



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Pet Passports - Information for PVP's

November 2020

1. Legal Obligations

(PET PASSPORT (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 2014 - (S.I. No. 602 of 2014))

Private veterinary practitioners are authorised by the Minister to issue pet passports in Ireland.

A veterinary practitioner-

- (a) shall store blank pet passports in a secure manner and in accordance with the directions (if any) of an authorised officer,
- (b) shall not sell or supply a blank or incomplete pet passport,
- (c) shall maintain an accurate record for at least five years of the pet passports issued by him or her in a form (if any) as the Minister may require, and
- (d) shall make such returns to the Minister as the Minister may require.

Records must indicate: -

- the pet's species; breed; sex and colour
- the microchip number, its location and date of application/date of reading (**see over for important information on microchip**)
- name and contact information of the pet owner

Completing the Pet Passport:

PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE PASSPORT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

Note in particular:

Section I. Details of ownership: passport must be signed by the owner of the dog/cat.

Section III. Marking of animal: must be laminated after completion with the laminate page provided within the passport. If stickers are used elsewhere on the passport, they too must be laminated (use the spare laminate page for this). Date of application or reading of microchip number should be **BEFORE** or **the same day** as the rabies vaccine administration (provided the microchip was applied/read first).

Section V. Vaccination against rabies: Rabies vaccination dates must be inserted in all three columns (1, 2 & 3) in the centre of the page.

Date of vaccination at No 1.

Date vaccine is valid for travel from, at no 2; if a primary vaccination, this must be **at least** 21 days later but should reflect whatever the data sheet for the vaccination used advises, e.g. if the datasheet states "Immunity has been demonstrated from 30 days after primary vaccination" then you should put in a date 30 days later (day of vaccination counts as day 0, e.g. if pet vaccinated on the 1st of the month the earliest it can travel is the 22nd but may be longer depending on the datasheet for the vaccination used) or if it is a booster vaccination administered within the period of validity of the previous valid rabies vaccine, this date is the same as the date administered.

Date vaccine is valid until as per manufacturers' instructions at No 3. Vets name, address, telephone number and signature must be entered in the Authorised veterinarian column.

Section VII. Anti-Echinococcus treatment: this is not required for travel out of Ireland but is required for animals entering Ireland from countries not listed as free from Echinococcus.

Section X. Clinical Examination: (must be completed by PVP when movement is for **trade** purposes only) for **commercial** movement: Certification that the 'animal shows no signs of diseases' during a clinical examination is required. 'No signs of diseases' should be taken as meaning no outward or a clinical sign of disease and no further testing (e.g. serology) is required. 'Fitness to be transported for the intended journey' should take account of the actual journey proposed i.e. whether the animal is destined for Britain or further afield.

Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015

As from 31 March 2016, all dogs must be identified by a microchip and details of current ownership must be registered on one of the authorised databases- Animark, Fido, The Irish Coursing Club or The Irish Kennel Club.

Accordingly, PVPs inserting a microchip or 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.

Failure to comply with the foregoing may result in withdrawal of approval to issue passports.

2. Non- Commercial (Pet) Travel

Cats, dogs or ferrets to other Member States of the EU.

Persons travelling on holiday or to permanently locate their residence (or other non-commercial movement where there is no sale or change of ownership involved) from Ireland to another EU Member States may bring their pet cat, dog, or ferret with them provided the following conditions are met:

- The pet must be identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785); **Inserted before rabies vaccination is administered.**
- The animal must be accompanied by an EU Pet Passport in respect of the animal which demonstrates that the animal is currently immunised against rabies; Pet animals cannot travel to another Member State until at least 21 days after their primary rabies vaccination; 12 weeks of age is the minimum age at which primary rabies vaccination can be administered for the purposes of EU pet travel.
- Only up to 5 animals per person can travel as pets. A derogation to this 5 animal rule exists if the owner can show proof that the animals are being brought to compete in a sporting

event or other competition or training for such events. All other travel rules still apply. Please contact livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie with enquiries about this derogation.

- The owner, or a person delegated in writing by the owner to act on his/her behalf and travelling within 5 days of the owner, must **accompany** the pet during travel.

3. Commercial movements (i.e. sale or any change of ownership) of all dogs, cats and ferrets

Exports of dogs, cats or ferrets to other Member States

Persons wishing to trade dogs, cats or ferrets to other EU Member States must register the premises on which the animals are born and/or reared (from which they are being exported) with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Pet animals of these species may only be traded from registered premises. Please contact livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie for details if required.

They must also ensure that each animal (including each pup/kitten) is

1. identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785) and is
 2. accompanied by an EU Pet Passport* **showing a record of**
 - a. Microchip identification of the animal, including date of insertion or reading (which must precede date of vaccination);
 - b. Proof of immunization against rabies. Animals must be a minimum of 12 weeks old before a rabies vaccine can be administered. The animal is only allowed to travel from 21 days after **primary** vaccination, so in fact pups must be a minimum of 15 weeks of age before they are eligible to travel between Member States of the EU;
 - c. Certification in Section X of the EU pet passport that the animal underwent a clinical veterinary examination within 48 hours of departure, to confirm that the animal shows no signs of diseases and is fit to be transported for the intended journey.
 - d. Details of veterinary treatments (anti-echinococcus treatment, other anti-parasite treatments and other vaccinations) administered as required.
- Ensure that each consignment is accompanied by an official veterinary health ('Balai') certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine within 48 hours of scheduled departure time. (Balai health certificates available from local offices of DAFM, contact details here <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/contact/regionalveterinaryoffices/>).
 - Ensure that animals have access to food and water for the duration of the journey. Detailed guidelines on the welfare of these animals during transport are included in a document on the DAFM website at the following link: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/> .
 - Ensure that animals are consigned out of the country by an approved Type 2 transporter only. For list of type 2 transporters see <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/> .

When issuing a pet passport it is advisable to inform the owners that in addition to ensuring they have made the correct preparations to leave Ireland, that they also have made the correct preparations to get back into Ireland. This is especially important if the animal will be visiting a country from which a rabies antibody titration test is required for entry into Ireland.

Further information may be obtained by contacting: livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie .

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