

# Pet Passport Scheme



Below is a summary of the requirements needed to take your pet abroad and bring them back to the UK, all of which can be carried out at your usual veterinary surgery.

1. An identichip - a microchip must be in place before the rabies vaccination course can begin
2. A rabies vaccination
3. 30 days after your pet has had the rabies vaccination, a blood sample is taken and sent to an external laboratory for antibody testing. It takes an average of 4 weeks for us to receive the test results back.
4. A pet passport – this can only be issued if the blood test shows your pet has sufficient immunity against rabies. The pet passport is only valid for use to re-enter the UK 6 months after the date of the blood test.

A Pet Passport is **currently valid for 3 years** and can be reissued without the need for repeat blood tests so long as a rabies booster vaccination is given BEFORE the expiry date on the passport.

*Remember also, that you must have your pet treated for worms and ticks by a veterinary surgeon 24-48 hours before returning to the UK from abroad.*

## Precautions to take when travelling abroad with your pet.

- Ensure that normal booster vaccinations are up to date.
- Ensure your pet is adequately covered for round and tape worms by using Drontal Plus in dogs or Drontal Cat/Profender spot on in Cats
- Ensure your pet is adequately protected against ticks, fleas, worms and sand flies. Many diseases are present in Europe that we do not see in the UK. Several of these are spread by “vectors” such as ticks and sand flies, have no known treatment and can be fatal.

We advise you take the following products with you when you travel abroad:

## **Flea and Tick Prevention:**

- **Dogs** – we recommend using Advantix Spot on to prevent ticks and fleas but this product also repels sandflies and mosquitoes. Advantix must NOT be used in cats.
- **Cats** – we recommend using Advocate Spot On.

## **Round and Heart Worm Prevention:**

- We recommend using Advocate Spot On and this product can be used in Dogs and Cats.

We advise you start using the above products at least one month before you travel, monthly during your travels and for at least one month after your return.

For specific advice on any preventative measures you should take when travelling abroad with your pet, please contact your usual veterinary surgery.

Be aware that the above recommendations are for re-entry to the UK. Each country included in the Pets Passport Scheme has different requirements for pets entering their country. We advise you check with DEFRA exactly what is needed before you travel. Also, ensure that every country you are intending to visit is included in the Pets Travel Scheme. If you visit a country outside the scheme, your pet will have to go into quarantine for 6 months before being allowed re-entry to the UK.

DEFRA Helpline 0845 9335577 [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

