What Pet Owners Need To Know
In Preparation of Brexit

Pet owners who are planning to travel from or through the UK this year should prepare in light of Brexit discussions, advises the International Pet and Animal Transportation Association, the worldwide non-profit association dedicated to the care and welfare of pets and animals during transport.

The United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union on March 29, 2019. The UK Government is actively working to solidify a deal with the EU. Discussions are still progressing and what will happen still remains uncertain. Even in a “no-deal Brexit” situation, pets will continue to be able to travel from the UK to the EU, but the current requirements may change. Pet owners therefore need to be aware that if there is a no-deal Brexit, they will need to make preparations four months in advance if they wish to take their dog, cat or ferret to the European Union (EU) from the UK.

After March 29, 2019:

If there is a “no-deal” – meaning the UK is not granted third country status – pet owners going into the EU from the UK will need to take the following steps to make sure pets can travel after March 29:

- Begin preparations with their veterinarian at least four months in advance of their travel date.
- Research the new instructions made by the UK Government. Check this website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit
- You must get your dog, cat or ferret microchipped and then vaccinated against rabies before it can travel.
- Your pet must have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination. You’ll need to talk to your vet about whether you need a rabies vaccination or booster before this test.
- Your vet must send the blood sample to an EU-approved blood testing laboratory.
- The results of the blood test must show that the vaccination was successful (Your pet must have a rabies antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml).
- You must then wait 3 months from the date the successful blood sample was taken before your pet can travel to the EU from the UK.
- You must take your pet to an Official Veterinarian (OV), no more than 10 days before travel to get a health certificate.
Please note: If there’s no deal, EU pet passports issued in the UK would not be valid for travel to or from the EU.

The regulations for pets arriving into the UK from anywhere, are not changing. Currently depending upon the origin, anyone traveling to the UK must have their pet vaccinated for rabies and wait at least 21 days before traveling. Animals traveling from some countries will also require the rabies titer test and 3 months wait before import into the UK. Dogs must be treated for tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before arrival in the UK. The regulations for exporting pets from the UK to anywhere other than the EU, will not change, although some of the documentation may change slightly.

“Since the outcome is unknown at this point, all regulations are subject to change,” says Simon Jackson, IPATA President. “Pet owners should continue to monitor the situation and work with a professional pet shipper, who can ensure the proper precautions are taken amidst all of the uncertainty.”

Pet owners can find a professional pet shipper at https://www.ipata.org/find-ipata-pet-shippers.

About IPATA
The International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA) is a non-profit, worldwide trade association for animal handlers, pet moving providers, kennel operators, veterinarians and others who are dedicated to the care and welfare of pets and animals during transport. The organization was founded in 1979. It began with six founding members and now has a global network of more than 450 member companies in over 85 countries across the world. For more information, or to find a professional pet shipper, visit www.ipata.org.

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