

Pet cats, dogs, and ferrets: To the EU and Northern Ireland (NI)

There are major changes to the NON-COMMERCIAL movement of cats, dogs and ferrets; we used to refer to this as the “Pet Travel Scheme”, PETS, and the documents as “PET passports”.

Non-commercial trade means not for profit or payment, and only permits 5 or less animals per trip – *with their owner*.

Please note that the EU PETS scheme itself has NOT finished – the IOM, Jersey Guernsey and GREAT BRITAIN (England Scotland Wales) are now outside the EU and can't participate. NI is a special case: see later.

PETS and pet passports

As far as travel FROM the IOM to the EU and NI with our Manx pet passport is concerned – this avenue is now closed.

The same applies FROM GB to the EU.

While Manx and old UK PET passports will be accepted for pets RETURNING to the IOM and GB in the first few months, as owners return from winter homes perhaps, IOM (and GB) PET passports will NOT be accepted as a travel document from IOM to EU **and NI** from 01.01.21.

The only use for an old IOM PET passport is to provide the evidence of rabies vaccinations – so it should not be destroyed.

PET passports issued in the EU and NI

Pet passports will continue to be issued in the Republic of Ireland, NI and other EU countries. These documents will be accepted at Travellers' Points of Entry (TPEs) for movement into the EU.

Please note: the TPEs are few in number, owners are advised:

- to check the individual country's website for definitive lists
- to enquire of the TPE - well in advance - whether the individual country requires pre-notification of arrival to organise import checks

New Document: Animal Health Certificate AHC

Instead of the UK Pet passport, a veterinary certificate (AHC) will be required for each single visit to the EU. The document will remain valid for the return journey up to four months after the date of issue.

Every AHC will be prepared by DEFA, and supplied direct to local Official Veterinarians (OV). Your local practice will have an OV who will advise you on all aspects of this process.

Entry into GB

Manx pets will continue to have free movement into GB.

Because we have free movement, pets entering either GB or IOM from the EU must have one of the following:

- an EU pet passport
- a UK Pet passport (issued in the UK before 1 January 2021) - **final return journey only**
- the AHC issued in Great Britain or Isle of Man previously used for outward travel to the EU (for up to 4 months after it was issued)
- a UK/Manx pet health certificate (for travel into IOM/GB only)

Northern Ireland and EU

EU Pet passports issued in NI will remain valid for movements to the EU, while UK Pet passports issued in GB (so all other UK Pet passports) will NOT be valid for movements to either the EU or NI.

It follows, and has been confirmed, that movements of pets to NI from GB and all the Crown Dependencies (inc IOM) must meet the same standards as a move to the EU.

- You must have your dog, cat or ferret microchipped.
- Vaccinate your dog, cat or ferret against rabies – your pet must be at least 12 weeks old before it can be vaccinated.
- Wait 21 days after the primary vaccination before travel.
- Visit your vet to get an AHC for your pet, no more than 10 days before travel to the EU.

Please visit your local OV well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Further information:

For the Republic

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets/>

For GB

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-from-1-january-2021>

For NI

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/travelling-pets>