

Changes to Entry Requirements for cats and dogs from 1 January 2012

From 1 January 2012 the rabies vaccination requirement for pets entering Ireland is being harmonised with requirements throughout the European Union, although some additional requirements and advice with regard to tick and tapeworm treatment shall still apply.

Entry requirements for pets from 1 January 2012:

Entry Requirements from other EU Member States and Qualifying (low risk) countries (See Annex 1):

You must have an EU Pet Passport or Veterinary Certificateⁱ certifying microchip identification and **subsequent** rabies vaccination at least 21 days before entry into Ireland. Unvaccinated pets under 3 months of age are not permitted entry.

Identification:

- Pets must be identified either by micro-chip, or by a clearly readable tattoo which was applied before 3 July 2011. The date of microchipping or the date of application of the tattoo must be in the passport.

Rabies vaccination:

- As currently, the date of the primary rabies vaccination must not **precede** the date of identification. This primary vaccination (i.e. first vaccination **following** identification) must have been administered at least 21 days before arrival in Ireland.

The 21 day period does not apply to revaccinations/booster vaccinations, provided there has been no break in vaccination history. If there has been a break in vaccination, the booster vaccination is considered the primary vaccination and a period of 21 days must have passed since its administration. Whether the most recent rabies vaccination has been a primary or booster vaccine, it must still be within its 'valid until' date as indicated in the passport.

Vaccination details on the Passport must include name of vaccine, vaccination date and valid until date. Details must be endorsed by a veterinarian by signature and stamp.

Tick & tapeworm treatments:

- EU proposals requiring tapeworm treatment before entry are currently being discussed but have not yet been finalised. However it appears that there will be EU agreement to allow Ireland continue **Echinococcus (tapeworm) treatment**, this treatment will from January only apply to dogs – Dogs must be treated not more than 120 hours (5 days) and not less than 24 hours (1 day) prior to scheduled arrival time in Ireland.

Echinococcus treatment details must include name, date, and time of treatment. Details must be endorsed by a veterinarian by signature and stamp.

Travellers will be advised to avail of tick treatment for their pets.

Entry from non-qualifying (high risk) countries:

You must have an EU Pet Passport or Veterinary Certificate certifying microchip identification, **subsequent** rabies vaccination **and** a successful blood test at least 30 days post vaccination and at least **3 months before** entry.

Identification (same as above):

- Pets must be identified either by micro-chip, or by a clearly readable tattoo which was applied before 3 July 2011. The date of microchipping or the date of application of the tattoo must be in the passport/Veterinary Certificate.

Rabies vaccination:

- As currently, the date of the primary rabies vaccination must not **precede** the date of identification. The pet must have been vaccinated against rabies with an inactivated vaccine of at least one antigenic unit per dose (WHO standard) in a manner in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Pets can travel on revaccinations/booster vaccinations, provided there has been no break in vaccination history. If there has been a break in vaccination, the booster vaccination is considered the primary vaccination.

Whether the most recent rabies vaccination has been a primary or booster vaccine, it must still be within its 'valid until' date as indicated in the passport/Veterinary Certificate.

Vaccination details on the Passport must include name of vaccine, vaccination date and valid until date.

Details must be endorsed by a veterinarian by signature and stamp.

Blood test:

- At least 30 days after rabies vaccination a pet must be blood tested to confirm a neutralising antibody titration at least equal to 0.5 IU/ml. The test must be carried out in a laboratory approved for this purpose. A pet may enter Ireland only when at least three months has expired since a successful blood-test. This provision is to ensure that the pet is not incubating rabies. If the pet has had a break in its vaccinations and has had to repeat the blood-test, three months must pass from the date of the most recent test before a pet can enter Ireland.
- The 3 month wait does not apply to **re-entry** if the blood test was carried out prior to a pet leaving the EU.

Travel Arrangements from other EU Member States

For pets travelling from other EU Member States there will no longer be designated points of entry into Ireland. Therefore any Airlines entering Ireland from another EU Member State may choose to carry compliant pets. There will no longer be a requirement that pets enter only as cargo with an Airway bill or that all pets must be checked at this Department's quarantine facility.

Compliant pets also can travel on any ferry into Ireland.

Travel Arrangements to/from the United Kingdom (UK)

Currently Ireland and the UK is treated as a common rabies free zone and no passport requirements apply. Ireland and the UK are currently in discussions regarding this system.

Travel Arrangements from all countries outside the EU

The current arrangements shall continue - pets can travel into Ireland on an Approved airline or apply to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for a Prior Approval.

- Entry into Ireland will be by airline into **Dublin Airport only**, and must be transport as cargo with an Airway bill.
- Prior to arrival at Dublin Airport arrangements must be in place for an approved courier to transfer the animal to this Departments quarantine facility for inspection. Arrangements, including costs, will be a matter for the pet owner.
- Original passport must be available for inspection.

- Animals satisfying all of the requirements of the pet passport system will be released from quarantine into free circulation. Inspection will take place on the day of arrival and usually within an hour or so of arrival at the quarantine facility.

Pets in quarantine

Pets in quarantine post 1 January 2012 will be released as they become eligible. For example, an identified, rabies vaccinated, pet from a non qualifying (high risk) country that enters '6 month' quarantine on 31 December 2011 will be releasable as soon as the new conditions (i.e. successful 30 day blood test plus 3 month wait) are met.

Further information: Help-line 1890 504 604

From outside Ireland: +353 1 607 2827

E-mail: pets@agriculture.gov.ie

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF QUALIFYING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet dogs and cats.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES – EU MEMBER STATES

Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria
Republic of Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark, including Greenland and Faroe Islands
Estonia	Finland	France, including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion
Germany	Gibraltar	Greece
Hungary	Ireland	Italy
Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Malta	Netherlands	Poland
Portugal, including the continental territory, Azores Islands and Madeira Islands	Romania	Slovakia
Slovenia	Spain, including the continental territory, Balearic Islands, Canary Islands, and Ceuta and Melilla	Sweden
United Kingdom		

European Countries/Territories – Non-Member States

Andorra	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia
Iceland	Liechtenstein	Monaco
Norway	San Marino	Switzerland
Vatican City State		

Non-European Countries/Territories

Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina	Aruba
Ascension Island	Australia	Bahrain
Barbados	Belarus	Bermuda
British Virgin Islands	Canada	Cayman Islands
Chile	Falkland Islands	Fiji
French Polynesia	Hong Kong	Jamaica
Japan	Malaysia	Mauritius
Mayotte	Mexico	Montserrat
Netherlands Antilles	New Caledonia	New Zealand
Saint Helena	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia
Saint Pierre et Miquelon	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Singapore
Taiwan	Russian Federation	Trinidad and Tobago
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	United States of America, including Guam	Vanuatu
Wallis and Futuna		

**i VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR DOMESTIC DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS ENTERING THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY FOR NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS (Regulation (EC) No 998/2003**