

New Pet Travel Scheme Regulations

The regulations regarding the Pet Travel Scheme have changed as of the 1st of January 2012.

Joining the Pet Travel Scheme allows you to take your pet in and out of the country while avoiding long quarantine periods. The procedure is as follows:

1. A microchip must be inserted to accurately identify your pet. If this has already been done, the microchip must be checked.
2. Your pet is given a Rabies vaccination. This can be done at the same time as microchipping but your pet must be over 3 months old.
3. A PET passport can be issued immediately. Once this is issued the animal is able to leave the UK **although they cannot return until 21 days after the date of the rabies vaccination.**

Animals need to be re-vaccinated **every 3 years** in accordance with manufacturers recommendation **however**, France and other countries insist on re-vaccination **every year**. It can therefore be easier to have yearly boosters.

Tapeworm treatment must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon between 24 and 120 hours before re-entering the UK. Please note that if you are on a short trip this may need done before leaving the UK. A product containing praziquantel must be used for tapeworms. These products must be entered onto the PETs passport and signed by a veterinary surgeon.

If your pet is travelling on an aeroplane please contact the airline well in advance to enquire about their specific requirements. For up to date information including a list of countries covered by the Pet Travel Scheme go to:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlifepets/pets/travel/pets/index.htm>
This is worth checking regularly as the scheme is periodically updated.

Pet Travel Scheme–Disease Advice For Europe

Within Europe the parasites of main concern are:

Tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*)- this does not cause disease in dogs and cats but causes serious illness in humans. The parasite is picked up by dogs, cats or foxes from eating wild rodents and can be passed onto humans via eggs in their faeces.

Distribution- France, Italy, Southern, Eastern & Northern Europe it is endemic, spreading into Spain & Portugal. Scandinavia is clear.

Prevention- dose monthly with Milquantel (Dogs & Cats) or Profender (Cats)

Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*)- affects dogs & cats and is spread by mosquitoes.

Distribution- Southern France (Not Northern) Italy, Southern Europe.

Prevention- monthly treatment with Milquantel Tablets or Advocate Spot on (Dogs & Cats)

Leishmania- causes disease in dogs and humans, cats are much less susceptible. There is no effective drug prevention and it is spread by sand flies so reducing the chances of being bitten is the best prevention. This is done by avoiding outdoor activity at dawn or dusk when the sand flies are most active and by monthly treatment with Advantix spot on or using a Scabivor collar every 5 months.

Distribution- France, Italy, Southern Europe, Spain & Portugal.

Tick Borne Diseases (*Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia canis*, *Borrelia burgdorferi*)- There is no effective drug prevention so reduce the risk of picking up ticks by using parasitocides. Inspect pets daily for

ticks as removal within 24 hours of attachment greatly reduces the risk of infection. We recommend using an O'Tom Tick Remover.

Distribution- All of Europe & Scandinavia.

Prevention- Advantix spot on (Dogs) Frontline (Cats) monthly.

Disease Prevention Advice- Dogs

The pet travel scheme is designed to prevent the introduction of diseases which are a danger to human health i.e. Rabies, Ticks and Tapeworms, however it does not protect your dog's health. While on holiday your dog could pick up diseases from ticks and biting flies (mosquitoes and sandflies). It is therefore very important to ensure that your dog is covered before leaving the UK.

We recommend the following:

Southern Europe and North Africa where sandflies and mosquitoes are a problem -apply Advantix fortnightly working back from the dose given on return. Apply Advocate monthly a week apart from Advantix, for example if away for three weeks:

8 days before departure- Apply Advantix

Day before departure-Apply Advocate

1 week into holiday-Apply Advantix

When returning-Tick and Tapeworm treatment applied by vet and passport signed

If away for longer, continue applying Advantix fortnightly and Advocate every four weeks (a week apart). Avoiding outdoor activity at dawn or dusk when the sand flies are most active also helps to reduce the risk of contracting disease.

Northern Europe (Non-Mediterranean) i.e. non-sandfly and mosquito areas where ticks are more of a problem. Give a Bravecto tablet and a Milquantel wormer or apply Advantix every four weeks and Advocate every four weeks, one week apart.

Daily inspection of your pet for ticks and removing them with an O'Tom tick remover is also advised.

Disease Prevention Advice- Cats

As Advantix is toxic to cats, monthly treatment with frontline is recommended as a tick treatment alongside monthly Milquantel tablets for tapeworm.