



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Scottish
Government

Consultation

Pet Travel: changes to the EU scheme

August 2014



© Crown copyright 2014

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

EUPetTravel.Consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Contents

Part A: Background.....	1
Part B: The proposed changes	2
Part C: Tell us what you think	8
Annex: Full list of changes	12

Part A: Background

1. Purpose of the consultation

- 1.1. Defra, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government are inviting views from pet owners and other stakeholders with an interest in the pet travel scheme on our proposed approach to the implementation of a new EU pet travel Regulation. Details on how to respond to this consultation are provided in Part C.
- 1.2. The UK harmonised with the EU pet travel scheme on 1 January 2012, making it cheaper and easier for UK citizens to travel with their pet dogs, cats and ferrets and return to the UK. The EU pet travel scheme places requirements on travelling pets to keep the UK free of diseases, specifically rabies and the *Echinococcus multilocularis* (EM) tapeworm.
- 1.3. A number of other EU countries harmonised with the EU rules at the same time as the UK, creating a single set of pet travel requirements across the EU. At this point the EU decided to review and consolidate the pet travel regime, which has been amended several times since it came into effect in 2004.
- 1.4. The UK was fully involved in the negotiations for a [new EU pet travel Regulation \(576/2013\)](#)¹ which was published in June 2013 and is due to come into effect on 29 December 2014. This Regulation repeals and replaces the current EU Regulation (998/2003). Controls relating to the EM tapeworm are established under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) (No 1152/2011) and will remain unchanged.
- 1.5. The fundamentals of the pet travel regime will remain the same under the new Regulation and all dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK will still require:
 - microchipping
 - vaccination against rabies
 - a blood test (if travelling to or from an unlisted third country)
 - a pet passport (or third country certificate)
 - treatment against the EM tapeworm (dogs only)

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1404462096889&uri=CELEX:32013R0576>

There are exceptions to this list in certain circumstances. Full details of the preparations required for travel can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners>. If you are planning to travel with your pet it is essential that you read this detailed guidance.

- 1.6. The new Regulation will introduce a number of changes to the EU pet travel rules. These are designed to strengthen enforcement regimes across the EU and increase levels of compliance. There will also be a new pet passport that is more secure and easier to trace. Further information on these changes is included in Part B below.
- 1.7. The EU pet travel scheme covers the movement of pets with their owners. Animals imported for sale or rehoming must travel under the commercial import regime laid down by the Balai Directive (Directive 92/65/EEC). However, some of the changes described in Part B will apply to pets moving for sale or rehoming from 29 December 2014, because the same anti-rabies preparations (and tapeworm treatments) are required under both regimes.

2. Previous stakeholder engagement

- 2.1. A range of stakeholders have been informally consulted on the changes to the EU pet travel scheme, both during the EU negotiations and during our implementation planning.

Part B: The proposed changes

3. Information on the new EU pet travel Regulation

- 3.1. The animal health preparations required for travel under the EU pet travel regime will remain largely the same. However, the new Regulation will:
 - Consolidate the EU legislation governing pet travel and enhance the requirements for EU countries to make information on pet travel available to their citizens.
 - Tackle abuse of the pet travel regime by introducing a more secure pet passport, tightening eligibility requirements and strengthening enforcement activity.
- 3.2. In order to introduce these changes we will amend the existing GB Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order (2011). The amending Order will be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.
- 3.3. The key changes are outlined below. Since the Order will directly implement EU law there is limited scope to amend, interpret, extend or otherwise remove legal obligations.

- 3.4. There are some areas where the EU Regulation allows for flexibility or derogation at the discretion of the member state and these are also highlighted below.
- 3.5. A full list of the changes is included as an annex.
- 3.6. The impact of these changes on business has been independently assessed by the Regulatory Policy Committee, an advisory non-departmental public body of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. An assessment of business impact was prepared by Defra and details from this assessment are included as a supporting document for this consultation (see Assessment of Business Impact). We would be interested in comments on the costs we have identified, our estimates of their impact and whether there are any areas where an impact will be felt by business that we have not considered (see section 17(2) iv).

4. Maximum number of pet animals allowed to travel (Article 5)

- 4.1. From 29 December 2014 anyone wishing to travel with more than 5 pets will have to conform to the requirements of the trade regime, established under the Balai Directive (92/65).
- 4.2. An exemption from this requirement will be introduced for anyone whose pets are aged over 6 months and are travelling to attend a show, competition or sporting event (or training for such an event).
- 4.3. In order to prevent abuse of this scheme the new Regulation requires travellers to provide written evidence of their registration.
- 4.4. We are considering developing a declaration, to be completed by any pet owner wishing to make use of this exemption and we are therefore interested in knowing what kinds of registration materials are issued to people whose pets are registered for shows and how many people this new requirement will affect (see section 17 (2) i).

5. Derogations for unvaccinated pets (Articles 7, 8 and 11)

- 5.1. The new Regulation includes 3 derogations that member states may choose to adopt in relation to the movement of unvaccinated pets. Two of these derogations (Articles 7 and 11) have been carried forward from the current regime and allow countries to authorise the movement of young, unvaccinated animals from across the EU and from listed third countries. The UK has never made use of these derogations and does not intend to take up these derogations now.
- 5.2. We would be interested in your views on this approach (see section 17 (2) vi).
- 5.3. A new derogation (Article 8) has also been introduced that relates to the direct movement of unvaccinated pets between 2 rabies-free member states. To make use of this derogation the 2 countries must make a formal application to the EU

Commission and the movement of such unvaccinated pets would be strictly limited to direct moves between these countries. The details of this derogation and the application process will be set out by the EU Commission in an implementing act. Once this is published we will consider whether it would be appropriate for the UK to enter into an agreement with any other rabies free countries. Should we propose making use of this derogation we will conduct a further consultation on this specific issue.

6. Implantation of microchips (Article 18)

- 6.1. All dogs, cats and ferrets entering the country must be microchipped. This microchip number provides an objective link between the animal and the pet passport, enabling the pet checker to confirm that the animal described in the passport is the one presented to them for checking.
- 6.2. The new pet travel Regulation requires any member state allowing non-veterinarians to implant microchips to lay down the minimum standards to which that person must be trained. We have confirmed with the EU Commission that this means trained to a required level of competence rather than formally examined and certified.
- 6.3. We are proposing to allow non-veterinarians to implant microchips providing that they:
 - are a veterinary nurse, meaning a nurse whose name is entered in the list of nurses, or the list of visiting European nurses, maintained by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and who is acting under the direction of a vetor
 - have been previously trained and assessed on a course containing a practical elementor
 - have attended a training course approved by the Secretary of State in England, Scottish Ministers in Scotland or the responsible Minister in Wales.
- 6.4. This approach will align with the forthcoming legislation for all dogs in England and Wales to be microchipped, which will also lay down the training and assessment required for implantations. The Scottish Government are currently considering responses to their microchipping consultation but anticipate that any legislative requirements for microchipping in Scotland could also be aligned.
- 6.5. We do not intend to create an offence in relation to this new requirement, although it is worth noting that in respect of dogs in England and Wales the microchipping regulations and associated penalties will apply. Additionally, anyone found to be

causing unnecessary pain or suffering to a pet animal can be prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act (2006) in England and Wales or the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act (2006). Alongside this, under the forthcoming legislation introducing requirements for the compulsory microchipping of dogs in England and Wales anyone found to be incorrectly inserting microchips in dogs can be required to stop implanting or be retrained.

6.6. We are interested in your views on our approach (see section 17 (2) ii).

7. Introduction of a new pet passport (Article 21)

7.1. A new style pet passport will be introduced on 29 December 2014. All passports issued from this date will need to conform to the new format. Passports will continue to be issued to pet owners by those Official Veterinarians (OV) authorised to issue pet passports by the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA). **Passports issued before the 29 December 2014 will remain valid for the lifetime of the pet or until they need to be replaced.**

7.2. A number of amendments will be made to the passport to improve security and traceability:

- New laminated strips to cover those pages with the microchip information and any treatment certified with a sticker.
- A unique passport number that will be printed on each page.
- The vet who issues the passport will need to provide their full contact details, which will improve the traceability of passports and provide a safeguard against abuse. There is a new page in the passport for the vet to record these details.
- A new 'valid from' date will now need to be completed for all rabies vaccinations (excluding booster vaccinations). This will enable the pet owner to see clearly when the passport will be valid for travel and simplify the compliance checking process.

8. Veterinary record keeping (Article 22)

8.1. Pet passports are currently produced by AHVLA and are issued by Official Veterinarians (OVs). In order to improve traceability and assist pet owners in the event that a passport is lost or damaged a new record-keeping requirement will be introduced from 29 December. The following information will need to be retained by all vets issuing passports for at least 3 years:

- the pet passport number
- the microchip number, location and date of reading/application

- name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth and any notable or discernable features or characteristics of the pet animal
- owner's name and contact information.

8.2. Discussions with veterinary stakeholders indicate that many vet practices already keep the records outlined above.

8.3. Our proposed approach is to include this requirement in the information and training provided to those OV's who are authorised to issue pet passports. We feel that introducing an offence in respect of this new provision would be disproportionate. AHVLA can request any OV not keeping the necessary records to undergo refresher training or, as a last resort, remove their authorisation to issue pet passports.

8.4. We would welcome your views on this approach (see section 17(2) iii).

9. Derogation allowing direct entry into quarantine (Article 32)

9.1. The new Regulation acknowledges that situations may arise where people need to leave a country quickly and travel to the UK. It may not be possible in these circumstances for pet owners to fully prepare their pet for travel. Article 32 of the new pet travel Regulation includes an option for member states to authorise the movement of these pets directly into quarantine where they must remain until they are compliant. The UK currently allows pet owners to apply for a licence from AHVLA which enables the movement of non-compliant pets directly into quarantine.

9.2. Where there are issues in securing this compliance within the usual timeframe (eg due to an allergic reaction to vaccination) the Regulation provides for the animal to be released from quarantine once a sufficient period of time has elapsed (no longer than 6 months). We intend to allow pets to be released after 4 months. This is consistent with the maximum period that currently applies to other animals that require rabies quarantine. This period is based on the evidence that any animal incubating rabies at the time they enter quarantine is highly likely to develop clinical signs within the 4 month isolation period, so there is negligible risk associated with animals that have been quarantined for 4 months. The current preparation period for a pet entering from an unlisted third country is 4 months, so a 4 month maximum quarantine period is also in line with the most stringent pet travel requirements. Vaccination against rabies for any previously unvaccinated animals will still be required upon entry to quarantine.

9.3. We would be interested in the views of pet owners and other stakeholders on our approach to quarantine (see section 17(2) v-vi).

10. Checks on intra-EU movements (Article 33)

10.1. The UK has always checked 100% of pets travelling on approved routes into GB and will continue to do so when the new Regulation comes into effect. However, from the 29 December 2014 all EU member states will be required to conduct non-discriminatory checks on pets moving between EU member states. This means that pet owners may have their pets checked for compliance with the EU pet travel rules whilst they are overseas, as well as on their return to the UK.

11. Clearer definition of cat, dog and ferret (Annex I)

11.1. The new EU Regulation specifically states that the only species of pet animal that can travel under the EU pet travel rules are:

- *Canis lupus familiaris* – domestic dog
- *Felis silvestris catus* – domestic cat
- *Mustela putorius furo* – ferret

11.2. The reason for this change is to make sure that wild animals can't be moved under rules designed for pet travel. This change will not affect the majority of pet owners. However, it may have an impact on owners with hybrid pets (such as a Bengal or Savannah cat, or a Wolfdog). These owners are advised to check the website for further information prior to travel: <https://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners>

12. A new 12 week minimum age for vaccination (Annex III)

12.1. At present, pets receiving a rabies vaccination must be vaccinated in line with the manufacturer's requirements in the country where vaccination takes place. This has led to some variation in the age at which pets can be vaccinated. The new EU Regulation addresses the difficulties posed by the current situation and lays down a minimum age of 12 weeks for rabies vaccination (for the purposes of pet travel only).

12.2. This change has been introduced to create consistency across the EU and assist compliance checking.

13. Tighter definition of 'non-commercial movement' (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013)

13.1. In order to prevent situations where pets imported for sale or rehoming are disguised as pets to avoid the more onerous commercial rules (established under the Balai Directive) all pets must be accompanied by their owner or by an authorised person.

13.2. It is recognised, however, that when people travel by air it is not always possible for them to directly accompany their pet, for example because the pet needs to travel in the hold or on a different flight. The new Regulation clearly addresses this scenario. So long as the movement of the pet and the owner (or authorised person) are within 5 days of each other, the pet will still be considered to be ‘accompanied’ by its owner (or authorised person). This will only apply to people who are entering the UK (or another EU country) by air on a flight that began outside the EU. A declaration will be required to confirm that where a pet is not travelling with its owner, the movement of the owner or an authorised person took place within 5 days. For further information please contact AHVLA – details are provided at the end of this document.

14. Proposed changes to domestic legislation

- 14.1. We are proposing to amend the Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order (2011) to reflect the changes brought in by the new EU pet travel Regulation.
- 14.2. The amending Order will also make a small number of improvements to the existing legislation in respect of Local Authority enforcement powers and will also update it to reflect new EU disability legislation concerning the rights of disabled passengers when travelling by sea (EU Regulation 1177/2010).

Part C: Tell us what you think

15. Who will be interested in responding?

15.1. This is a public consultation and it is open to anyone with an interest to provide comments. The consultation should be of particular interest to pet owners, veterinarians, transport companies and others involved in pet travel. The proposed Order will apply to England, Scotland and Wales.

16. Having your say

16.1. If you wish to respond, please submit your comments by 14th September 2014.

16.2. You can respond in 1 of 3 ways:

- Online by completing the questionnaire at www.gov.uk/defra
- Email to: EUPetTravel.Consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- Post to: Pet Travel Consultation Team – Defra
Area 5B, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London

SW1P 3JR

- 16.3. Our preferred method is online because it is the fastest and most cost-effective way for us to collate and analyse responses.
- 16.4. Unless you specifically request your response to be treated confidentially, responses may be made publically available.

17. Consultation questions

17.1. We are interested in collecting the following information from those responding to the consultation:

- Your name and whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation.
- Whether you are a pet owner, vet, employee of a transport company (you can select more than 1 category).
- If you have ever taken your pet abroad and, if so, how often and how many pets you normally travel with.
- If you travel internationally with your pets to attend shows, competitions or sporting events how many pets you normally travel with.

17.2. We would be particularly interested in hearing your views on the following:

Changes to the regime:

- i. Under Article 5 of the new Regulation, individuals travelling with their pets to attend a show, competition or sporting event (or training for such an event) will be exempt from the more stringent rules that will be introduced for the movement of more than 5 pets. In order to prevent abuse of this exemption, the Regulation requires individuals to provide proof that they are travelling to attend an eligible event. We are therefore interested in knowing whether the following information is usually included on the registration materials that are issued to participants by those organisations that arrange competitions, shows and sporting events:
 - Name of event
 - Address of event
 - Dates the event is taking place
 - Sponsoring organisations
 - Other (please provide details)
- ii. The new Regulation gives member states the option of allowing individuals other than veterinarians to implant microchips for the purposes of pet travel, but requires them to establish the minimum training that person must have received (Article 18). Our preferred approach is to allow non-veterinarians to implant microchips providing they are either a registered veterinary nurse, have

previously been trained on a course containing a practical element or attend an approved training course. In England and Wales the intention is to align with forthcoming legislation requiring the compulsory microchipping of dogs and laying down the training required for implantations. The Scottish Government are currently considering responses to their microchipping consultation but anticipate that any legislative requirements for microchipping in Scotland could also be aligned. **Do you have any comments on this approach?**

- iii. If you are responding on behalf of a veterinary practice that issues pet passports, we would be interested to know who currently microchips those pets being prepared for travel and if you intend to register any of your staff on the new training course?
- iv. The EU Regulation introduces a requirement for veterinarians to keep certain records, for a period of at least 3 years (under Article 22). Our preferred approach to implementing this requirement is to include information in the guidance and training provided to vets authorised to issue passports. Any vet found to be in contravention of this record keeping requirement may have their authorisation removed. **Do you have any comments on this?**
- v. Our assessment is that because the fundamentals of the scheme will remain the same we do not anticipate that there will be significant adoption costs for business to implement the relevant changes. **Do you have any comments?**

Derogations:

- vi. Under the current pet travel scheme member states can authorise the movement of young, unvaccinated animals, provided they meet a number of conditions. This option will exist under the new Regulation (Articles 7 and 11). The UK has never authorised these movements and we do not intend to do so now. **Do you have any comments?**
- vii. The UK currently allows pets to enter the country and move directly into quarantine in situations where their owners are not able to make them compliant with the pet travel scheme prior to departure (for example in cases where they need to move at short notice). Article 32 of the new Regulation explicitly allows member states to authorise the movement of these pets in situations where 'exceptional circumstances' require an owner to enter the country at short notice. **Do you have any comments about us continuing to allow these pets to enter via quarantine?**
- viii. The new EU Regulation introduces a maximum quarantine period for those pets that are found to be non-compliant and permits member states to determine the length of this period, up to a maximum of 6 months. **Do you have any comments on our proposal to set this period at 4 months?**

Final thoughts:

- ix. To what extent do you agree that there are benefits to the changes introduced by the new EU pet travel Regulation?
- x. Do you have any further comments or suggestions?

17.3. Unless you specifically request your response to be treated confidentially, responses may be made publically available.

18. Next steps

18.1. We will publish a summary of the consultation responses received.

18.2. Subject to Ministerial agreement, we plan to lay the legislation in November 2014 or as soon as practicable thereafter.

Annex: Full list of changes

Relevant article in Regulation 576/2013	Details of changes introduced
Maximum number of pet animals allowed to travel (Article 5)	<p>The current Regulation permits more than 5 pets to travel with 1 owner provided they are accompanied by a health certificate. Under the new Regulation the maximum number of pets allowed to travel will be 5. Where more than 5 pets wish to travel from the 29 December they will need to comply with the rules governing the trade regime².</p> <p>Pets travelling to attend a show, sporting event or training for such an event will be exempt from this requirement and will be able to continue to travel under the pet travel scheme providing they are aged over 6 months. Anyone wishing to make use of this derogation will need to provide written evidence of their attendance to the pet checker.</p>
Derogation to allow movement of unvaccinated pets between rabies free member states (Article 8)	<p>This derogation will allow 2 rabies free member states to enter into a bilateral agreement, authorised by the EU Commission, to allow the direct movement of unvaccinated pets.</p>
Military and search-and-rescue dogs (Article 10)	<p>Under the new Regulation member states will be able to authorise the movement of military and search-and-rescue dogs into the country at a point of entry other than a travellers' point of entry provided that a permit has been issued in advance and the dogs undergo the necessary compliance checks.</p>
Implantation of microchips (Article 18)	<p>The new Regulation requires that any member state permitting non-veterinarians to implant microchips (this measure applies to microchips inserted as part of the preparation necessary for pet travel) must lay down the minimum standards of training this person must have received. We will ensure that we align with the forthcoming requirements for the compulsory microchipping of dogs in England and Wales. The Scottish Government are currently considering responses to their microchipping consultation but anticipate that any legislative requirements could also be aligned. However, this provision will also extend to cats and ferrets and we are working with the sector to ensure a suitable training course is</p>

² For further details on these requirements, together with information on who to contact, please see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/imports-non-eu/iins/live-animals/iins-other-animals-balai/iin-bllv-5/>

	available in respect of these species.
Introduction of new pet passport (Article 21)	Pet passports issued after 29 December 2014 will conform to the new format laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation 577/2013 and include a number of improved security and traceability features.
Veterinary record keeping (Article 22)	Official Veterinarians authorised to issue pet passports will need to keep a record of the information entered into the passport for at least 3 years.
Quarantine (Article 32)	In exceptional circumstances the new Regulation permits the movement of non-compliant pets directly into quarantine. This measure will enable pet owners who need to leave a country quickly to arrange for their pets to travel and enter quarantine upon arrival. These pets must then remain in quarantine until they are compliant or for no longer than 4 months. Anyone wishing to make use of this derogation will need to apply for prior approval from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency.
Checks on intra-EU movements (Article 33)	All EU member states will be required, from 29 December 2014, to carry out some non-discriminatory compliance checks on pet movements.
Checking of movements from third countries (Article 34)	The competent authority will be required to keep a record of the total number of checks carried out on movements into the UK from third countries and clearly indicate in the third country certificate that a check has been carried out on this documentation.
Information provisions (Article 37)	The new Regulation increases the requirements for member states to make information available to the public. Each country will now also need to provide information on minimum qualifications for the implantation of microchips and a list of approved rabies vaccinations.
Clearer definition of cat, dog and ferret (Annex I)	The new Regulation explicitly includes the Latin species names for domestic cats, dogs and ferrets and restricts the pet travel regime to the movement of these animals. This may have an impact on owners of hybrid pets.
Minimum age for vaccination (Annex III)	All pets vaccinated for the purposes of pet travel from 29 December 2014 will need to be at least 12 weeks old at the time of vaccination. This requirement will introduce a new compliance check at the border as pet checkers will need to confirm that the date of first vaccination was at least 12 weeks after the declared date of birth.
Tighter definition of 'non-	Pets entering the EU from third countries by air will only be

commercial movement'
(Commission Implementing
Regulation 577/2013)

considered accompanied (and therefore eligible to travel under the pet travel scheme) if their movement is not separated from the movement of their owner or an authorised person by more than 5 days. If pet owners (or an authorised person) are not able to travel within 5 days of the pet's movement then the rules governing the commercial regime must be followed (see footnote 2).