



Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)

We have prepared this document to make you aware of potential changes to the current Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) that may come into affect **from the 30th March 2019** as part of Brexit.

Currently, like so many Brexit issues, we do not know for certain what changes, if any, are going to take place, but we would like to give you some interim information to help with any travel arrangements you have with your pet(s) for on or after March 30th 2019.

The current PETS passport is issued by the EU to facilitate the free movement of dogs, cats and ferrets within all member states of the European Union as long as the PETS rules are met. There are also some 'listed' non-EU countries such as Singapore, Hawaii, Norway and Switzerland that are allowed to operate under the same PETS rules as EU member states, or with some additional conditions. Unlisted countries have much stricter movement rules such as rabies blood testing. The British Veterinary Association (BVA) has recommended that the UK is recognised as a 'listed' country as part of Brexit.

Essentially there are three possibilities for pet travel after the 30th March 2019:

- 1) The UK becomes a listed non-EU country in which case there would be very little difference to the current travel system.
- 2) The UK becomes a listed non-EU country with some additional more stringent travel rules.
- 3) The UK becomes an unlisted country. This is a worst-case, "no deal" scenario whereby travelling with your pet would become considerably more expensive and less simple and would require action at least four months prior to travel.

It is very important for those intending to travel on, or in the few months after 29th March 2019 to start making plans by November 2018. If we become an unlisted country then it may become necessary to take blood samples for rabies titre (this may also involve revaccinating) and then there will be a delay period before travel can occur.

There is a more detailed explanation of all of the possible outcomes mentioned above on the UK government website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/taking-your-pet-abroad-if-there's-no-brexit-deal

We will try to keep you updated as the Brexit process continues and more information is released. However it is **your responsibility** to ensure you are aware of all the travel requirements for your pet and to allow your veterinarians sufficient time to complete documentation, provide vaccinations and to allow for test result timescales as detailed in the link.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of our official veterinarians if you have any further questions.