



TRAVELLING ABROAD

Since 2012 it has become much easier to travel with your pet (dog, cat or ferret) to Europe as there is no longer a need for a Rabies blood test or tick treatment. However there are still several requirements to fulfil and it is the owners responsibility to know these requirements and ensure they are carried out. Details of the pet travel scheme can be accessed at www.gov.uk.

Requirements for travel into Europe:

1. The pet must be microchipped.
2. The pet must have a pet passport that has been issued and stamped by an Official Veterinarian.
3. The pet must be vaccinated against Rabies at least 21 days prior to leaving the UK and must have been over 12 weeks old when it was initially vaccinated. The vaccine then needs to be repeated every 3 years.
4. The pet must be treated for tapeworm 24-120 hours before re-entry into the UK. This has to be given and stamped off by a veterinary surgeon so you will need to book this appointment with a vet when on holiday.

When travelling back to the UK from Ireland, Malta, Finland or Norway no tapeworm treatment is required.

Listed above are the legal requirements for pet travel to Europe however there are several other precautions that we recommend you take to protect your pets health and your own.

Tapeworm treatment (Echinococcus Multilocularis):

It is a requirement for your dog to be treated against tapeworms before entering the UK however you should also treat your pet for tapeworm monthly when abroad so they are covered during their holiday. The tapeworm we are worried about is called Echinococcus Multilocularis which isn't present in the UK. The dog is the host and sheds the eggs in its faeces but isn't affected by the worm. Humans pick up the disease from accidental ingestion of these eggs. In people it can be fatal causing large cysts in the abdomen. So along with treating your dog regularly also take care of general hygiene when cooking and cleaning up after your dog.

Tick treatment

Ticks are prevalent abroad just as they are in the UK and carry serious diseases:

- **Babesia** – A protozoa which is carried by ticks. Once the dog is bitten by the tick the parasite travels and lives in the blood stream causing anaemia. The signs take 2 weeks to develop and can cause lethargy, jaundice, weight loss, reduced appetite, lymph node enlargement etc
- **Ehrlichia** – These organisms are a type of rickettsia which is halfway between a bacteria and a virus. In the acute phase Ehrlichia causes anaemia, spontaneous bleeding, bruising, lethargy and joint pain etc. If the infection isn't fought off the disease can become chronic and eventually leads to kidney disease, neurological signs, arthritis and repeated infections.



Mosquito control

It is very important to try and prevent mosquito bites on your pets as mosquitoes carry the larval form of the dog heart worm *Dirofilaria immitis*, which isn't present in the UK. The larvae develop into the active worm in the pulmonary artery taking 6 months to cause disease. Clinical signs include coughing, collapse, weight loss and eventually congestive heart failure.

Sand fly control

Leishmania is a protozoal infection spread by sand flies. In 80% of cases it doesn't cause clinical disease, however German Shepherds, Boxers and Cocker spaniels are considered more likely to develop the disease. It is very common with 2.5million dogs infected in south west Europe. When it does cause disease the disease takes two forms. The first form involves the skin which is the most common and least serious form causing hair loss and sometimes ulcerated or nodular lesions. The second involves the internal organs and can cause, joint pain, weight loss, ocular signs and kidney failure which is the most common cause of death related to Leishmania. People can also develop Leishmania although it is only rarely transmitted from dogs to people via a bite.

Rabies

Although your pet is protected against Rabies by the vaccination it does occur commonly in the wild and stray dog population. So please refrain from handling these animals when abroad as they still pose a risk to you.

Heat

Just like ourselves our pets aren't used to the heat abroad. They are very susceptible to heat stroke, especially overweight and hairy breeds. It may be wise to clip your dog before the holiday if they have a long coat. Only walk them at dawn and dusk, it will be too hot when the sun is out and provide them with lots of water to drink. Never let them drink sea water.

Recommended products when abroad:

1. **Milbemax** – We recommend the use of milbemax monthly when abroad to treat and prevent heart worm and tapeworm.
2. **Advantix** – We recommend using the monthly spot on advantix when travelling abroad with your **dog** as it eliminates ticks, fleas and biting lice and repels ticks, mosquitoes, sandflies and stable flies.
3. **Seresto collars** – You can't use advantix on cats so instead we advise the use of seresto collars, which last 8 months, have 2 quick release safety mechanisms and repel fleas and ticks.
4. **Leishmania vaccine (canileish)** – We recommend you use the Leishmania vaccine if you travel to Europe regularly and for long periods. Dogs can be vaccinated from 6 months of age with an initial course of 3 injections followed by an annual booster.

Passportation:

At the practice we provide a passport service. The consultation takes half an hour. We will ensure your pet is micro chipped and has had the Rabies vaccination before issuing the passport at the end of the consultation. We will also answer any questions you may have. If you wish to travel with your pet outside of the EU the rules may be very different. Please call us to discuss these requirements.