

Important changes for Pet Travel in case of Brexit “No deal”

Pet owners will still be able to travel to Europe after the UK leaves, whatever the outcome of the Brexit negotiations. The current rules for pet travel may not change. However, in the case of “No deal,” the UK could be classified as a 3rd (unlisted) country to the EU.

If the UK becomes an unlisted country to the EU, then the following additional requirements for your pet (and passport) to travel will become necessary:

1. A blood sample at least 30 days after Rabies vaccination to confirm immunity (a positive antibody titre (at least 0.5IU/ml))
2. A minimum of 3 months after the blood test before your pet can travel.
3. A vet check and a signed health certificate within 10 days of travelling.

If you are considering going to or from Europe with your pet after 29th March 2019, then these extra requirements may become necessary.

To be in time with these requirements, you need to start vaccinating at least 4 months (and blood sampling at least 3 months) before you travel. This would mean vaccinating before the end of November 2018 to be in time for the end of March. Pets with existing valid passports may just need the blood sample and health check.

If a blood sample results in a fail (ie shows an inadequate antibody level), vaccination will need to be repeated, and blood sample repeated after 30 days.

Previous experience has shown that one recent Rabies vaccine will normally give a pass on the blood sample. However, a failure may occur after just one vaccination. You may consider 2 Rabies vaccines 3 weeks apart to help ensure a positive blood result.

For further information and the most current information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>