



22nd December 2021

Changes to the rules for pet travel (cats, dogs, ferrets) between Ireland and Great Britain in 2021

To: Private Veterinary Practitioners

“Pet” in this information note refers to **dogs, cats and ferrets** travelling with their owner. From 1st January 2021, rules for pet travel between Ireland and Great Britain (GB) have changed. The rules for travel to and from Northern Ireland have not changed.

Pet Travel from GB to Ireland

The change in rules will mainly affect pet travel from GB to Ireland, **including** pets returning to Ireland from GB, even if the pet was born and is resident in Ireland and has an EU pet passport.

Each pet currently travelling from GB to Ireland:

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

From 1st January 2021, in addition to the above requirements, each pet travelling, or returning, from GB to Ireland:

1. may only enter Ireland through designated Travellers’ Points of Entry: Dublin Airport, Rosslare Port, Port of Cork at Ringaskiddy, Shannon Airport and Cork Airport, and Dublin Port.
2. must travel with either a health certificate issued by a UK official vet or an EU pet passport. EU pet passports issued by Northern Ireland will remain valid if they have been issued with a sticker by the issuing vet in Northern Ireland. If required, contact your local issuing vet in Northern Ireland. An EU pet passport that was issued in GB will **not** be valid for travel to the EU, even if it was issued before January 2021. Pet owners are advised to retain any GB-issued EU pet passport, as it may contain important information about vaccinations, treatments, etc. This passport and animal health certificate should accompany the pet during travel from GB to Ireland.
3. 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. If travelling with a passport issued in Ireland, this treatment may be entered into the pet passport by a UK vet.



If the pet does not have an EU pet passport, the pet must be accompanied into Ireland by a health certificate issued by the UK authorities. A health certificate is required before each entry into the EU. Pet owners should contact the UK authorities for information on how to apply for this health certificate.

Pet Travel from Ireland to GB

The UK Government has indicated that rules for entry from the EU into GB with a pet dog, cat or ferret have not changed after 1st January 2021. However, it is advised that anyone planning a visit to GB with their pet should consult in advance the UK guidance: [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/bringing-your-pet-dog-cat-or-ferret-to-great-britain)

Questions may be emailed to livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie

Frequently Asked Questions from Vets

1. Can I transfer details of a previous rabies vaccination from a GB-issued Pet Passport or Health Certificate into a Pet Passport issued in Ireland?

The identity of the pet must be confirmed, by scanning and reading the microchip number of the animal and matching these details to the microchip number and corresponding details in the GB-issued pet passport, or health certificate.

PVPs reading a microchip for the purposes of issuing a pet passport should not issue the passport without confirming that current ownership is registered on an approved Irish database. This obligation includes GB pets who have travelled to Ireland on a valid EU Health Certificate and who are requesting an Irish pet passport. The microchip must be registered on one of the authorised databases.

Details from the GB-issued pet passport or health certificate (e.g., rabies vaccination dates and batch numbers) may be transferred to the new pet passport issued in Ireland. In such cases, the veterinary practitioner should make a note next to the details to clarify that these were copied from a previous document, e.g., “*copied from UK pet passport no. GB123456789”. The pet owner should be advised to retain both passports and keep them together. The veterinary practitioner should make photocopies for their own records. The same rules apply for a pet that enters with a health certificate that has been correctly endorsed (checked, signed and stamped by an official) on entry into Ireland.

Many people will have an address in Ireland that can be entered into the pet passport. If a person does not have an Irish address, it is acceptable to put a UK or other address into an EU pet passport, provided the dog is correctly identified and the pet passport is correctly issued. Instructions for completing an EU pet passport can be found at [gov.ie - Pet Travel \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/pet-travel).



2. Will there be any new procedures to follow when issuing pet passports?

No, veterinary practitioners in Ireland may continue to issue pet passports in the usual manner.

Pet owners wishing to travel to the UK with their pet should be advised to clarify with the UK authorities requirements for entry into the UK [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/visiting/bringing-your-pet-dog-cat-or-ferret-to-great-britain)

Pet owners intending to return to Ireland from GB with their pet should be advised to be aware of the new requirements from 1st January 2021. Details are available via this link: [gov.ie - Brexit - Movement of Pets \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/news/2020/12/gov-uk-brexit-movement-of-pets).



Frequently Asked Questions from Pet Owners

1. Is my UK pet passport still valid to move my pet into an EU Member State from 1st January 2021?

Pet passports issued in Great Britain, even if it was issued before January 2021, will no longer be valid for movements into the EU. If the pet does not have a pet passport issued by an EU Member State or Northern Ireland (if required please contact your local vet in Northern Ireland about getting a sticker for the front of your pet passport), a health certificate will be needed to enter the EU. Passports issued in GB should be retained by pet owners as these may contain important information in relation to vaccinations and treatments administered. This passport and animal health certificate should accompany the pet during travel from GB to Ireland.

2. I will be travelling to the UK with my pets (cats, dogs, ferrets). Will there be any difference in the rules?

The UK Government has indicated that pets will be allowed to enter the UK from the EU under current rules (EU pet passport; microchip; rabies vaccination) but you should check that this advice remains valid: [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/bringing-your-pet-dog-cat-or-ferret-to-great-britain)

3. I am travelling to the UK for Christmas with my pet, and returning to Ireland on or after January 1st 2021. Do the new rules apply to me?

The UK Government has indicated that pets will be allowed to enter the UK from the EU under current rules (EU pet passport; microchip; rabies vaccination) but you should check that this advice remains valid: [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/bringing-your-pet-dog-cat-or-ferret-to-great-britain)

After January 1st, 2021, when returning from GB to Ireland, pets will have to comply with the requirements outlined above, even if the pet was born and is resident in Ireland and has an EU pet passport. **The main change is that the pet owner will have to visit a veterinary practitioner in GB to have their dog treated against *Echinococcus multilocularis* (tapeworm) before re-entering Ireland and provide advance notification to the point of entry into Ireland.** These tapeworm treatment details must be recorded in the EU pet passport by the veterinary practitioner in GB.

The most recent updates on guidance for travel from GB to Ireland are available at this link: [gov.ie - Brexit - Movement of Pets \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie/en/news/2020-12-23-brexit-movement-of-pets).

Rules for travel to or from Northern Ireland will not change, but you should contact your local vet about getting a sticker for your NI issued pet passport if required.



4. I visit the UK with my pet several times a year, will Brexit affect me?

The UK Government has indicated that rules for entry into GB with a pet dog, cat or ferret will not change after 1st January 2021. However, it is advised that anyone planning a visit to the UK with their pet should consult the UK guidance: [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/bringing-your-pet-dog-cat-or-ferret-to-great-britain)

The pet will have to comply with the requirements outlined above each time the pet travels to Ireland from GB.

Rules for travel to or from Northern Ireland have not changed.

5. I frequently travel with my pet between Ireland, GB and France. How can I prepare for travelling from 1st January 2021?

The UK Government has indicated that rules for entry into GB from the EU with a pet dog, cat or ferret will not change after 1st January 2021. However, it is advised that anyone planning a visit to the UK with their pet should consult the UK guidance: [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/bringing-your-pet-dog-cat-or-ferret-to-great-britain)

To enter the EU from GB after 1st January 2021, the pet owner should be advised that their pet will have to comply with the requirements outlined above even if their pet was born and is resident in Ireland, and has an EU pet passport.

For guidance on visiting France, please consult the guidelines of the French government: [Travel: coming to France with your pet | Portail de la Direction Générale des Douanes et Droits Indirects](https://www.douanes.gouv.fr/fr/actualites/actualites-2020/2020-12-16-actualite-14444)

6. Where can I enter Ireland with my pet when travelling from GB in 2021?

Pets may only enter Ireland through designated Travellers' Points of Entry: Dublin Airport, Rosslare Port, Port of Cork at Ringaskiddy, Shannon Airport and Cork Airport and Dublin Port.