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European Union (EU) Pet Passports

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This page answers common questions about European Union (EU) pet passports.

These passports are issued for **dogs, cats, and ferrets only.** For all other pets (such as birds, ornamental aquatic animals, reptiles, rodents, and rabbits), check the country requirements.

Pet passports issued to residents of the United Kingdom (other than Northern Ireland) are no longer valid for entry into the EU.

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is an EU pet passport?

An EU pet passport is a document issued by an official veterinarian in a EU Member State (country within the EU) or other designated country that contains official health information related to a specific pet.

Can I obtain an EU pet passport in the United States?

No.

When can I use the EU pet passport instead of a health certificate?

The purpose of the EU pet passport is to simplify travel between EU Member States. The EU also allows it to be used for **pets returning to the EU from other countries** as long as it is a **non-commercial** movement:

- No more than 5 animals,
- The animals are not changing ownership or intended for resale, and
- The animals are moving with the owner or designated person.*

If your situation does not meet the criteria above, the EU considers it to be a **commercial** movement, and the pet **cannot** return to the EU with the pet passport. Instead, you must obtain an EU health certificate issued (completed and signed) by

a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed (counter-signed and embossed/stamped) by APHIS before the pet leaves the United States.

To see the requirements and obtain the correct health certificate, visit Take a Pet From the United States to Another Country (Export). Find your destination country in the dropdown menu under "Step 2" and click "Go." On the country page, follow the steps for "Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets" that do **not** have an EU pet passport.

* Designated person: a family member, friend, or other person authorized by the owner to travel with the pet.

Who can enter information in an EU pet passport?

There are multiple sections of an EU pet passport. The passport identifies who can enter information into the various sections by type of veterinarian:

- An “Authorized Veterinarian” specifically refers to an EU veterinarian.
- A “Veterinarian” is any licensed veterinarian, including a U.S. veterinarian.

Important: U.S. veterinarians must **not** enter information in any section designated "Authorized Veterinarian." This could lead to invalidation of the EU pet passport and the pet being denied entry into the EU.

If a pet has an EU Pet Passport, what documents do they need to return to the EU?

For non-commercial movement:*

- If the rabies vaccination is still valid and was recorded on the pet passport by an EU veterinarian, the pet only needs the **EU pet passport** to travel back to the EU.
- If the rabies vaccination has expired and the pet requires revaccination in the United States or was already revaccinated while in the United States, you must obtain an **EU health certificate** issued (completed and signed) by a USDA-

accredited veterinarian and endorsed (counter-signed and embossed/stamped) by USDA before the pet leaves the United States.

For commercial movement:**

- The pet **cannot** return with the EU pet passport.
- Instead, you will need to obtain an **EU health certificate** issued (completed and signed) by a USDA-accredited veterinarian and endorsed (counter-signed and embossed/stamped) by APHIS before the pet leaves the United States.

To see the requirements and obtain the correct health certificate, visit Take a Pet From the United States to Another Country (Export). Find your destination country in the dropdown menu under "Step 2" and click "Go." On the country page, follow the steps for "Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets" that do **not** have an EU pet passport.

* Non-commercial movement means no more than 5 pets, the pet is not being transferred to a new owner or sold, and the pet is moving with the owner or designated person (owner-authorized family member, friend, or other designee).
** Commercial movement means more than 5 pets, the pet is being transferred to a new owner or sold, and/or the pet is moving unaccompanied and more than 5 days before or after the owner or designated person.

Do pets with valid passports require a clinical examination in the United States before returning to the EU?

No. Pets returning to the EU with a valid EU pet passport do **not** need a clinical examination.

Do pets with valid passports require any treatments in the United States before returning to the EU?

Cats and ferrets do **not** require any treatments in the United States before returning to the EU.

Dogs traveling to the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales); Ireland; Malta; Finland; and Norway need to be treated for tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*) 24–120 hours (1–5 days) prior to entry into those Member States/countries. This can be recorded in the dog's EU pet passport by a USDA-accredited veterinarian.

Learn more about tapeworm treatment requirements for the United Kingdom, Ireland, Malta, Finland, and Norway.

Always check with the airlines to determine what additional requirements they may have for your pet to travel.

Need Help?

For information on traveling with a pet, visit Take a Pet From the United States to Another Country (Export) and Bring a Pet From Another Country into the United States (Import). These pages explain the specific requirements and guidance for different countries and types of animals.

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