



## DEFRA Pet Travel Scheme

July 6, 2015

Domesticated dogs, cats and ferrets can now enter the UK from [listed EU and non-EU countries](#) without quarantine as long as they meet the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Pet Travel Scheme. Dogs, cats and ferrets that qualify under PETS may also travel within the EU, leave the UK and return without quarantine.

To enter the UK, pets must fly as manifested air cargo under the DEFRA regulations. They cannot fly in the cabin. They must also enter the UK through specific routes, and the shipping must be handled by approved pet shippers.

### PETS Entry Steps: Listed Countries

In general, the steps from the UK or from an approved or [listed country](#) are:

1. Arrange for your pet to travel with an approved pet transport company through an authorized route. Professional pet shippers which meet strict eligibility requirements are listed on the International Pet & Animal Transportation Association website, IPATA.org.
2. Pet must be at least 12 weeks old
3. Microchip the pet for identification purposes.
4. Rabies vaccinate the pet with an approved vaccine after microchipping, recording the microchip number on the Rabies vaccination certificate. **Please note:** Pets previously vaccinated against Rabies without prior microchip identification must be re-vaccinated.
5. Wait at least 21 days before entry.
6. Visit an accredited veterinarian within 10 days of flight departure who will issue the international health certificate or EU passport for EU residents
7. Dogs must be treated for internal parasites within 24-120 hours before flight arrival in the UK. **Please note:** There are many anti-tapeworm drugs on the market. Praziquantel is the only drug approved for use meeting DEFRA requirements. External parasite treatment is not required for dogs, cats or ferrets.
8. A full listing of the rules and regulations for the country of origin, including model vaccination certificates and forms, is on the DEFRA website: [www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners#countries-and-territories](http://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners#countries-and-territories).

## **PETS Entry Steps: Unlisted Countries**

1. Arrange for your pet to travel with an approved pet transport company through an authorized route. Professional pet shippers which meet strict eligibility requirements are listed on the International Pet & Animal Transportation Association website, IPATA.org.
2. Pet must be at least 12 weeks old
3. Microchip the pet for identification purposes.
4. Rabies vaccinate the pet with an approved vaccine after microchipping, recording the microchip number on the Rabies vaccination certificate. **Please note:** Pets previously vaccinated against Rabies without prior microchip identification must be re-vaccinated.
5. A blood test 30 days after vaccination
6. Wait three-months before entry into the UK.
7. Visit an accredited veterinarian within 10 days of flight departure who will issue the international health certificate
8. Dogs must be treated for internal parasites within 24-120 hours before flight arrival in the UK. **Please note:** There are many anti-tapeworm drugs on the market. Praziquantel is the only drug approved for use meeting DEFRA requirements. External parasite treatment is not required for dogs, cats or ferrets.
9. A full listing of the rules and regulations for the country of origin, including model vaccination certificates and forms, is on the DEFRA website: [www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners#countries-and-territories](http://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners#countries-and-territories).

In addition to the normal UK protocol, we recommend dogs receive a flu vaccine before traveling because the canine flu is rampant and can be fatal.

Pet shippers offer service levels which handle the paperwork, rules and regulations reducing stress for pet owners and animals. You don't want to find yourself in a situation like actor Johnny Depp. His illegally imported Yorkies were threatened with extermination unless they left Australia. Professional pet shippers know which airline to use for pet air cargo flights. They are familiar with each airline's conditions for accepting pets, seasonal weather restrictions and they stay current on the ever-changing pet import rules around the globe. While moving a pet internationally is not low cost, it is high benefit. Using an expert pet shipper reduces expensive delays and unplanned quarantines. Many countries outside the UK and EU have very detailed regulations which can take six months.

Contact the DEFRA hotline below for guidance on special circumstances such as:

- Traveling with an [assistance or guide dog](#)
- Traveling with [more than five pets](#)
- Importing animals for [sale or re-homing](#)
- Pets [traveling without owners](#) on the flight

Pet relocation costs for U.S. citizens moving for work may be eligible for an income tax deduction. For details, see U.S. IRS Publication #521–Moving Expenses.

**DEFRA PETS Helpline**

**Phone** 0370 241 1710

*Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (closed on bank holidays).*

**Email** [pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

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**About Air Animal Pet Movers**

*Dr. Walter Woolf is the founder and chairman of Air Animal Inc. dba Air Animal Pet Movers, of Tampa, Fla. Air Animal moves thousands of pets each year for relocating families around the globe. Recent relocations included a quarter horse, a turtle and several guinea pigs in addition to dogs and cats. Air Animal Inc. is one of six founding members of IPATA. Dr. Woolf was honored with IPATA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. See [airanimal.com](http://airanimal.com) for more information about moving an animal into the UK or other countries.*