

The Senlac Veterinary Centre

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The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

This scheme allows pet owners in the UK to take their dogs, cats & ferrets abroad to European Union countries, and certain non-EU countries, and to return to the UK without the need for quarantine.

The rules have changed since 1st January 2012; pets now need-

- **Microchip**
- **Rabies vaccination**
- **Pet Passport**

These can all be administered on the same day. However, your pet cannot leave the UK until 21 days after the vaccine has been given, to allow time for immunity to rabies to develop.

For full protection, and to allow your pet to travel abroad, rabies vaccination must be repeated **every three years**. (Although in certain countries they still require an annual booster, please refer to the DEFRA website for clarification.)

Please note that the practice does not issue reminders for rabies booster vaccinations. A blood test after vaccination is no longer a requirement.

- **Tapeworm treatment** for dogs 1-5 days before return to the UK

Prior to your return, your pet will require treatment for tapeworm by a Veterinary Surgeon in the country you are visiting **not fewer than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before re-entry** to the UK. This can be given by a vet in the UK if your visit abroad is a short one. The treatment must be recorded on the Passport by your vet.

There is no longer any requirement to treat your pet for ticks- but we **strongly** advise that you do. Ticks and biting insects such as sand-flies and mosquitoes found abroad can transmit serious diseases, some which can be fatal. Some European tick species, and the diseases they carry, are not currently found in this country; treating your pet helps reduce the risk of importing these into the UK. Ask us about effective tick repellents that very quickly cause ticks to fall off your pet, and help to repel other parasites.

Travel to or from non-EU countries may have other entry requirements. Remember to check your pet's insurance policy to make sure they will be covered for veterinary treatment for illnesses whilst you're away.

This is only a brief outline of the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme. If you need further advice, please do not hesitate to speak to our Vets.

More useful info on the government website www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad