1710

Website:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/index.htm