Essential checklist

☐ Has your pet been micro-chipped and is the microchip number correctly entered in the passport?

☐ Was your pet vaccinated after the microchip was implanted?

☐ Have you found a vet in France or Spain able to treat your dog for tapeworm?

☐ Has the tapeworm treatment been done more than 24 but less than 120 hours before scheduled arrival time in the UK.

☐ Has the vet validated the entry for tapeworm treatment which must include the date and time of administration in the passport with an official veterinary stamp and signature.

☐ Does the tapeworm treatment record include the name of the product used?

☐ Do you have a muzzle and have you familiarised your pet with it?

☐ Does your animal have water, absorbent bedding and adequate ventilation in your car for the crossings?

Since 29 December 2014, the rules for bringing a pet dog, cat or ferret into the UK have changed. For guidance notes visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/pet-travel-guidance-on-changes-to-the-eu-scheme-from-29-december-2014 or for in-depth information about pet travel in the EU visit www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners. Alternatively you can call the DEFRA helpline on 0370 241 1710.

It is the sole responsibility of the owner/escort to ensure the correct document is provided for bringing an animal to the UK.

We will check this for you but cannot be held responsible for any errors in the documentation - it is essential that you check your compliance with the regulations fully. Incorrectly completed and dated documents may result in your pet being refused travel or quarantined at your expense.

You should give particular attention to the timing of tapeworm treatment when returning to the UK.
Taking your pet on holiday and what must be checked

The pet travel scheme

Brittany Ferries are approved carriers for cats, dogs and ferrets travelling under the rules of the scheme. To comply with the rules you will need the following:

1. A valid DEFRA approved pet passport showing that your pet has been micro-chipped and vaccinated. Order of preparation is critical, the microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccination.

2. The valid DEFRA approved pet passport must show that the dog has been treated against tapeworm for return to the UK. The treatment must take place between 24 and 120 hours before the scheduled arrival time in the UK. (Does not apply to cats and ferrets)

3. A minimum of 21 days must elapse after rabies vaccination before any movement of pets between European countries.

4. All pet passports issued after 29 December 2014 must be the new style passports. Any old style passports issued AFTER 29 December 2014 will be refused.

Arrival at the port

You should ensure that your pet is exercised & toileted before you board.

Checking in

The check-in time when travelling with your pet is 60 minutes before scheduled departure time (shown on your travel ticket) when leaving the UK and 90 minutes when returning from France or Spain. When you check in we will place a ‘pet sticker’ on your car windscreen, this must stay in place until you have left the port of arrival. Your pet and its passport documents will be checked on arrival in the UK and before embarkation in France & Spain.

During the crossing

We have kennels on our routes to Bilbao, Santander and St Malo and a number of pet friendly cabins on some of our services to Bilbao and Santander, where your dog or cat can stay with you during the crossing.

On ships where there are no kennels your pet will remain in your vehicle. You will need to ensure that there is sufficient space, food and water and familiar toys or blankets for your pet during the journey. You should also leave the windows or roof open sufficiently to give them adequate ventilation.

You will be given instructions on the procedure for the transfer of your pet from the car to the kennel or pet friendly cabin by the crew on embarkation. With the exception of assistance dogs, pets are only permitted in the areas designated for pets on board the ship. These will be signposted on board.

Visiting your pet

If your dog is travelling in a kennel to Spain you will be given a key and can visit and exercise the animal at any time during the crossing in the designated areas on board. Your dog must be muzzled and on a lead at all times when out of the kennel. If your dog is staying in your vehicle, or in a kennel to St Malo, we will arrange visits during the crossing - this will be weather permitting and times are at the discretion of the crew on the day. Please report to the Information Desk on board for details of times and arrangements.

You will be responsible for cleaning up after your pet on board, suitable dustbins are provided in the designated pet areas.

Passport Section III Identification of animal

The microchip number

The number of the micro chip must be identical to the microchip number of the pet passport.

The date of microchipping

The date of microchipping (including day, month and year of insertion) MUST be shown as being before the initial vaccination against rabies.

Passport Section IV Vaccination against rabies

All boxes must be completed:

• Manufacturer and name of vaccine
• Vaccination date and expiry date
• Signature and stamp of authorised vet

The vaccine to the UK must take place before the ‘valid until’ date of the last booster vaccination.

If your dog is staying in your vehicle, or in a kennel to St Malo, we will arrange visits during the crossing - this will be weather permitting and times are at the discretion of the crew on the day. Please report to the Information Desk on board for details of times and arrangements.

Important information

It is the sole responsibility of the owner/escort to ensure the correct documentation for bringing an animal into the UK. We will check this for you but cannot be held responsible for any errors in the documentation - it is essential that you check your compliance with the regulations fully.

You should give particular attention to the timing of the microchip implantation, rabies vaccination and tapeworm treatment.

Please note that many vets fail to enter the time of the tapeworm treatment - this is essential and should be checked before leaving the vet.

Muzzles

All dogs must be muzzled while being checked at our ports, during the short transfer between your car and the kennels or pet friendly cabin on board and disembarkation and while being exercised. The transfer will be escorted by a crew member in groups using lifts passing through other passenger decks. You must provide your own muzzle and we recommend you familiarise your dog with the muzzle before travel. We reserve the right to refuse carriage if your dog is not muzzled.

Dog owners are responsible for the behaviour of their pets at all times.

Passport Section V Treatment against echinococcus

All boxes must be filled in:

• Manufacturer and name of product
• Date of the treatment in the upper box
• Time of the treatment in the lower box
• Stamp and signature of the vet

The treatment must have been carried out between 24-120 hours of scheduled arrival in the UK.

For dogs only.

Important information

Standard certification rules apply to completion of the passport:

• No correction fluid
• No alterations without initial and stamp

Completed in ink

Passengers travelling with dogs

One of the most common problems we see is the mistiming of the tapeworm treatment. Please pay special attention to the ‘treatment window’, ie 24-120 hours before scheduled arrival in the UK making sure you have arranged an appointment with the vet within the required time. Please be aware of opening times and local holidays.

Sección IV Pasaporte

Vacunación contra la rabia

Todas las casillas deben de estar cumplimentadas:

• Fabricante y nombre del producto
• Día, mes y año de la vacunación

Sección IV Pasaporte

Vacunación contra el Echinococcus

Todas las casillas deben de estar cumplimentadas:

• Fabricante y nombre del producto
• Día, mes y año de la vacunación

Información importante

Las informaciones inscritas en el pasaporte deben respectar las rúbricas siguientes:

• Pas de fluido corrector
• Pas de modificaciones sin firma y sello

Información importante

Normas de certificación estándar se aplican a la introducción de datos en el pasaporte:

• No utilización de correctores
• No existencia de alteraciones sin firma y sello

Información importante

Pasajeros que viajan con perros

Uno de los problemas más comunes que se detecta es el cálculo del tiempo del tratamiento contra el Echinococcus. Se recomienda que esté pendiente de este tratamiento, asegurándose de que ha solicitado una cita con el veterinario el día previo al viaje. La exhaustiva revisión de los documentos puede llevar a la cancelación del viaje, por lo que se recomienda verificar estos documentos antes de iniciar el viaje.