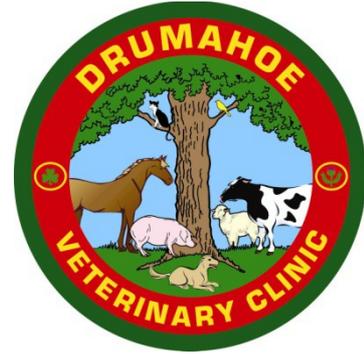


## Pet Passport Scheme

The Pet Passport Scheme is designed to protect human health and prevent introduction of rabies virus and other specific diseases back into the UK. It allows you to travel to almost every country in the world with your pet, as long as you follow the legislation.



Most animals will be eligible to travel, as long as they meet the following criteria:

1. Microchipped with official ISO microchip **BEFORE** receiving the rabies vaccination
2. Vaccinated against rabies – animal must be at least 12 weeks old and must wait 3 weeks after this before able to travel (unless it is the repeat rabies booster vaccination in which can travel immediately)
3. Over 15 weeks old at time of travel
4. Treated for tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours **BEFORE RE-ENTRY** into the UK. This must be done by a certified vet and recorded in the passport. This does not apply if returning to the UK from Finland, Ireland, Malta or Norway. This does apply to cats.
5. On return to the UK you must travel on an approved route using an approved transport company. This does not apply on travel between UK and ROI (other rules still apply though).

**Failure to comply with the legislation can result in your pet being quarantined for several months.** You will be responsible for any fees incurred.

### How to apply:

Your vet will send off an application form that requires your personal details as well as your pet's details. Once your application has been approved we will receive the passport and can start the rabies vaccination process.

**\*\*\* Please advise your vet of the specific country or countries that your pet will be travelling to, as there are different rules that apply depending on the country. \*\*\***

### How long does the process take?:

- Initial application: please allow at least 6 weeks before date of travel from initial application for your vet to fill out the necessary paperwork and then carry out the rabies vaccination protocol.
- If you already have an up-to-date Pet Passport then your pet can travel from the date of the booster rabies vaccination, PROVIDED that this booster vaccination was given on or before the 'valid until' date of the previous rabies vaccine.

### Other treatments:

Your pet should be up to date with their **routine yearly vaccinations** before travelling. We also advise **tick treatment** due to the risk of tick-borne diseases that are not found in the UK. Depending on the country of travel, heartworm treatment may be advisable too.

**Booster rabies vaccinations:**

These are required for the rabies vaccination every 3 years. PLEASE NOTE THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES (eg. Spain) REQUIRE YEARLY RABIES RE-VACCINATION, so please contact your vet in ample time to discuss specific requirements.

**Travel to non-EU or non-listed countries:**

If your pet is returning to the UK from a non-EU or non-listed third country then a blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after rabies vaccination to ensure adequate levels of protection. The result of a successful blood test must be recorded in the Pet Passport. There is a waiting period of 3 months after the blood test before your pet can travel.

**Owner Responsibility:**

The owner must take the responsibility to inform their vet of the need for a Pet Passport at least 6 weeks before the travel date. Furthermore, please let your vet know the exact countries that your pet will travel to as well as the duration of your stay to ensure we follow all legislation accordingly.

The owner must check that the route and transport company are approved for transport.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview> for more details on pet travel within the Pet Passport travel scheme.