



Assistance Dogs INTERNATIONAL

EUROPE (ADEu)

Travel to the EU or Northern Ireland from Great Britain with an assistance dog from 1 January 2021

Since 1st January 2021, Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, has become a Part 2 listed third country under the EU Pet Travel Scheme. The regulations for taking a dog from Great Britain to Europe or Northern Ireland have changed. **The current EU Pet Passport is no longer valid.**

If you want to take your dog to the EU or NI, these are the steps you must follow:

1. Microchip

The dog must be microchipped and registered with a microchip database before any rabies vaccinations are carried out.

2. Rabies vaccination

The dog must be vaccinated against rabies. **The dog must be at least 3 calendar months old** before the vaccination can take place. If the dog already has a rabies vaccination, this must be up-to-date and must have been carried out **after** the dog was microchipped. If the dog's rabies vaccination is out of date, it must be re-vaccinated. In the UK, most rabies vaccinations are valid for 3 years, but some may only be valid for 2 years. The requirements can also vary for each European country, with some insisting on a yearly booster, so you should check this with the authorities in the country you are travelling to.

You must wait at least 21 days from the date of the rabies vaccination before you can travel.

3. Animal Health Certificate

You need to visit a vet **no more than 10 days before you travel** to request an Animal Health Certificate. This is a lengthy 10 page document which must be completed by an Official Veterinarian. Not all vets are OV's, so you should check. An OV is a vet who has obtained the Official Controls Qualification (veterinary) which is the qualification the APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) in the UK requires. The AHC is valid for 10 days from the date of issue and for 4 months of onward travel in the EU/NI and for re-entry into the UK for up to 4 months from the date of issue. Vets will charge for this service.

Important: you will need a new AHC every time you travel to the EU or NI.

Animal Health Certificates are issued in all EU languages, and you must make sure your vet issues you with an AHC in the language of the first EU country you will enter. If you try to enter France with an English language AHC for example, you will not be allowed entry.

You may only enter an EU country through a Designated Point of Entry. These can be found in detail for each country here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en

In practice, the Eurotunnel and most major ferry ports and airports are Designated Points of Entry.

When you cross the border into the EU at any Designated Point of Entry, you will need to provide a current, original and fully completed AHC, your pet's microchip details, dates of rabies vaccination and tapeworm treatment (if required).

4. Returning to Great Britain

You must return on one of the Approved Routes for entering GB.

Accredited assistance dogs can travel on more routes than those for other pets. These routes can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/travel-with-assistance-dogs-transport-companies-and-routes>.

Your dog must also be treated for tapeworm before returning to GB. This must be carried out by a vet and must be signed, stamped and dated with the time given on the dog's AHC. This must be done **not less than 24 hours before entering GB and not more than 120 hours**. The treatment used must contain praziquantel or an equivalent which is proven to be effective against tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*).

5. Travelling to Finland, Republic of Ireland, NI, Norway or Malta

If you're travelling with your dog directly to Finland, Republic of Ireland, NI, Norway or Malta, it must have treatment against tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*). Your dog will need to receive treatment **not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours** before entering the country. Your vet must enter full details on the AHC following treatment.

6. Assistance Dogs based in Northern Ireland

Assistance dogs based in Northern Ireland and returning to NI from GB can use an NI issued EU Pet Passport to re-enter NI and **will not need an Animal Health Certificate**. You can find more information on this from DAERA (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/travelling-pets>. Assistance dog holders living in Northern Ireland will also be able to obtain a new style UK (NI) branded EU Pet Passport from their vet from early 2021.

7. Other precautions to take prior to travel with an assistance dog

Before travelling with your assistance dog, it is advisable to talk to your vet. In addition to the required rabies vaccination, preventative treatment may be required against parasites such as fleas, ticks, intestinal roundworms, *Taenia* and *Dipylidium* tapeworms, mites etc. Diseases such as such as Leishmaniosis are prevalent in several European countries, and your dog may require additional preventative treatment. You can find a list of diseases common to each EU country here: <https://www.esccap.org/travelling-pets-advice/>