



Office of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment
to the US and Canada
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS TRAVELLING TO SPAIN

1. Non-commercial import of dogs, cats and ferrets

Since **December 29, 2014**, the following **Regulations** apply to the non-commercial movement of pet animals travelling to the European Union (EU):

- **Regulation (EU) 576/2013:**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:178:0001:0026:en:PDF>

- **Regulation (EU) 577/2013 (please read the IMPORTANT NOTICE on page 2 of this guide):**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0577&from=EN>

For the purposes of these regulations, the following definition of **pet animal** applies: *dog, cat or ferret accompanying its owner or an authorized person during non-commercial movement, and which remains for the duration of such non-commercial movement under the responsibility of the owner or the authorized person.*

For the entry of pet animals from the US and Canada into Spain, the next requirements must be met:

1. **The entry of dogs, cats, or ferrets under three months of age**, and therefore not vaccinated against rabies, **is not allowed. An animal will be considered vaccinated against rabies 21 days after the first vaccination.**
2. The pet animals will enter the European Union accompanied by an identification document in the format of a **European Passport** (in the case of a pet animal coming back to the EU) or a **Health Certificate and Declaration of the owner or the authorized person.**
3. **Documentation and identity checks** of pet animals will be carried out at the point of entry of the Member State of the EU. The pet animal must be correctly identified and have a valid (not expired) vaccination against rabies (according to the Laboratory). Additionally, the animal health inspector will verify that the documents (health certificate and declaration or passport) accompanying the animal are correct.
4. Under the new regulations, the **maximum number of pet animals may exceed five** if the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - the non-commercial movement of pet animals is for the purpose of participating in competitions, exhibitions, or sporting events (or in training for such events); and



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- the owner or the authorized person submits written evidence; and
- the pet animals are more than six months old.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

EU Commission [Implementing Regulation 2016/561](#) amends Annex IV of [Implementing Regulation 577/2013](#) regarding the model of animal health certificate for dogs, cats and ferrets moved into a Member State from a territory or a third country for non-commercial purposes.

Therefore, we inform that:

The **animal health certificates issued on or after September 1st, 2016** will be in accordance with the model of the consolidated version. The bilingual version of the animal health certificate and owner's declaration is available in the following links:

- **USA:**
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documents/APHIS%20BILINGUAL%20HC%20AND%20DECLARATION.pdf>
- **CANADA:**
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documents/CFIA%20BILINGUAL%20HC%20AND%20DECLARATION.pdf>

✓ Identification

Pet animals shall be identified by the implantation of a transponder (microchip) which must comply with ISO Standard 11784, apply HDX or FDX-B technology and be capable of being read by a reading device compatible with ISO Standard 11785. When the transponder does not comply with these requirements, the owner or the authorized person must provide the means necessary for the reading of the transponder upon arrival to the European Union.

The pet can also be identified by a tattoo if it is clearly readable and was applied before 3 July 2011.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The transponder must be implanted **before or on the same day** in which the rabies vaccination is administered. Rabies vaccines administered before the date of the implantation of the transponder won't be considered valid.



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✓ Anti-rabies Vaccination

The **anti-rabies vaccination must be administered on the same day or after the implantation of the transponder** (or tattoo) and the entry to Spain won't be possible until 21 days after the first rabies vaccination. For booster vaccinations, no waiting period is required, provided the booster vaccine was administered before the expiration date of the prior vaccine. A vaccination will be considered a first vaccination if it took place after the valid period of the previous vaccine. A revaccination will also be considered a first vaccination if the pet animal was not identified with a transponder/microchip at the time of the previous vaccination (and must also wait 21 days to enter the EU).

✓ European Passport for pet animals

Dogs, cats, and ferrets returning to the European Union after travelling to the US or Canada may enter the EU accompanied by their passports (Health Certificate and Declaration won't be required).

The European Passport must be issued by a veterinarian at the European Member State of origin before departing to the US or Canada and the rabies vaccination must be valid (not expired).

In the US and Canada veterinarians can't update the information (vaccinations or treatments) in the European Passport. If during your stay in Canada or the US the pet's vaccination expires, you will need the Health Certificate and Declaration to enter the EU.

European Passports issued after December 29, 2014, must comply with the requirements set in Annex III of Regulation 577/2013. If the passport was issued before that date the previous model will be valid.

For more information on Passports please visit the EU Commission's website:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement_en

✓ Health Certificate

Pet animals travelling to Spain without a passport or with a passport that needs to be updated before returning to the EU, must enter Spain with an Animal Health Certificate. The US (APHIS) and Canadian (CFIA) administrations have created a bilingual version of the Health Certificate:

➤ **USA:**

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documentos/APHIS%20BILINGUAL%20HC%20AND%20DECLARATION.pdf>

➤ **CANADA:**

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documentos/CFIA%20BILINGUAL%20HC%20AND%20DECLARATION.pdf>



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The Health Certificate is **valid for 10 days** from the date of issue by the official veterinarian until the date of the documentation and identity checks at the designated point of entry to the EU (list available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-commercial-non-eu/tpe_en)

In the case of transport by sea, that period of ten days is extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea.

For the purpose of further movement into other Member States, this certificate is valid for a total of four months or until the date of expiry of the validity of the anti-rabies vaccination.

The **Declaration of the owner or the authorized person** must be attached to the Health Certificate and will be in accordance with the model in Regulation 577/2013. A certified copy of the identification and vaccination details of the animals concerned shall be attached to the certificate.

The declaration is available in page 7 of the following links:

- **USA:**
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documentos/APHIS%20BILINGUAL%20HC%20AND%20DECLARATION.pdf>
- **CANADA:**
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/WASHINGTON/es/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documentos/CFIA%20BILINGUAL%20HC%20AND%20DECLARATION.pdf>

The certificate and declaration shall be drawn up in Spanish and in English in capital letters.

If additional sheets of paper or supporting documents are attached to the certificate, those sheets of paper or document shall also be considered as forming part of the original certificate as long as the signature and stamp of the official veterinarian are on each of the pages.

The original certificate shall be issued by an official veterinarian of the territory or third country of dispatch or by an authorized veterinarian and subsequently endorsed by the competent authority of the territory or third country of dispatch.

IMPORTANT: The health certificate must have the signature of the official veterinarian, who is able to directly sign or endorse the signature of the authorized veterinarian. That is to say, the certificate could have one or two signatures but if it should have only one signature, that signature should be the one belonging to the official veterinarian.

The competent authority of the territory or third country of dispatch shall ensure that rules and principles of certification are equivalent to those laid down in Directive 96/93/EC are followed. The color of the signature shall be different from that of the printing. This requirement also applies to stamps other than those embossed or watermarked.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* is not necessary when travelling to Spain, but it is compulsory if the pet animal travels to Ireland, Malta, Finland, United Kingdom or Norway (European Economic Area, EEA). In addition, the rabies antibody titration



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test is not required if a pet animal travels from the US or Canada to Spain. Statements which are not relevant may be crossed out by the official veterinarian.

Who can sign the certificate?

➤ United States:

The Health Certificate may be filled out by any veterinarian accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA/APHIS), under the [National Veterinary Accreditation Program, NVAP](#)

If the certificate is completed by an authorized veterinarian, the certificate must be endorsed by an Official Veterinarian employed by the [Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(VS/APHIS\)](#) of the Department of Agriculture.

Contact your local [Area Office of VS/APHIS](#) so that they may provide the necessary information for this procedure.

Please visit the APHIS website for more information:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/importexport/sa_animals/sa_pet_travel

➤ Canada:

The certificate may be signed by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by an Official Veterinarian from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Contact your local [Animal Health Office](#) so that they may inform you about this procedure.

Please visit the CFIA website for more information:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/exports/live-animals/health-certificates/pets/eu-non-commercial-eng/1321396665054/1321464473817>

2. Commercial imports of dogs, cats and ferrets

When the movement of pets have a commercial purpose, and therefore cannot be considered as pet as defined in Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013 of the European Parliament, the animals must be accompanied by the model Decision Implementation Commission 2013/519/EU.

In these links one can find more information and the veterinary certificate for this course:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013D0518&from=EN>

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/eu-legislation/non-eu-imports/index_en.htm



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<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/exports/live-animals/health-certificates/pets/eu-commercial-/eng/1321466489704/1321466637929>

3. Potentially dangerous dogs

In Spain, the possession of certain types of dogs is subject to special requirements. [Royal Decree 287/2002](#) of March 22 regulates the requirements to own animals deemed to be potentially dangerous, established by the [Law 50/1999 of December 23](#). We recommend reading both regulations (only available in Spanish) to check if your dog is considered as potentially dangerous.

4. Frequent Asked Questions

This section includes the responses to the most frequent questions received from owners travelling to Spain from the US and Canada.

Q: My dog/cat/ferret just received a rabies shot. Can we travel to Spain immediately?

A: When an animal is vaccinated against rabies for the first time (first vaccination), it must wait a period of 21 days before it is allowed into Spain. If the vaccine is not the first administered to the animal since it was identified with a microchip, but rather a booster shot administered before the previous vaccine's expiration, the wait period is not required. For example:

- Example 1: A dog is vaccinated for the first time on June 1, 2015: it won't be allowed into Spain until June 22, 2015;
- Example 2: A dog is vaccinated for the first time on June 30, 2012, for a three-year period, and the booster shot is administered June 1, 2015 (before the first vaccine's expiration date): it will be allowed into Spain as soon as June 1, 2015;
- Example 3: A dog is vaccinated on May 1, 2012, for three years, and the booster shot is administered on June 1, 2015 (after the previous vaccine's expiration date): the dog won't be allowed into Spain until June 22, 2015.

Q: How can I find out if my pet's microchip is compatible with standards ISO-11784?

A: It is likely that your veterinarian will know if the microchip is compatible.

- In the United States, you may check with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): <https://www.avma.org/Pages/home.aspx>
- In Canada you may check this list of compatible microchip manufacturers and distributors: http://www.ncac-cnac.ca/189_Annex_1_RequirementsToComply_Dec162005.pdf



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Q: What should I write in the space “Certificate Reference Number” of the Health Certificate?

A: The space for the reference number is reserved for the endorsing Veterinary Service Office (VS/APHIS or CFIA), to number the certificate according to their records system.

Q: I have travelled with my pet animal from Spain to the US or Canada and I’m returning to Spain. Do I need a Health Certificate?

A: If you travel to the US or Canada you may issue your EU pet passport before leaving Spain. For the passport to be valid, the rabies vaccine on the passport must not have expired. In this case you won’t need to issue the Health Certificate and Declaration. The passport is also necessary if you live in the EU and you travel with your pet to another EU country.

Q: I’m travelling with my pet animal to Spain but afterwards we are returning to the US or Canada. What are the requirements?

A: Pet animals must comply with the requirements stated by the US and Canadian authorities.

The export information is available in Spanish in the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (only available in Spanish):

<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/Viajar-perros-gatos-hurones.aspx#para3>

For more information on the US/Canada requirements for importing animal pets please check the following links:

- US CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):
<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/bringinganimaltous.html>
US APHIS: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/bring-pet-into-the-united-states>
- Canada CFIA (Canadian Food and Inspection Agency):
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/imports/policies/live-animals/pets/eng/1326600389775/1326600500578>
- Certification Units in Spain contact information (Pet Export Certificates):
http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/unidadescert19_05_2017_tcm7-457823.pdf



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Q: The airline is asking me for a certificate of acclimatization or some guarantee that the animal is in condition to withstand the trip but I don't see that information on the certificate.

A: Each airline has its own regulations and requirements concerning the transport of pet animals. For more information about requirements for the flight, cage size, etc., please contact the airline's customer service.

Q: What requirements apply to service dogs/ service animal?

A: The same health requirements that apply to animal pets apply to service animals.

Q: Before going to Spain, I am going to travel through other countries in the European Union. Do I still need the Health Certificate in Spanish?

A: The health requirements have been harmonized in all of the European Union. However, If you're travelling to Ireland, Malta, Finland, United Kingdom or Norway (EEA) the treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* is necessary (but not required when travelling to Spain).

Q: What is the maximum number of pets that I can travel with?

A: If you travel with more than 5 pets within the European Union (EU) or from another country, the commercial import regulations would apply.

However, there are exceptions for those dogs, cats or ferrets that participate in contests, exhibitions, or sporting activities or training for such activities.

Q: Am I required (as the owner or person responsible for the animal) to accompany my pet during the travel?

A: In principle, all animals should be accompanied by their owner. For justified and documented reasons, the transport of animals in a different mode of transportation from their owners is permitted as long as it is no longer than 5 days away from the owner.

Q: What is the minimum age for traveling pets?



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A: If you travel from a country with no risk of rabies (EU Member states or countries listed in Annex II of the Regulation (EU) 577/2013, the minimum age is 15 weeks. Your pet should be at least 12 weeks old before being vaccinated against rabies. The vaccine is not effective if it is given before that age. The pet needs to wait 21 days after receiving the vaccine in order to travel (this is the period in which immunity sets in).

Some countries in the EU accept animal younger than 12 weeks who have not been vaccinated against rabies although most of the EU countries do not. Please check the following link for more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/young_animals_en.htm

Spain does not grant exceptions nor does it authorize the entrance of dogs, cats and ferrets who have not been vaccinated.

Q: The implementation of new pet passports started on the 29th of December of 2014. What does this mean for my pet?

A: It is not necessary to acquire another passport if your pet already has one issued before the 29th of December of 2014 (this passport is valid) . If your pet is issued a passport after this date, it will receive the new model.

Q: I am living in the EU. Where can I acquire a pet passport?

A: You should contact a veterinarian from the country in which your pet resides. The National Authority of each EU Member State is responsible for distributing the passports to authorized veterinarians.

Q: What should I do if I have lost my passport?

A: You should contact your veterinarian so that he or she can expedite your passport and revaccinate your pet or, if your veterinarian has the vaccination records for your pet, he or she can log them in the new passport. This information should include what has been administered to the animal, the manufacturer name, the denomination of the vaccine, lot number, administration date and signature of the authorized veterinarian.

Q: What are the primary changes between the new and old passports?

A: The new passport contains laminated strips that cover certain information from the passport for security reasons and additional page so that the veterinarian can include extra details. Additionally, the new passport has added the "valid from" mention in the rabies vaccine section that lets pet owners clearly see at what date the passport becomes valid for travel. This also simplifies the verification process, as for first vaccinations, the date when the vaccine was administered is not the same as the date the vaccine becomes valid (this is not necessary for booster vaccinations).



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Q: Where can I go to ID my pet?

A: To put a microchip in your pet, you need to go to your usual veterinarian.

Q: Is tattoo identification allowed?

A: Yes, but only if the tattoo was done before the 3rd of July of 2011 and it must be clearly legible.

Q: Is it necessary to identify my pet before vaccinating it against rabies?

A: Yes, your animal must receive the treatments in the correct order. In order to ensure the identity of the animal at the time of vaccination, the microchip should be checked before administering the vaccine.

Q: When is it required to do a serological test for rabies?

A: You need to take a blood sample to travel from certain countries outside of the EU which have a presence or risk of rabies. If you go to one of these countries and then return it is important to do a serological test before leaving the EU.

To travel from the US or Canada to the EU a serological test for rabies is not necessary.

In any case, the serological test for rabies is required to travel within the EU.

Q: Do I need to deworm my pet to travel to the EU or within the EU?

A: To travel to the UK, Ireland, Malta, Finland and Norway it is compulsory to deworm your dog against *Equinococcus* between 1 to 5 days before entering into one of these countries.

Q: I am on vacation and I want to bring back home with me an abandoned animal. What are the requirements?

A: To bring an animal to Spain, you must complete the requirements of the regulations of the European Union. In order to bring animals from certain countries, it will take at least 3 to 4 months to complete the requirements. You have to take into account that rabies is still present in many countries. When an animal is infected with rabies, the period of time between the contraction of the disease and the onset of symptoms is usually one to two months (and can exceed one year). Even though an animal appears perfectly healthy, it could be infected.



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Q: What is the legalization of documents, Apostille Convention or Consular Recognition?

A: Some countries ask for the legalization of documents, which is a bureaucratic process to recognize documents as valid. There are two types of legalization: Apostille Convention or Consular Recognition, which in practice, are a set of stamps granted by various agencies to be put on the back of official export certificate issued for your pet.

There are few countries which ask for an official legalization of the export certificates, but if a country demands it, only one type of legalization will be required, never both.

No EU country requires legalization for documents accompanying your pet from a third country or from another Member State of the EU.

Q: If I am living in a country outside the EU and I have to vaccinate my pet against rabies, can my vet record the vaccination in the passport?

A: Vaccines in the European pet passport must be registered by an authorized veterinarian in the EU, therefore veterinarians from third countries should not do this. If your vaccination expires and you're in a country outside the EU, you must vaccinate your animal. You must then request from the country's authorities a certificate in accordance with the model set by the EU legislation to record this vaccine.

Q: If I travel from a country without risk of rabies, but I make a stop in a country at risk of rabies (not included in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 557/2013), do I have to do a serological test to test my pet for rabies?

A: The EU legislation contemplates for this situation, and will not require serological tests provided that during transit the animal remains confined in a means of transportation or remains inside the international airport grounds. This shall be declared by the owner in a document that is set out in part 2 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 577/2013.

Q: If I travel from a country outside the EU and I make a stop in an airport in the EU before reaching my final destination airport, where will they do the security check of my pet?

A: Most often, the security checks made by the various EU countries are carried out when the animal leaves the customs area of the airport. That is, if your pet does not leave the terminal in the airport where you have a stop, your pet will not be subject to a security check. As the owner or representative of the pet, you have the obligation to present your pet to the supervising authorities at the time of entrance to EU territory, i.e. arrival at the airport.



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Q: What happens if I travel with my pet and do not meet the requirements?

A: Make sure your pet meets all the requirements before traveling. A non-compliance could lead to the immobilization of your pet in a quarantine facility, its return to the country of origin, or even as a last resort, euthanasia. The owner will be responsible for all the expenses incurred. Pets that do not meet requirements can pose a serious risk to both animals and people.

Q: May I bring food or feed to Spain for my pet?

A: From the U.S. or Canada you may only bring or send personal consignments of food that are medically necessary for companion animals if their combined weight does not exceed 2kg per person and:

- do not require refrigeration before consumption;
 - products are packaged with a trademarked commercial label and
 - the packaging is unbroken unless in use.
-

Q: I've read all the information provided but I still have a question. Who should I contact?

A: If you've read the information and you have further questions, please contact the animal health inspection service in your point of entry to the EU. The contact information can be found in the following link:

http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/unidadescert19_05_2017_tcm7-457823.pdf

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