

## Travel Information to the UK

There are a few ways to travel with your dog from the USA to the UK. This information sheet is intended as a guideline but the rules can change and the most important thing to do is to talk to a local USDA registered vet and a private USA pet travel company as soon as possible prior to travel to obtain up to date guidance.

The USA pet travel company will assist you with all your travel requirements from help with booking flights to filling in all the forms that are required and advising when you need to visit the USDA registered vet. We would recommend contacting one before booking your flights to ensure you have all the necessary plans first.

The Royal Veterinary College is ideally situated on the edge of London for access to and from London's Heathrow airport. There are two ways to fly from the USA to London Heathrow. If your pet is a registered emotional support dog you can travel with your dog in the cabin on an United flight only. The travel company you choose will be able to assist you with checking this before you book your flights and ensuring you follow the airlines guidelines for cabin travel. The other option is for your dog to travel in the cargo hold, there are several flight companies you can use, again the travel company can assist you with this.

Another option is to fly to France where there are less restrictions in place for travelling with your dog in the cabin and then drive through the Eurotunnel or take the short ferry. Unfortunately dogs are not permitted to travel on the Eurostar.

There are a few rules to consider firstly, for travel into the United Kingdom, you will need to follow the rules in accordance to our governing body DEFRA <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>

The main UK policies to **enter or return to the UK with your pet cat dog** are

- **That your dog has been microchipped**
- **That your dog has either a pet passport or third-country official veterinary certificate.**
- **That your pet has been vaccinated against rabies and is also up to date with rabies boosters.**
- **That your dog must have had a tapeworm treatment 24hrs prior to travelling (check with local USDA vet).**

**Before you travel you will need to have attended a licensed USDA Veterinary Surgeon to prove that your pet is fit and healthy and has also had the tapeworm medication. The veterinary surgeon will then issue you with a letter to travel with all this information on for the airline/border control. Your pet must arrive in the UK no more than 5 days before or after you, or you'll have to follow different rules and you may be refused entry.**

**Microchip:**

Your pet must have a microchip inserted and registered, your Veterinary surgeon will put the microchip number on the pet passport or third-country official veterinary certificate.

### **What If you pet doesn't have a microchip but has a Tattoo?**

You don't need to have your pet microchipped if it's been tattooed with an identification number and all of the following are true:

- your pet was tattooed on or before 3 July 2011
- the tattoo is clearly legible
- your pet was vaccinated against rabies after it was tattooed

Your vet must record the date of tattooing, the tattoo number and the date of the rabies vaccination in the pet passport or third-country official veterinary certificate.

### **Pet passports/certificate**

#### **Getting a Pet Passport:**

You MAY need a pet passport for your dog, cat or ferret if they'll be travelling to the UK, depending on which country/US state you'll be coming from.

You'll need to take your pet, its identity and vaccination records and any rabies blood test results (if you have them) when you get a pet passport.

As the USA is not a common country that uses the pet passport scheme, you may be required to get a third-country official veterinary certificate instead. The private pet travel company should be able to assist you with getting these forms filled out correctly.

#### **Veterinary Certificate:**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550233/animal-health-certificate-for-dogs-cats-ferrets-entering-EU-from-non-EU-countries-and-some-territories.docx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550233/animal-health-certificate-for-dogs-cats-ferrets-entering-EU-from-non-EU-countries-and-some-territories.docx)

#### **When you can use a certificate:**

Your pet must arrive in an EU country within 10 days of the certificate being issued. It's valid for 4 months for further travel within the EU. You should get the person who checks your pet when you arrive in the EU to sign and stamp the certificate.

**You must bring originals of all your pet's documents, not photocopies.**

#### **Rabies vaccination:**

You must get your dog vaccinated against rabies before it can travel, you must keep up to date with Rabies boosters as well as the initial vaccination. Depending on each state you may be required to have had a blood test to confirm the initial Rabies vaccination, your Veterinary surgeon will be able to advise you on this.

#### **Tapeworm treatment for dogs**

A USDA approved Veterinary surgeon must treat your dog for tapeworm and record it in your pet passport or third-country official veterinary certificate. The treatment must have been given no less

than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours (5 days) before you enter the UK. Your dog can be refused entry or put into quarantine if you don't follow this rule.

### **Entering the UK from outside the EU**

When you arrive in the UK, a representative from the pet travel company you have used will ensure your pet is scanned and that your travel documents are all correct. They will then take your pet through customs before you can continue through the airport.

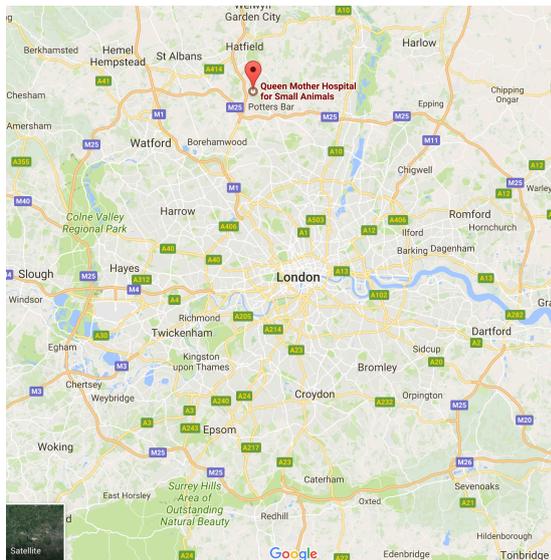
### **Royal Veterinary College address (Hawkshead Campus):**

Queen Mother Hospital for Animals

Hawkshead Lane

Brookmans Park, Hatfield AL9 7TA

**Phone:** 01707 666366 or 01707 666399



<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Queen+Mother+Hospital+for+Small+Animals/@51.5170194,-0.4154476,10z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x48763d3d229892f3:0xdae00cf8bf986844!8m2!3d51.7139986!4d-0.2080753>

### **Helpful information:**

**Pet Travel Scheme helpline**

[pettravel@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

**Nearby dog friendly hotels**

<https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Search?geo=1903585&redirect&q=pet+friendly+hotels&uiOrigin=MASTHEAD&ssrc=h&returnTo=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Etripadvisor%2Eco%2Euk%2F%2F&pid=3825&startTime=undefined&searchSessionId=2ED56666478DBB8BDAB0252061A44AAD1493897663375ssid>

**United States Department of Agriculture**

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>

**United Airlines and polices for pet travel**

<https://www.united.com/web/en-US/content/travel/animals/default.aspx>

**Help with confirming your dog as an emotional support dog for UK travel**

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/animal-health-welfare/heathrow-animal-reception-centre/Pages/Assistance-Animals.aspx>