Express Travel Pet
Pet transport, UK and Europe

+44 7300 019554
expresstravelpet@gmail.com
expresstravelpet.co.uk

TRAVEL RULES

Pet travel rules

What your pet needs to leave the UK, to enter the EU and to come home, in the order to do it. Updated 30 September 2026.

Taking a pet from Great Britain to the EU

This page summarises the rules as they stand today. They change from time to time, so confirm every detail with your vet before you travel.

- Microchip fitted before, or on the same day as, the rabies vaccination.
- Rabies vaccination at 12 weeks of age or older, and at least 21 days before travel.
- An Animal Health Certificate issued by an Official Veterinarian within 10 days of arriving in the EU. Since 22 April 2026 GB residents cannot use EU pet passports to enter the EU.
- No more than five pets per vehicle for non-commercial travel.

Bringing a dog into Great Britain

- Tapeworm treatment given by a vet 24 to 120 hours before arrival, recorded in the documents.
- Dogs that are being sold or rehomed, or that travel more than five days apart from their owner, count as commercial moves and need a health certificate and advance notification.

We keep this page under review and update it whenever the rules change.

The order to do it

1. **Microchip**
   Fitted before, or on the same day as, the rabies vaccination. A chip fitted afterwards means vaccinating again.

2. **Rabies vaccination**
   At 12 weeks of age or older, and kept in date. Note the date: the next steps count from it.

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3 **Wait 21 days**
Your pet may travel 21 days after the primary rabies vaccination, not before.

4 **Animal Health Certificate**
Issued by an Official Veterinarian in the 10 days before you leave. An EU pet passport counts only if it was issued in an EU country to someone who lives there.

5 **Tapeworm treatment, dogs coming into Great Britain**
Given by a vet 24 to 120 hours before arrival and recorded in the documents.

Country by country

What each country we drive to asks of a pet travelling from the UK. Countries that ask for the same things are listed together.

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland

- A microchip, fitted before the rabies vaccination.
- A rabies vaccination at least 21 days before travel, kept in date.
- An Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued by an official vet in the 10 days before departure. An EU pet passport counts only if it was issued in the EU to someone who lives there.

Ireland

- A microchip, fitted before the rabies vaccination.
- A rabies vaccination at least 21 days before travel, kept in date.
- An Animal Health Certificate (AHC) issued by an official vet in the 10 days before departure. An EU pet passport counts only if it was issued in the EU to someone who lives there.
- For dogs, a tapeworm treatment given by a vet 24 to 120 hours before arrival.

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Questions owners ask

What documents does my pet need to travel from the UK to the EU?

Your pet needs a microchip, a rabies vaccination given at least 21 days before travel (the pet must be at least 12 weeks old when vaccinated), and an Animal Health Certificate issued by an Official Veterinarian no more than 10 days before you arrive in the EU. Dogs entering some countries also need a tapeworm treatment recorded by a vet. We check every document before we leave and tell you exactly when each vet appointment needs to happen.

Can my pet travel on an EU pet passport?

Since 22 April 2026, EU pet passports issued to people living in Great Britain are no longer accepted for entering the EU. GB residents need an Animal Health Certificate for each trip. Passports issued to residents of an EU country are still valid. Rules change, so we confirm the current requirements with your vet before every journey.

What is the tapeworm rule for dogs coming into Great Britain?

A vet must treat your dog against tapeworm (praziquantel) between 24 and 120 hours before arriving in Great Britain and record it in the pet's documents. We plan the treatment window around the departure time and remind you the day before.

Rules change from time to time. Check the details with your vet before you travel, and the current rules at gov.uk/take-pet-abroad. For anything about your own journey, call us on +44 7300 019554 or write to expresstravelpet@gmail.com.