

THE 6 MONTH RULE

Important:

Your pet may not re-enter the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme until 6 months have passed after the date of blood sampling which led to a satisfactory test result. (eg. Blood test was taken on 23rd March and was satisfactory, therefore pet can re-enter UK from 23rd September).

Your pet may LEAVE the UK during this time, but will not be able to come back until the required time has passed.

Where can I go?

Pets may only enter the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme from EU and certain non-EU countries. They must not have been to any unlisted countries in the 6 calendar months before entering or re-entering the UK.

For a list of countries that are included in the Pet Travel Scheme, please contact Defra directly as the list of countries eligible for Pet Travel Scheme are constantly being updated.

For further information:

Defra UK website:

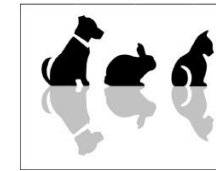
Has all information including authorised routes, carrier companies, eligible countries and FAQs in relation to the Pet Travel Scheme

www.defra.gov.uk

Pet Travel Scheme Helpline:

Very useful number to call for help with organising what you need for your particular journey, or if you have any other enquires.

01228 403600



**RAINSBROOK
VETERINARY
GROUP**



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83 High Street, Hillmorton, Rugby.
Tel: 01788 542221
1 Craven Road, Rugby.
Tel: 01788 562844
12 Upper Grove Street, Leamington Spa.
Tel: 01926 422592
www.rainsbrookvets.co.uk

**Pet Travel
Scheme**



What is the Pet Travel Scheme?

The Pet Travel Scheme is the system that allows pet animals from certain countries to enter the UK without quarantine as long as they meet certain rules. It also means that people in the UK can take their pets to other European Union countries, and return with them to the UK. They can also, having taken their pets to certain non-EU countries, bring them back to the UK without the need for quarantine.

What do I need to do?

The following have to be done in order

1. Have your pet microchipped

Before any other procedures can be done, your pet must be microchipped to ensure proper identification can be carried out. For further information regarding Microchipping, please see the 'Microchipping' leaflet. If your pet is already microchipped, you must find out the date when this occurred and get the vet to check and note the position of the microchip on your pet's records.

2. Have your pet vaccinated.

After being microchipped, your pet must then be given a rabies vaccination. There is no exemption to this requirement, even if your pet has a current rabies vaccination - the vaccine must be given AFTER the microchip.

3. Arrange a blood test (rabies serology)

21 days after the rabies vaccination has been given, a blood test must be taken to ensure there are satisfactory levels of antibodies in your pet's blood. Only an EU-approved laboratory can perform the tests, and this will be arranged by your veterinary surgeon. Once the results are back (usually 2-4 weeks after the sample is taken) a passport can be issued.

4. Get Pet Travel Scheme documentation

After we have received a successful rabies serology result, you can then book an appointment with one of our Local Veterinary Inspectors (LVIs) who can then issue you with your Pet Passport. Please make sure your veterinary surgeon gives you a copy of the satisfactory test result for your own records.

5. Keep rabies vaccinations up to date

The rabies vaccine we use at here at Rainsbrook Veterinary Group is Nobivac Rabies, which has a licence for 3 year booster vaccinations. There are exceptions to this rule—if you are resident in France or Spain for more than 3 months, then annual vaccinations are required.

Please note, it is your responsibility to ensure your pet has up to date vaccination and we recommend you check with Defra direct for individual requirements.

It is very important that these boosters are given either before or on the 'Valid Until' date (section IV of the Pet Passport), as any later will require another rabies serology blood sample to be taken, and the 6 month rule will have to be followed (explained later).

Before you can return to the UK your pet must be treated against ticks and a tapeworm

Between 24 and 48 hours before you check-in with an approved transport company for the journey that brings your pet into the UK, your pet must be treated against ticks and tapeworms and the treatment recorded in sections VI & VII of the EU pet passport or the official third country veterinary certificate. Any qualified vet can carry out this treatment and provide the necessary documentation. You must not administer the treatment yourself.

Your pet must be treated against the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* using a veterinary medicine whose active ingredient is **praziquantel**.

The tick treatment must be licensed for use against ticks and have a marketing authorisation in the country of use. A collar impregnated with acaricide is not an acceptable form of treatment against ticks.

Why does my pet have to have this treatment?

The tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* can cause a serious or fatal liver disease in humans. The tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* can carry diseases that are harmful to humans (see tick and sandfly borne diseases leaflet). Neither of these parasites is thought to be currently present in the UK. The treatment needs to be given 24-48 hours before the pet is checked in to travel to the UK to ensure that the tapeworm eggs are not shed in the UK.