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# Pet Passports - European Union

Last Modified:



European Union (EU) Pet passports are issued **for dogs, cats and ferrets only**. Please [check the country requirements](#) for all other pets, such as birds, ornamental aquatic animals, reptiles, rodents or rabbits.

## What is an EU Pet Passport?

- An EU Pet Passport is a document issued by an official veterinarian in a EU Member State (country within the EU) or other designated country that contains official health information related to a specific pet.
- An EU Pet Passport cannot be obtained in the U.S.
- Pet Passports issued to residents of the United Kingdom (other than Northern Ireland) are no longer valid for entry into the EU.
- The purpose of the EU Pet Passport is to simplify travel between EU Member States, but the EU has also allowed it to be used for pets returning to the EU from other countries as long as it is a non-commercial movement (i.e., no more than 5 animals, the animals are not changing ownership or intended for resale, and the animals are moving within 5 days before or after the owner or designated person\*).
- If this is a commercial movement (i.e., more than 5 pets, the pet is being transferred to a new owner or sold, and/or the pet is moving more than 5 days before or after the owner or designated person\*), the pet cannot return to the EU with the EU Pet Passport. Instead, you will need to obtain an EU Health Certificate issued (completed and signed) by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed (counter-signed and embossed/stamped) by APHIS before the pet leaves the U.S.
  - Find your destination country in the menu at the bottom of this page to see the requirements and obtain the correct health certificate. You must follow the steps for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets that **do not** have an EU Pet Passport.

## Who can enter information in an EU Pet Passport?

- There are multiple sections of an EU Pet Passport. The EU Pet Passport identifies who can enter information into the various sections by type of veterinarian.
  - An “Authorized Veterinarian” specifically refers to an EU veterinarian.
  - A “Veterinarian” is any licensed veterinarian, including a U.S. veterinarian.
- It is important that a U.S. veterinarian **does not** enter information in any section designated Authorized Veterinarian, as this could lead to invalidation of the EU Pet Passport and/or the pet being denied entry into the EU.

## **If a pet has an EU Pet Passport, what documents are needed to return to the EU?**

- If this is a commercial movement (i.e., more than 5 pets, the pet is being transferred to a new owner or sold, and/or the pet is moving more than 5 days before or after the owner or designated person\*), the pet cannot return with the EU Pet Passport. Instead, you will need to obtain an EU Health Certificate issued (completed and signed) by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed (counter-signed and embossed/stamped) by APHIS before the pet leaves the U.S. To view these requirements and obtain the correct health certificate. You will need to follow the steps for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets that **do not** have an EU Pet Passport.
- If this is a non-commercial movement (i.e., no more than 5 pets, the pet is not being transferred to a new owner or sold, and the pet is moving within 5 days before or after the owner or designated person\*) and the rabies vaccination recorded in the EU Pet Passport is still valid and was recorded by an EU veterinarian, the pet will only need the EU Pet Passport to travel back to the EU.
  - If the rabies vaccination recorded in the EU Pet Passport has expired and the pet requires revaccination in the U.S. or was already revaccinated while in the U.S., you will need to obtain an EU Health Certificate issued (completed and signed) by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and endorsed (counter-signed and stamped) before the pet leaves the U.S.

## **If the pet's EU Pet Passport is still valid:**

### **Does the pet require a clinical examination in the U.S. before returning to the EU?**

Pets returning to the EU with a valid EU Pet Passport **DO NOT** need a clinical examination.

### **Does the pet require any treatments in the U.S. before returning to the EU?**

- Cats and ferrets do not require any treatments in the U.S. before returning to the EU.

- Dogs traveling to the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales), Ireland, Malta, Finland, and Norway need to be treated for tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*) 24 - 120 hours (1 - 5 days) prior to entry into those Member States/countries. This can be recorded in the dog's EU Pet Passport by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian.
  - Learn more about tapeworm treatment requirements for the [United Kingdom, Ireland, Malta, Finland, and Norway](#).

\* Designated person: a family member, friend, or other person authorized by the owner to travel with the pet.

**NOTE: Always check with the airlines to determine what additional requirements they may have for your pet to travel.**

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## **Countries Participating in the European Union**

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia

Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Republic of Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia

Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Northern Ireland\*  
Norway\*\*  
Poland  
Portugal

Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland\*\*

\* Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom (UK), but will continue to follow European Union (EU) requirements even though the UK is no longer part of the EU.

\*\* Norway and Switzerland are **not** part of the EU but have adopted EU legislation for import of most species of live animals.

## Important Travel Considerations

### Considerations for airline travel and cruises:



Airlines and shipping lines have their own policies and requirements for transporting pets. Check with your airline or shipping representative to determine what requirements they may have.

[Learn how you can improve the safety of dogs and cats during air travel.](#)

[View additional information for pet owners, airlines, and others about APHIS endorsement of international health certificates \(239.52 KB\).](#)

If pets or support animals accompany you on a cruise, you must comply with entry rules for **every** country or port where your pet or support animal exits the ship.

## **Will you be returning to the United States with your pet?**



[View APHIS Requirements](#)

**ALERT:** CDC is the primary authority for dog imports. For requirements or questions about dogs entering or returning to the United States, visit the [CDC website](#).

## **If you are transiting (passing through) the European Union:**



If your pet is traveling through (transiting) a country in the European Union (EU) on the way to a third, non-EU country, you will also need a transit health certificate for your pet for the EU. The transit health certificate will be the same as if your pet's final destination was the EU country. Use the information and steps above under "Travel Requirements Based on Pet Type" to determine which health certificate should be used. [View a list of EU countries](#).

See More See Less

## Need Help?

[Guidance for Pet Owners](#)

[Read an overview of the process for taking your pet to another country and related resources.](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[View frequently asked questions about traveling with your pet.](#)

## Still Have Questions?

USDA-Accredited Veterinarians

Contact a USDA-accredited veterinarian for questions about your destination country's entry requirements for pets (including any needed vaccinations, tests, or treatments); issuance of health certificates; and status updates on certificate endorsement.

[Find a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian](#)

APHIS Endorsement Offices

Contact APHIS Veterinary Export Trade Services if you have questions about endorsing an international pet health certificate. For quickest help, see [tips for pet owners and accredited veterinarians](#).

Generalist Team

Veterinary Export Trade Services

Email: [askvets@usda.gov](mailto:askvets@usda.gov)

Helpful Links:

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians](#)

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- [Frequently Asked Questions About Pet Travel for Accredited Veterinarians](#)

[All Contacts](#)

## Looking for Another Country?

Find your destination country requirements by using the dropdown menu below. If your country is not listed in the menu, visit [Pet Travel: Unknown Requirements](#).

Select Destination Country  [Go](#)

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