

PET 'PASSPORT' SCHEME

It is very enjoyable taking your pet on holiday with you, and saves the need for them to go into boarding kennels. For over 10 years, the **Pet Passport Scheme** has been in operation, allowing animals to travel back into Jersey without the need for quarantine. However, from 1st January 2012, some important changes are taking place. Please ensure you read this information carefully, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of our staff.

What do I need to do to travel with my pet?

- Only cats, dogs and ferrets need to obtain Passports.
- The requirements for travel back to Jersey vary depending on where you are travelling from.
 - UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man - **No travel restrictions**
 - EU member states and approved non-EU countries (see list) – **Passport** required
 - Non-approved countries – **Passport** and **blood test** required
- Please check the Defra website for further information and latest details regarding travelling.

How do I obtain a passport?

- Your vet can issue you with a Passport for your pet.
- Passports are **specific** to a single animal. There is a space for a **photograph** of your pet inside.
- The vet will initially insert a **microchip**, and then administer a **rabies vaccination**. The microchip will also be checked with a scanner at this time to make sure it is working correctly. If your pet has already been microchipped, with a microchip which is readable with an authorised scanner, then the microchip does not need to be repeated.
- The **Passport** will normally be issued at this stage (i.e. after the microchip and rabies vaccine have been given.)
- The Passport becomes valid for travel (either away from Jersey, or to Jersey from EU member states and approved non-EU countries) **21 days** after vaccination. Therefore animals cannot legally travel until 3 weeks after the rabies vaccination.
- For animals travelling from Jersey to a non-approved country and back to Jersey or animals travelling to Jersey from a non-approved country, a **blood sample** against rabies be required. This blood sample must be taken **at least 30 days** after your pet was vaccinated, and is sent to an approved laboratory in the UK for analysis and antibody measurement. The results of the blood sample are normally received back to us within a **month**, however during peak periods this may take longer. We will normally issue the Passport **after** we have had confirmation from the UK laboratory that your pet passed the rabies blood test. This is because your vet will need to certify the rabies results in the Passport.
- The Passport will become valid for travel back to Jersey from non-approved countries **3 months** after the blood sample was taken. The rules to travel to other approved countries are not affected during this waiting period.

- Our vaccine provides protection for **three years** from the date of the vaccine, although some other brands are only effective for **one year**. Your passport will only remain valid if you keep up to date with your pet's rabies vaccinations. The date before which your pet must be revaccinated will be recorded in their passport

By what route can I travel?

- There is free movement between the Channel Islands, the UK and the Isle of Man. This means that not only does your pet not need a passport for these journeys, but they can travel with any airline or ferry company, or indeed on a privately owned plane or boat.
- If pets are travelling to Jersey from Ireland, they must hold a valid passport. However, they do not need to use an approved carrier.
- For all other journeys to Jersey, an approved carrier must be used. The only approved sea route to transport animals to Jersey from mainland Europe is the **St. Malo to St Helier Condor** ferry (and only if travelling in a **motor vehicle**). Alternatively, animals can travel by air from EU countries (by special arrangement only) with **Aviation Beauport, PROAIR Aviation, or ACT Consultants**. **No animals** are permitted to travel on the ferry with **foot passengers**, nor may they enter Jersey from the continent on **private boats or planes**.

Does my pet need to be seen before travelling back to Jersey?

- From 1st January 2012, the rules controlling whether animals need to be seen prior to travel back to Jersey are changing significantly. **Cats and ferrets** are no longer required to be seen prior to travelling back to Jersey from the UK or abroad.
- Dogs travelling to or from the **UK, Channel Islands, Ireland, Finland or Malta** also do not need to be seen before they travel, as these countries have the same health status as Jersey.
- Dogs travelling back to Jersey from elsewhere abroad must see a vet, who will apply a **tapeworm treatment** before the animal is allowed to enter Jersey. This must be carried out by a vet, rather than by yourself, and must be given between 1 and 5 days (24 to 120 hours) before the **scheduled arrival time** in Jersey. The authorized wormer used must be certified (date and time) in your passport. To try and help, we are able to provide you with details of several Veterinary Practices in the St. Malo area whom are very conversant with the scheme.
- In addition to the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme, some countries outside of the EU have **additional entry requirements** which may require extra tests before you can travel. If you intend to travel outside of the EU we strongly advise you contact the local 'Rural & Veterinary Affairs Department' (now part of Public Services Department – Tel: 441600), and possibly the '**Embassy**' of the country to be visited, in order to establish their specific requirements.
- Also, some airlines request a '**fitness to travel**' certificate, which will require your pet to be examined by a vet. If you are intending to travel by air, please ask your airline if this is required.

Are there any risks to taking my pet abroad?

- From 1st January 2012, the tick requirements for pets entering Jersey have been relaxed. However, this does not mean that taking your pet abroad is entirely without risk.
- There are a number of life-threatening illnesses present in the UK and France, but not yet present in Jersey, that can be contracted after exposure to slugs and snails, ticks, mosquitoes or sand-flies. Some dogs die shortly after their return home, having contracted one of these illnesses abroad, whilst other animals don't show any symptoms until some years after exposure.
- Preventative medicines which protect your pet against these fatal diseases are widely available. Whilst these are not a legal requirement, we strongly advise their use.
- Discuss the use of these products with your vet to ensure your pet is protected.

What happens if I do not comply with the regulations?

- The requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme are legal requirement beyond our control, and absolutely **no leeway** will be granted by the regulating authorities.
- If the rabies vaccine becomes **overdue**, even by a single day, the passport will no longer be valid for travel, and your pet may not be allowed back into Jersey from abroad. Although we will do our utmost to ensure that you are reminded that your pet's Rabies Booster will be due before the appropriate date, it is legally **your responsibility** to ensure that the vaccine is administered before the expiry date, and we will accept no responsibility for your failure to do so.
- It is also your responsibility to ensure your pet's **microchip** is in place and functioning correctly, and that your **passport** is appropriately completed. For your reassurance, we recommend that you visit us shortly before your departure in order that your pet's microchip is working well, and that the passport is valid.
- Travel documents may be checked either before travel or at disembarkation. Failure to comply with the precise details of the Pet Travel Scheme may therefore either prevent your pet from travelling, or from being allowed to leave the port. Pets which try and enter illegally will either be held in quarantine until they are legally compliant, or re-exported out of the Island. Please check your passport is valid **before** trying to travel.

We hope that this information sheet has been helpful to you, but please do not hesitate to ask one of our staff for further information or clarification if you so require.

Summary of Countries included in the Pet Travel Scheme

EU Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

Approved non-EU countries

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Ascension Island, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Bermuda, BES Islands (Bonair, Saint Eustatius and Saba), Bosnia-Herzegovina, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Croatia, Curacao, Falkland Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mexico, Monaco, Montserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Maarten, San Marino, Singapore, St Helena, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, USA (mainland), Vanuatu, Vatican, Wallis and Futuna.