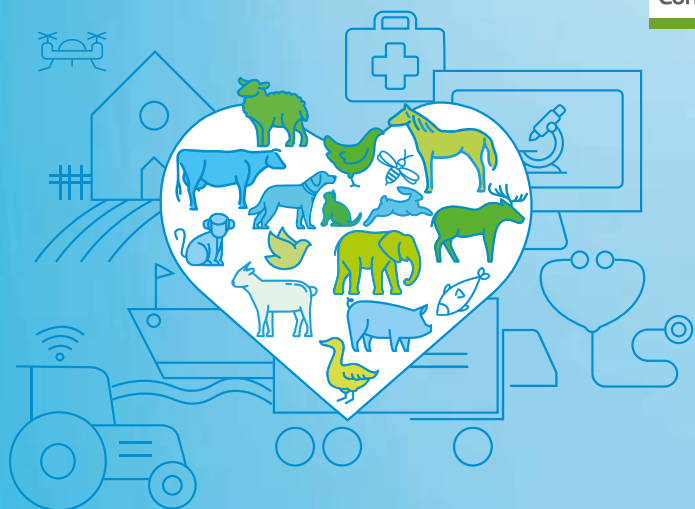




European  
Commission



## ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

# Dogs, cats and ferrets



### Did you know?

Harmonised rules exist in the Union for animal health requirements for dogs, cats and ferrets. These animals may be kept in establishments (for example, for breeding, pet shops, and animal shelters), but most often, they are kept at people's homes as pet animals.

To protect the health of these animals and human health, there are EU rules targeting the control of certain diseases, like rabies and *Echinococcus multilocularis* (a species of tapeworm). Prevention measures are also in place, including registration of establishments in which

these animals are kept, approval of certain shelters and assembly centres, identification and traceability, as well as their movements within and into the Union.

These rules are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ("Animal Health Law") and in Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013 regarding the non-commercial movement of pets.



## What are my key responsibilities as an operator under this new legislation?

As the animal keeper and operator of an establishment under the AHL, you must have basic knowledge of animal health and certain disease prevention and control responsibilities. Amongst them, you are responsible for:

- ♥ The health of your animals,
- ♥ The prudent and responsible use of veterinary medicines,
- ♥ Good animal husbandry,
- ♥ Registering your animals, activities and establishment, and keeping records,
- ♥ Biosecurity, disease prevention and control at your establishment,
- ♥ Cooperating with the competent authorities on various measures,
- ♥ Surveillance of diseases in your animals,
- ♥ Ensuring that movements of animals do not risk the spread of animal diseases and making sure that the necessary documents follow the movement.

## Movement within the EU

When dogs, cats and ferrets are moved **within the Union**, animal health requirements apply, in accordance with Animal Health Law and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688. If the movement is for non-commercial purposes and the pets travel with their owners, there are lighter requirements (see below). Otherwise, the dogs, cats and ferrets must:

- ♥ Come from a registered or **approved establishment** and be **clinically inspected** before the movement;
- ♥ Be marked by the implantation of a **transponder** or a **tattoo** (if applied before 3 July 2011);



- ♥ Be **vaccinated** against rabies when the animal was at least of the age of 12 weeks by an authorised veterinarian,
- ♥ Be treated against *Echinococcus multilocularis* when the destination is a Member State free of this parasite;
- ♥ Be accompanied by a **passport** completed and issued by an authorised veterinarian documenting the transponder code or the tattoo, the details of the rabies vaccination, where applicable, the details of the treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* and by an **animal health certificate** issued by the competent authority.



## Entry into the EU

When dogs, cats and ferrets are moved **into the EU from a country or territory outside the EU**, they have to comply with rules laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. In addition to coming from a registered establishment, clinical inspection, health certificate, marking, vaccination against rabies, treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* when the destination is a Member State free of this parasite. They must:

- ♥ Be subject to rabies antibody testing, depending on country or territory of origin, carried out on a blood sample collected by an authorised veterinarian at least 30 days after the vaccination date and **not less than three months before the movement date**. The blood sample must be analysed in a listed laboratory, and the result must show an antibody level higher than 0,5 IU/ml;
- ♥ Come from a listed third country;
- ♥ Enter the EU through a Border Control Post.

## What are the animal health requirements if my travel is non-commercial?

When dogs, cats or ferrets **travel with their owners**, these are called **non-commercial movements** of pet animals. Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 makes it easy for you to travel to another EU Member State with your pet animal or travel to an EU Member State from a country or territory outside the EU.

When the pet animals are moved **to another EU Member State**, they must be marked, have to undertake rabies vaccination, be treated against *Echinococcus multilocularis* when the destination is a Member State free of this parasite and be accompanied by a passport. A **maximum of five** pet animals may be moved for non-commercial purposes. Exceptionally, the maximum number may exceed five only when the following conditions are met:

- ♥ The movement is to participate in competitions, exhibitions or sporting events;
- ♥ Written evidence is provided that the animals are registered either to attend an event or with an organisation organising such events;
- ♥ The animals are more than six months old.

The non-commercial movement of the pet animal may take place **up to five days before or after** the movement of the owner, in which case the non-commercial movement of the pet animal is carried out under the responsibility of a natural person who has authorisation in writing from the owner to carry out the non-commercial movement of the pet animal on his/her behalf.

Please be aware that other carnivores cannot be considered pet animals and benefit from the regime reserved for the non-commercial movements of pet animals.



## Non-commercial movement of pets into the EU from outside the EU

When pets are moved **into the EU from a country or territory outside the EU**, in addition to marking, vaccination against rabies and treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* when the destination is a Member State free of this parasite, they must:

- ♥ Be subject to a **rabies antibody test** depending on country or territory of origin.
- ♥ Be accompanied by an **animal health certificate** issued by the competent authority of the third country of origin and by a declaration regarding the non-commercial nature of the movement, or in certain cases by an EU passport;
- ♥ Enter the EU through a traveller's point of entry designated by the Member States.





**For more information on Animal Health Law**

If you are interested in other factsheets, please visit:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en)

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