

Animal Health Certificates – General Advice September 2021

- If you have an **EU passport** with an in-date rabies vaccination your pet can use this to travel, and an AHC does not need to be issued. It will run out when the rabies vaccination runs out.
- UK vets are no longer able to enter any rabies vaccinations in to an EU passport. If your pet has a rabies vaccination done in the EU then an EU vet will need to record it and they can keep using the passport.
- If your pet does not have a current rabies vaccination, this must be done first and you must wait 21 days before an AHC can be issued. A vet cannot issue an AHC before the rabies vaccination is valid. The animal must be 12 weeks old before they can have a rabies vaccination.
- Once the AHC is issued it is valid for 10 DAYS to travel in to the EU, then for 4 months onward travel within the EU and re-entry in to the UK. Pets will need a new AHC each time they enter the EU from the UK.
- If you are travelling directly to **N. Ireland, Ireland, Finland, Malta or Norway** with a dog, these **dogs need tapeworm treatment 24-120h before entering these countries**. This needs to be entered on the AHC.
- If Drove Vets has not done the rabies vaccination, it is your responsibility to check your pet's records are up to date. Be aware that there are different rabies vaccines and some of them are only valid for one year.
- The vet completing the AHC needs evidence e.g. passport or vaccination card, that shows the date of rabies vaccination and will also need evidence of either date of microchipping (e.g. on a microchip certificate) or date of microchip reading, that must pre-date the date of rabies vaccination.
- You will be advised to bring all relevant paperwork to the appointment (certified copies will be needed as evidence to go with the AHC).
- We recommend booking your pets appointment as close to date of departure as the AHC is valid for 10 days once it is issued and this gives you a bit more wriggle room if you incur any travel delays.
- If travelling directly to N.Ireland, Ireland, Finland, Malta or Norway please book the AHC appointment so the vet can do the worming at the same time, i.e. 24-120h before the pet arrives in to these countries.
- Please make sure that the person attending the appointment with the pet is the owner who is travelling as they need to sign an owner's declaration at the appointment. Please check that they will be accompanying the pet there and back.

In order to issue the AHC please come to your pets appointment prepared with the below information:

- Owner's full name
- Mobile number
- Their first point of entry (just the country) in to the EU (we do not need the address at their final destination).
- Countries they will be travelling through and final destination (useful for e.g. discussing parasite prevention).
- How you plan to travel e.g. car, ferry, plane.
- Date of intended travel
- Length of travel
- Date of return

For more information visit www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad