



# SEADOWN

## VETERINARY GROUP



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### PETS and Export

Travelling abroad with your pets, whether for a holiday or for a longer period, often involves a significant amount of administrative work and certification, and can be expensive. It is important to look into this early as many tests and requirements will have a specific time frame for completion, and can take weeks or even months to complete – your animal may not be able to travel, or come home, if the paperwork is not in order.

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows animals from certain countries to enter the UK without quarantine as long as they meet certain strict rules. It also allows people in the UK to take their dogs (including assistance or working dogs), cats and ferrets to other European Union countries, and certain non-EU countries, and return with them to the UK. The aim of the rules is to keep the UK free from imported diseases including rabies. A PETS Passport takes approximately seven months to complete. A microchip and rabies vaccination is given from 12 weeks of age and a blood sample is taken to check antibody levels 30 days later. Provided the level is adequate, six months after the blood test date your animal can re-enter the UK without quarantine. You must see a vet in the country you are visiting before returning to the UK to administer a wormer and tick treatment which needs to be certified in the passport. At present these rules will remain unchanged until December 2011.

Dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK from non-qualifying (unlisted) countries must spend six months in quarantine on arrival. This also applies to any animal arriving without a valid PETS Passport. The rules concerning animals travelling to countries not included in the Pet Travel Scheme are decided by those countries. There are many companies who specialise in export of pet animals. All export certificates must be signed by a veterinary surgeon who has checked the animal for signs of disease.



If you are considering travelling with your pet further information is available from the sources listed below – please look into this as early as possible to avoid problems.

DEFRA helpline 08459 33 55 77

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/factsheet/factsheet.htm>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Foreigntravel/BeforeYouTravel/DG4000019>

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