

Travelling abroad with your dog.

Since April 2000 it has been possible for dogs and cats to travel to and from mainland Europe without quarantine restrictions, provided that your pet has been micro chipped and has a valid passport. For details on how to obtain the Pet Passport please speak to your vet or contact DEFRA via their website www.defra.gov.uk or by calling 08459 335577. There is also a step by step guide and further advice on the following website www.dogsaway.co.uk. The process for obtaining a pet passport can take up to six months.

Coming back to the UK

Before you return to the UK from Europe you will need to take your dog to see a vet between 24 and 48 hours before you check-in to return to the UK, so that your dog can be treated for tapeworm and ticks. You will also need to make sure the vet you visit has the equipment to read the microchip. **For details on how to find a vet abroad please scroll down to page 4**

There are restrictions in some countries regarding the type of dog that is allowed to be imported under the Pet Passport Scheme. Please find below the restrictions for France, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands:

France (Information supplied by the French Embassy):

If your dog belongs to a breed recognized as dangerous dog, you cannot import this kind of dog in France (cat. 1). These breeds are:

- ▶ Any dog of the type known as the Staffordshire terrier without a pedigree.
- ▶ Any dog of the type known as the American Staffordshire terrier without a pedigree. (These types of dogs can be named « Pit bulls »)
- ▶ Any dog of the type known as the Mastiff. (These types of dogs can be named « boerbulls »)
- ▶ Any dog of the type known as the Tosa without a pedigree.

B. Other breeds classified as guard dogs (cat. 2) with a pedigree can be imported into France:

- ▶ Staffordshire terrier
- ▶ American Staffordshire terrier
- ▶ Rottweiler
- ▶ Rottweiler and any dog of the type known as the Rottweiler without a pedigree.
- ▶ Tosa

It is advisable to have a certificate that your dog has a pedigree.

I. You have to meet the following requirements to import a guard dog to France :

- ▶ The dog has to be identified (tattooing or microchipping, etc).
- ▶ You have to register the dog in the town council where you will stay.
- ▶ The vaccination against rabies is compulsory.
- ▶ Owners have to maintain insurance against their dogs injuring third parties.
- ▶ The dog has to be on a lead and muzzled when in public place

Please note: The Staffordshire bull terrier can be imported in to France, it is not classed as a dangerous dog.

Spain (Information supplied by the Spanish Embassy):

Royal Decree 287/2002 of March 22 regulates the requirements to own canine animals deemed to be **potentially dangerous**, developing the legislation established under Law 50/1999.

How do I know if my dog is classified as potentially dangerous?

The Royal Decree classifies the following dogs as potentially dangerous:

a. Those belonging to one of the **following breeds and their crosses**:

- Pit Bull Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Rottweiler
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro
- Tosa Inu
- Akita Inu

b. Those animals that have all or many of the following **characteristics**:

- Strong musculature, powerful or athletic constitution, robustness, agility, vigour and endurance.
- Strong character and marked courage.
- Short hair.
- Thoracic perimeter between 60 and 80 centimetres (24 and 32 inches), height at the shoulder between 50 and 70 centimetres (20 and 28 inches) and weight over 20 kg (44 lbs).
- Voluminous, square, robust head, with a wide and large skull and muscular and pronounced cheeks. Strong and large jaws, robust, wide and deep snout.
- Broad, short and muscled neck.
- Broad, thick, deep chest, with arched ribs and short and muscled back.
- Straight, parallel and robust forelegs and very muscular hindquarters, with relatively long hind legs at a moderate angle.

c. Those dogs with a record of **aggressive tendencies** or **prior attacks** to humans or other animals.

What are the requirements necessary to own a potentially dangerous dog in Spain?

The requirements are:

Potentially dangerous dogs must be identified with a **microchip**. They also must be registered in the **Town** or **City Registries** created to that end. The dog owner must have a **license**, issued by the municipality, valid for five years. In order to qualify for a license, the owner must meet the following requirements:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must have a **clean police record** showing no convictions for the crimes of homicide, torture, assault, sex-related offenses, drug trafficking, association with illegal armed groups, or otherwise having been banned by court order of the right to own potentially dangerous animals. These requirements must be documented with the **appropriate certificates** issued by the police authorities with jurisdiction over the owner's place(s) of residence during the two years prior to the application for license.
- Must be **mentally and physically able** to own and control potentially dangerous animals. This requirement will be documented with the appropriate **certificates** (certificate of physical aptitude and certificate of psychological aptitude) issued by authorized centres in Spain.
- Must have proof of contract of an **insurance policy** on the animal(s) with liability coverage of **at least 120,000 Euros**.

The owner must report any changes to the information included in the license to the Town or City Registry within fifteen days of the effective date of the change.

What are the safety measures required by law?

The safety measures required by this legislation are the following:

When a potentially dangerous dog is in a public space, the owner or person responsible for the dog must carry the owner's license and the certificate of inscription of the dog in the Town or City Registry. In addition, the dog must wear at all times an appropriate muzzle, and must be restrained by a non-extensible leash or chain no longer than 2 meters (6, 5 feet). At any given time, one person cannot lead more than one dog.

Potentially dangerous dogs located in an open, delimited space (land lot, porch, terrace, etc.) must be restrained by a chain or leash, unless the space is properly enclosed.

Finally, owners must report missing or stolen dogs to the Town or City Registry within 48 hours after the animal is determined missing.

In summary, following is a checklist with some of the requirements to take a potentially dangerous dog to Spain:

Before you leave the United Kingdom:

- Ensure that the animal meets the requirements set out in Regulation (EC) 998/2003;
- Obtain certification of owner's police record.

Once in Spain:

- Obtain certificate of physical ability;
- Obtain certificate of psychological aptitude;
- Purchase liability insurance;
- Apply for registration at the Town or City Registry of Potentially Dangerous Animals and obtain the license.
- Comply at all times with the safety measures.

Netherlands (Information supplied by the Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (VWA))

All breeds can be imported into the Netherlands, unless they show aggressive behaviour.

Ireland (Information supplied by the Department of Agriculture)

Ireland and England is a common control zone for rabies. No documentation is required and there are no checks on arrival in either country. You just need to comply with the wishes of the ferry or airline company.

The following breeds have restrictions that you need to comply with:

American Pit Bull Terrier, Bull Mastiff, Doberman Pinscher, English Bull Terrier, German Shepherd (Alsatian), Japanese Akita, Japanese Tosa, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and any other dog of the type commonly known as a Ban Dog (or Bandog) and every other strain or cross of every breed or type of all of these dogs.

Control of dogs whilst in a public place:

All of the above dog breeds must be kept on a sufficiently strong chain or leash, not exceeding two metres in length, by a person over the age of sixteen years who is capable of controlling them, they must be securely muzzled, and at all times wear a collar bearing the name and address of the owner.

Movement of dogs and cats between Great Britain and Ireland is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and current information is available on their web site at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets>

If you are planning to visit other countries please contact the relevant embassy to check if there are any restrictions.

How to find a vet abroad

There are a couple of options available to you to find a vet:

The first option is to look on French Yellow Pages: www.pagesjaunes.fr

Next to “activité” type “veterinaires”

Next to “localité” type “name of town” i.e. Calais

Then press “rechercher”

The second option is to use a company based here in the UK who will make the appointment for you, they will also send you detailed directions to the vet, and confirm the appointment 7 days before it is due. This service is offered for the majority of countries within Europe.

Charges for this service vary, and all the details can be found at: www.dogsaway.co.uk or by phoning 08450 171073.

The third option is to look at www.practicalcaravan.com or www.caravantalk.org.uk both these websites have overseas touring forums (which are free to join) once you have registered you can “post” questions to other caravanners, asking for recommendations of vets in Europe.

Listed below are the websites and instructions for finding a vet in other European countries:

Spain – www.paginasamarillas.es

Next to “Actividad” type “veterinario”

Next to “Localidad” type “name of town” i.e. Santander (you will also need to put in the province)

Then press “encontrar”

Italy – www.paginegialle.it

Available in English as well – icon on top right hand side of page

Next to “Coas” type “veterinario”

Next to “Dove” type “name of town” i.e. Milano

Then press “cerca”

Netherlands – www.goudengids.nl

Available in English as well – icon on top right hand side of page

Next to “Wat” type “Dierenartsen en dierenklinieken”

Next to “Waar” type “name of town” i.e. Amsterdam

Then press “Vind”

Germany – www.gelbseiten.de

Next to “Was” type “Tierärzte”

Next to “Wo” type in “name of town” i.e. Essen

Then press “suche starten”

Belgium – www.yellowpages.be all in English