

## **Pet owners reminded to seek advice on travel plans ahead of 31 October 2019**

You need to prepare now if you want to travel with your pet to the EU if there is a no deal Brexit on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Additional steps will be required including a blood test a minimum of 30 days after your pets' last rabies vaccination. If you want to travel to the EU on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November this year you need to discuss your plans before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

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### **THE PET TRAVEL SCHEME FOLLOWING BREXIT**

Currently the Channel Islands are included in the UK Pet Passport arrangements with regard to the EU Pet Travel Scheme. When the UK leaves the EU, the UK and Channel Islands will become third countries. In the EU Pet Travel Scheme, there are 3 categorisations of third country:

- Unlisted
- Part 1 listed
- Part 2 listed

Future pet travel requirements will change depending on what category of third country the UK becomes on the day the UK leaves the EU.

### **THE NO DEAL SCENARIO**

A UK pet passport will no longer be a valid document in the event of a no deal. You should retain the pet passport as a record of microchipping and previous vaccinations.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal it will immediately become an unlisted third country and then will apply to become a listed country.

- Unlisted Third Country

Pet owners planning to travel from November onwards should contact their vet **at least four months in advance of their travel date**. For example, those wishing to travel to the EU on 1 November 2019 should discuss requirements with your vet by the 1 July at the latest.

- Listed Third Country

Third countries have to apply to the European Commission to be listed under either Part 1 or Part 2 of EU Pet Travel Regulations. Negotiations after the UK leaves the EU could take some time therefore there would be a period where the UK is unlisted before it becomes listed under either Part 1 or Part 2.

When the UK becomes a listed third country new documents will replace the EU pet passport. The document type you will need depends on whether the UK becomes a Part 1 or Part 2 listed country and these will be available from 'Authorised Vets' in Guernsey.

### Living with your pet in the EU

Some Channel Islanders spend long periods living in the EU with their pet. If your pet has a UK pet passport it will no longer be a valid document in the event of a no deal. You could convert your UK pet passport into an EU pet passport by visiting your Authorised Vet in the EU. Note that UK and Channel Island vets will no longer be permitted to make official entries in an EU pet passport so future rabies boosters would have to be done by an EU vet.

If you have a pet passport issued by an EU member state, you can use it to bring your pet to the UK or Channel Islands. However the requirements for the return of your pet back to the EU will depend on the UK's third country status at the time you travel.

- Unlisted Third Country

If the UK and Channel Islands have unlisted status your pet must have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after vaccination for a rabies antibody test which must be sent to an approved laboratory. You could either have the test done:

- Well before movement to the UK and have it recorded in the EU pet passport, or;
- In the UK, but you cannot return to the EU for at least three months after the test which would have to be recorded on an animal health certificate (because a UK vet will no longer be permitted to make an entry into an EU pet passport).

### DEAL SCENARIO

If a deal is agreed and an implementation period is confirmed, you'll be able to travel with your pet to the EU under the current pet travel rules using your current EU (or UK) pet passport.

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The situation is subject to variation and pet owners can stay up to date with the latest advice on pet travel on GOV.UK or by searching 'pet travel' or follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit#pet-travel-if-the-uk-is-an-unlisted-country>