

## PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TRAVEL WITH YOUR PET

There are many doubts that can come to mind when making a trip abroad with our pet. Therefore, this guide will solve in a schematic way all your doubts about the necessary procedures to travel with your pet.

### 1. CONTACT THE EMBASSY OR CONSULATE OF THE DESTINATION COUNTRY

Pet movements are subject to certain rules to prevent the transmission of potentially transmissible diseases to humans and other animals. Thus, each country establishes various conditions that animals must comply with for entry.

The official veterinarians of the Government Delegations and Sub-delegations can advise you on the requirements you need to travel with your pet.

However, the requirements for travelling or sending pets from one country to another are established by the country of destination. For this reason, the **first thing to do before travelling** with your pet is **to consult with the Embassy or Consulate of the country of destination** about the conditions required for the introduction of animals into its territory. They will be the ones who can **best advise you** on the documents necessary for your trip, such as official certificates, visas, The Hague Apostille or Consular Recognition.

You can find useful information on the following websites:

<https://servicio.mapama.gob.es/cexgan/publico/publico/BuscadorAC.aspx>

<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramites/legalizacion-unica-apostilla>

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/SiEstasEnElExtranjero/Paginas/Legalizaciones.aspx>

### 2. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Once you have consulted with the embassy of the country you will visit and have obtained the necessary requirements to travel with your pet, before the trip a **registered clinical veterinarian** must certify that your pet does not present symptoms of infectious diseases, that it is fit to travel, that it is vaccinated against rabies and that it meets any other requirements they have requested from the country of destination.

To do this, your veterinarian must use the **model certificate issued by the General Council of Veterinary Associations (green)**. This certificate is only **valid for a maximum of 10 days**, so you should obtain it shortly before your trip. In addition, you should take into account that some countries require the certificate to be issued within 48 hours

prior to shipment, hence the importance of **consulting the Embassy or Consulate of the country of destination** as a first step. Also, make sure that the health information is in a language that can be understood in the destination country. Your veterinarian has this model certificate, so you do not need to download it or get it yourself. If your veterinarian indicates that he or she does not have it, you should contact the Official College of Veterinary Practitioners in your province to obtain it.

You may need to attach the dates of vaccination and/or deworming to the health certificate, so don't forget to show your pet's health card to your vet so that he or she can certify it.

If you are going to travel to certain countries outside the European Union, take advantage of the visit to have your pet tested for rabies. Your veterinarian will send a blood sample to an EU-approved laboratory to certify that your pet has antibodies to rabies and follows recommended vaccination guidelines. If your pet has never been vaccinated against rabies, it is convenient to vaccinate it in order to do a test at least 30 days after vaccination. This process can save you many complications when you return home.

In the following link you can find a list of countries for which this test is not required. If the country you are travelling to is NOT on the list, we recommend that you take the test before you travel:

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/dogs-cats-ferrets.aspx>

See point 5. of the link:

Besides, your pet will have to:

- Be identified with a microchip, or tattoo (if done before 03/07/2011)
- Be vaccinated against rabies with a valid vaccine at the time of travel.
- If you come from a country not listed in **Annex II** to Regulation 577/2013, the pet must have undergone a serological test for rabies (see paragraph 4) in an approved laboratory.

### 3. OFFICIAL EXPORT CERTIFICATE

You're close to being able to travel with your pet. Once you have obtained your health certificate, you must contact the Official Veterinary Services present in the agricultural areas of the Government Delegations and Sub-delegations. You can find contact information on the following link:

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/default.aspx>

**ENTRY:** Travellers who wish to bring a pet from a third country must do so through one of the designated [Travellers' Points of Entry \(PEV\)](#).

**DEPARTURE:** To travel with a pet to a third country you must meet the requirements of that country. The necessary certifications can be obtained in the [Areas of Agriculture / Contact details of Agriculture Units](#).

Official veterinarians shall issue the **official export certificate**, which may be of different types depending on the country of destination.

Depending on the country you wish to visit, you may need to validate this certificate through The Hague Apostille or Consular Recognition. Again, the best option is to ask the embassy if you need this requirement. To do this, you need to contact the Subdirector General for Health Agreements and Border Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (C/ Almagro, 33 - 28010 Madrid) to validate the signature of the inspector who issued the official certificate. More information:

<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramites/legalizacion-unica-apostilla>

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/SiEstasEnElExtranjero/Paginas/Legalizaciones.aspx>

Once you obtain this last certificate, as well as the **rest of the documentation that may be requested by the destination country** (visas, Apostille of The Hague, Consular Recognition, etc.), you will be able to send or travel with your pet.

#### 4. RETURN TO SPAIN WITH YOUR PET

Finally, don't forget the paperwork needed to return with your pet from a non-EU country.

As mentioned above, European regulations stipulate that dogs, cats and ferrets from certain non-EU countries must undergo a serological test for rabies.

In the following link you can find a list of countries for which such a test is not required. If the country you are travelling to is NOT on the list, we recommend that you take the test before you travel:

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/dogs-cats-ferrets.aspx>

Besides, your pet will have to:

- Be identified with a microchip, or tattoo (if done before 03/07/2011)
- Be vaccinated against rabies with a valid vaccine at the time of travel.
- If you come from a country not listed in **Annex II** to Regulation 577/2013, the pet must have undergone a serological test for rabies (see paragraph 4) in an approved laboratory.

In this respect, there are two options:

1. That your pet has been vaccinated against rabies and at least 30 days later, a blood sample has been taken for a serological test in a laboratory authorized by the EU, before leaving Spain.
2. That your pet has travelled without having been tested.

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In this second case, you must take into account that the serological test must be carried out before returning to Spain in one of the laboratories authorised by the EU and that not all countries have one of these laboratories. You can check the list of authorised laboratories at the following website:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/movement-pets/approved-rabies-serology-laboratories\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/movement-pets/approved-rabies-serology-laboratories_en)

In addition, in this second case, **three months** must pass from the blood extraction for analysis, until the animal is authorised to come to Spain. It is therefore **convenient to carry out the serological test before travelling with your pet**. In addition, if your pet is vaccinated against rabies on a regular basis, respecting the guideline recommended by your vet, this test will be useful for the whole life of the animal. For more information please visit the following websites:

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/en/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/desplazamiento-animales-compania/default.aspx>

Summary:

1. Contact the embassy or consulate of the country of destination.
2. Obtain health certificate issued by a registered clinical veterinarian.
3. Serological test against rabies for dogs, cats and ferrets (recommended).
4. Obtaining official export certificate issued by an official veterinarian.
5. Return to Spain.