

Intra-Community movement of pet dogs, cats and ferrets when travelling from 1. October 2004

Scope

These conditions apply to the Member states of the European Community and the EEC:

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary, United Kingdom, Cyprus.

Pet animals

Pet animals are defined as dogs, cats, ferrets, invertebrates (except bees and crustaceans), ornamental tropical fish, amphibia, reptiles, birds (except poultry) as well as rodents and domestic rabbits which are accompanying their owners or a natural person responsible for such animals on behalf of the owner during their movement and are not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner.

With the exception of dogs, cats and ferrets, no certificates have been laid down so far.

Dogs, cats, ferrets

Since 3. July 2004, a pet pass (Heimtierausweis) can be issued by any self-employed veterinarian in Austria for dogs, cats and ferrets to be moved between Member states of the European Union when travelling.

Identification

Each animal has to be identified by either a clearly readable tattoo or a microchip.

Passport

Each animal has to be accompanied by a passport issued by a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority certifying valid anti-rabies vaccination, or re-vaccination if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, carried out on the animal in question with an inactivated vaccine of at least one antigenic unit per dose (WHO standard).

Validity of anti-rabies vaccination

Anti-rabies vaccination is deemed valid 21 days after finishing the basic vaccination procedure if

- the animal has been vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine in accordance with the licensing for market authorization of the vaccine in the country of origin;
- the vaccine has an efficiency of at least one antigenic unit per dose (WHO standard)
- if the animal has been re-vaccinated at regular intervals.

Member states with additional requirements

Until at least July 2009, dogs, cats and ferrets may enter the territory of Ireland, Malta, Sweden or the United Kingdom only if the following additional requirements are fulfilled:

- A statement has to be entered into the passport certifying a neutralising antibody titration at least equal to 0,5 IU/ml carried out in an approved laboratory on a sample; this antibody titration need not be repeated on an animal which, following that titration, has been regularly re-vaccinated at the intervals required by the manufacturer.
- additional requirements regarding treatment against ticks and tape-worm (www.defra.gov.uk, www.agriculture.gov.ie, www.sjv.se)

A treatment against tape-worm is also required for the entry into Norway and Finland. (www.mattilsynet.no, www.mmm.fi)

Movement of animals younger than 12 weeks by private travellers

In accordance with regulation (EC) no. 998/2003 Austria permits the movement of dogs, cats and ferrets younger than 3 months if

- each animal has been identified by a microchip or tattoo,
- each animal is accompanied by a pet pass,
- the animal has been kept in the place in which it was born since birth without contact with wild animals likely to have been exposed to the infection or are accompanied by their mothers on whom they are still dependent.

The following Member states permit the transport of animals younger than 12 weeks in accordance with Reg. 998/2003 by private travellers:

Germany, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Czech Republic;

The following Member states prohibit the transport of animals younger than 12 weeks:

Finland, Great-Britain, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Sweden, Cyprus;

The authorities or embassies of the following states should be contacted before transport of animals younger than 12 weeks:

Belgium (www.health.fgov.be), Denmark (www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk), France (www.agriculture.gouv.fr);

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen

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