



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF PET ANIMALS TRAVELLING INTO SPAIN

### 1. Non-commercial import of dogs, cats and ferrets

From **December 29, 2014**, the following **new regulations** apply to the non-commercial movement of pet animals travelling to the European Union:

- **Regulation (EU) 576/2013:**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:178:0001:0026:en:PDF>

- **Regulation (EU) 577/2013:**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:178:0109:0148:EN:PDF>

For the purposes of these regulations, the following definition of **pet animal** applies: *dog, cat or ferret accompanying its owner or an authorized person during non-commercial movement, and which remains for the duration of such non-commercial movement under the responsibility of the owner or the authorized person.*

For the entry of pet animals from the US and Canada into Spain, the next requirements must be met:

1. **The entry of dogs, cats, or ferrets under three months of age**, and therefore not vaccinated against rabies, **is not allowed. An animal will be considered vaccinated against rabies 21 days after the first vaccination.**
2. The pet animals will enter the European Union accompanied by an identification document in the format of a **Passport** (in the case of a pet animal coming back to the EU) or the **new Health Certificate and Declaration of the owner or the authorized person.**



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3. **Documentation and identity checks** will be carried out in respect of non-commercial movement of pet animals into a Member State of the EU. The pet animal must be correctly identified and have a valid (not expired) vaccination against rabies (according to the Laboratory). Additionally, the animal health inspector will verify that the documents (health certificate or passport) accompanying the animal are correct.
4. The **maximum number of pet animals may exceed five** if the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - the non-commercial movement of pet animals is for the purpose of participating in competitions, exhibitions, or sporting events or in training for such events;
  - the owner or the authorized person submits written evidence that the pet animals are registered either to attend an event referred to in point above or with an association organizing such events;
  - the pet animals are more than six months old.

### ✓ **Marking of Pet Animals**

Pet animals shall be marked by the implantation of a transponder (microchip) or by a clearly readable tattoo applied before 3 July 2011.

The transponders must comply with ISO Standard 11784 and apply HDX or FDX-B technology and be capable of being read by a reading device compatible with ISO Standard 11785.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The transponder must be implanted before or on the same day in which the rabies vaccination is administered. Rabies vaccines administered before the date of the implantation of the transponder won't be considered valid.

### ✓ **Anti-rabies Vaccinations**

The anti-rabies vaccination must be administered on the same day or after the implantation of the transponder and the entry to Spain will be possible 21 days after the first rabies vaccination. For booster vaccinations, no waiting period is required, provided the booster vaccine was administered before the



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expiration date of the prior vaccine. (more information in the Frequently Asked Questions section). A vaccination will be considered a first vaccination if it took place after the valid period of the previous vaccine (and must wait 21 days to enter Spain). A revaccination will also be considered a first vaccination if the pet animal was not marked with a transponder at the time of the previous vaccination (and must also wait 21 days to enter Spain).

### ✓ **European Passport issued in EU Member States**

Dogs, cats, and ferrets returning to the European Union after travelling to the US or Canada may enter the EU accompanied by their passports (Health Certificate and Declaration won't be required).

The European Passport will be issued at the European Member State of origin before departing to the US or Canada and the rabies vaccination must be valid (not expired).

In the US and Canada veterinarians can't update the information in the European Passport. If during your stay in Canada or the US the pet's vaccination expires, you will need the Health Certificate and Declaration to enter the EU.

European Passports issued after December 29, 2014, must comply with the requirements set in Annex III of Regulation 577/2013. If the passport was issued before that date the previous model will be valid.

For more information on Passports please visit the EU Commission's website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/pet-regulation\\_20141229\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/pet-regulation_20141229_en.htm)

### ✓ **Health Certificate**

Pet animals travelling to Spain without a passport or with a passport that needs to be updated before returning to the EU, must enter Spain with a Health Certificate (in accordance with the model in Annex IV of the Regulation (UE) 577/2013) that is sent together with this document.

The Health Certificate is **valid for 10 days** from the date of issue by the official veterinarian until the date of the documentation and identity checks at the designated Union travelers' point of entry (available at:



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[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm))

In the case of transport by sea, that period of ten days is extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea.

For the purpose of further movement into other Member States, this certificate is valid from the date of the documentary and identity checks for a total of four months or until the date of expiry of the validity of the anti-rabies vaccination.

The **Declaration of the owner or the authorized person** must be attached to the Health Certificate and will be in accordance with the model in Regulation 577/2013. A certified copy of the identification and vaccination details of the animals concerned shall be attached to the certificate.

The certificate and declaration shall be drawn up in Spanish and in English in block letters.

If additional sheets of paper or supporting documents are attached to the certificate, those sheets of paper or document shall also be considered as forming part of the original certificate by the application of the signature and stamp of the official veterinarian on each of the pages.

The original of the certificate shall be issued by an official veterinarian of the territory or third country of dispatch or by an authorized veterinarian and subsequently endorsed by the competent authority of the territory or third country of dispatch. The competent authority of the territory or third country of dispatch shall ensure that rules and principles of certification equivalent to those laid down in Directive 96/93/EC are followed. The color of the signature shall be different from that of the printing. This requirement also applies to stamps other than those embossed or watermarked.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* is not necessary when travelling to Spain, but it is compulsory if the pet animal travels to Ireland, Malta, Finland, or United Kingdom. In addition, the rabies antibody titration test is not required if a pet animal travels from the US or Canada to Spain. Statements which are not relevant may be crossed out and initialed and stamped by the official veterinarian, or completely deleted from the certificate.

**Who can sign the certificate?**



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➤ **United States:**

The Health Certificate may be filled out by any veterinarian accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA/APHIS), under the [National Veterinary Accreditation Program, NVAP](#)

However, once filled out, the certificate must be endorsed by an Official Veterinary employed by the [Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(VS/APHIS\)](#) of the Department of Agriculture.

First, ask your veterinarian whether he/she is accredited under NVAP. If that is not the case, please contact the **Area Office of VS/APHIS** to request a list of accredited veterinarians near your place of residence. Once the accredited veterinarian has filled and signed the certificate, it will need the endorsement (signature) of a VS/APHIS Official Veterinarian. The accredited veterinarian or **VS/APHIS Area Office** can inform you of the procedure.

➤ **Canada:**

The certificate must be signed by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by [an Official Veterinarian from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#).

## 2. Potentially dangerous dogs

In Spain, [Royal Decree 287/2002](#) of March 22 regulates the requirements to own animals deemed to be potentially dangerous, established by the [Law 50/1999](#). We recommend checking both regulations (only available in Spanish).

## 3. Traveling with a pet from Spain to US

Whole information here referred is to travel from US to Spain (UE). If you are interested in travel from Spain to US with your pet, you have to check the requirements with the sanitary authorities of the USA. Please, call to US' embassy at Madrid. <https://es.usembassy.gov/es/>



## 4. Frequent Asked Questions

This section includes the responses to the most frequent questions received in the past From owners travelling to Spain From the US and Canada.

**Q: My dog/cat/ferret just received a rabies shot. Can we travel to Spain immediately?**

**A:** When an animal is vaccinated against rabies for the first time, it must wait a period of 21 days before it is allowed into Spain. If the vaccine is not the first the animal receives, but rather a booster shot administered before the previous vaccine's expiration, the wait period is not required. For example:

- Example 1: A dog is vaccinated for the first time on June 1, 2013: it won't be allowed into Spain until June 22, 2013;
- Example 2: A dog is vaccinated for the first time on June 30, 2010, for a three-year period, and the booster shot is administered June 1, 2013 (before the first vaccine's expiration date): it will be allowed into Spain as soon as June 1, 2013;
- Example 3: A dog is vaccinated on May 1, 2010, for three years, and the booster shot is administered on June 1, 2013 (after the previous vaccine's expiration date): the dog won't be allowed into Spain until June 22, 2013.

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**Q: My dog/cat/ferret is less than three months old. Can I take it to Spain?**

**A:** No. The entry of dogs, cats, or ferrets of less than three months of age into Spain is not allowed.

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**Q: How can I find out if my pet's microchip is compatible with standards ISO-11784?**

**A:** It is likely that your veterinarian will know.

- In the United States, you may check with the American Veterinary Medical Association: <https://www.avma.org/Pages/home.aspx>
- In Canada you may check this list of compatible microchip manufacturers and distributors: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/exports/live-animals/health-certificates/pets/eu-non-commercial-/microchips/eng/1321494584550/1321494727892>



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**Q: What should I write in the space “Certificate Reference Number” of the Health Certificate?**

**A:** The space for the reference number is reserved for the endorsing Veterinary Service Office (VS/APHIS or CFIA), to number the certificate according to their records system.

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**Q: I have travelled with my pet animal from Spain to the US or Canada and I´m returning to Spain. Do I need a Health Certificate?**

**A:** If you travel to the US or Canada you may issue your EU pet passport before leaving Spain. The rabies vaccine on the passport must not have expired. In this case you won't need to issue the Health Certificate and Declaration. The passport is also necessary if you live in the EU and you travel with your pet to another EU country.

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**Q: I´m travelling with my pet animal to Spain but we are returning to the US or Canada. What are the requirements?**

**A:** Pet animals must comply with the requirements stated by the US and Canadian authorities.

The export information is available in Spanish in the website CEXGAN:  
<http://cexgan.magrama.es/MODULOS05/Publico/DocProtocolos.aspx?Tipoanimal=1&Pais=235&proc=7>

For more information on the US/Canada requirements for importing animal pets please check the following links:

- US CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):  
<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/bringinganimaltous.html>



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- Canada CFIA (Canadian Food and Inspection Agency):  
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/imports/policies/live-animals/pets/eng/1326600389775/1326600500578>

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**Q: The airline is asking me for a certificate of acclimatization or some guarantee that the animal is in condition to withstand the trip but I don't see that information on the certificate.**

A: Each airline has its own regulations and requirements concerning the transport of pet animals. For more information about requirements for the flight, cage size, etc., please contact the airline's customer service department.

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**Q: What requirements apply to service dogs?**

A: The same health requirements that apply to animal pets apply to service dogs.

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**Q: Before going to Spain, I am going to travel through other European Union country. Do I still need the Health Certificate in Spanish?**

A: The health requirements have been harmonized in all the European Union. However, If you're travelling to Ireland, Malta, Finland or United Kingdom the treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* is necessary (but not required when travelling to Spain).

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**Q: I've read all the information provided but I still have a question. Who should I contact?**

A: If you've read the information and you have further questions, please contact the animal health inspection service in your point of entry to the EU. The contact information can be found in the following link: <http://cexgan.magrama.es/Modulos05/Documentos/ListadoPIFNCHUE.pdf>



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