

## Get ready for changes to the UK's Pet Travel Scheme

At the beginning of next year, the UK Government will introduce new rules, making it easier and cheaper to travel back to the UK with a pet. The changes mean the UK will bring its Pet Travel Scheme into line with the rest of the European Union.

### What changes are happening?

Under the new arrangements, all pet dogs, cats and ferrets (including guide and hearing dogs) from the European Union can enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine, as long as they meet the rules. Remember, the rules may be different depending on the country the pet is coming from.

Although tick treatment for pets returning to the UK will no longer be required, the Government has announced that this will be kept under review. With regard to tapeworm treatment, the Government has yet to make a decision and personnel are strongly advised to continue to check the DEFRA website prior to travel. For best practice, pet owners are still advised to treat their pet for ticks and tapeworm before returning to the UK. Consult your vet for further advice.

### What if I don't meet the new requirements?

You are responsible for ensuring your pet meets all the rules for entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme. Make sure you have had the procedures carried out in the correct order and your pet's documentation is correctly completed. If you do not, your pet may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. This will mean delay and cost you money.

### What happens if my pet is already in quarantine?

Animals who will be in quarantine when the rules change on 1st January 2012, may apply for early release providing the new EU entry controls are met.

### When will the new rules come into force?

**The new rules won't come into effect until the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. Therefore, personnel should be aware that until then, the existing rules still apply for pets going into the UK.**

Entry rules for pets entering the UK from the EU:

What has to be done	Now	From 1 January 2012
Microchip	Yes	Yes
Rabies vaccination	Yes	Yes
Documentation (pet passport or third country certificate)	Yes	Yes
Blood test (dogs and cats)	Yes	No
Pre-entry waiting period	Yes	Yes
Length of waiting period before entry to the UK	6 months from date sample taken for blood test	21 days after vaccination against rabies
Tick treatment	Yes (24-48 hours before embarkation)	No ( <b>is being kept under review, see DEFRA website</b> )
Tapeworm treatment	Yes (as for ticks)	Under consideration at European level. ( <b>You are advised to check the DEFRA website prior to travel</b> ).

The information above is only a summary of the rules and occasionally rules do change, therefore you are strongly advised to go to the [www.defra.gov.uk/pets](http://www.defra.gov.uk/pets) or <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/06/30/new-rules-pet-passports> for the latest and more comprehensive details on pet travel into the UK.