

12. Bringing your Pet to Ireland

The importation of pets into Ireland has always been strictly controlled to ensure that diseases such as rabies are not introduced. Depending on what country your pet is coming from there are different restrictions.

I live in the UK and want to bring my pet to Ireland, what are the restrictions?

If you are coming from the UK, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, your pet is not subject to the quarantine or passport requirements. In effect, there is a common travel zone between Ireland and the UK and pets can move freely within that zone provided they do not travel outside it.

I live in the EU and want to bring my pet to Ireland, what are the restrictions?

If you want to import a dog or cat into Ireland from any EU member state, except for the UK, the pet animal must have an EU Pet Passport. The Passport certifies that the pet

- The pet is travelling from an eligible country
- The pet is identified by an implanted microchip
- The pet has been successfully blood-tested for rabies anti-bodies at least six months before entry
- The pet has been vaccinated against rabies
- The pet has been treated for tick and tapeworm (the pet must be treated between twenty-four and forty-eight hours before travel and the time and date must be entered on the passport).

In addition your pet must travel on an approved carrier on an approved route with its owner or with a person acting on behalf of the owner (unaccompanied pets cannot travel to Ireland under the EU Pet Passport System). The Irish Department of Agriculture has a useful checklist of questions to ask before travelling with your pet. For more information contact: The Department of Agriculture, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Kildare St, Dublin 2. Tel + 353 1 607 2000 Web: www.agriculture.gov.ie

I live in the EU and want to bring my pet to Ireland but my pet is not yet prepared for an EU Pet Passport, what are the restrictions?

In this case you must have an import licence which can be got at the Irish Department of Agriculture. Your pet will also be put in approved public quarantine for at least six months or be put in approved public quarantine for one month and then approved 'private quarantine' for a further five months. The second option with 'private quarantine' is only available if your pet meets certain requirements after one month in public quarantine.

12. Bringing your Pet to Ireland

I live in a non-EU country and want to bring my pet to Ireland, what are the restrictions?

If you want to bring your pet to Ireland from a qualifying non-EU country, the pet must undergo the following in this order

- Be microchipped
- Be vaccinated for rabies
- Be blood-tested after rabies vaccination and microchipping at least six months before entry
- Be treated for tick and tapeworm between twenty-four and forty-eight hours before departure
- Have a Veterinary Certificate (passport) issued or endorsed by the competent authority in the country of origin
- Be accompanied by the owner, or a person acting on their behalf, on an approved carrier into Ireland.

What countries are covered by non-EU regulations for the Pet Passport System?

Andorra, Argentina, Aruba, Ascension Island, Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Croatia, Falkland Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mayotte', Mexico, Monaco, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, New Caledonia, New Zealand, San Marino, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United States of America (USA – including Guam), Vatican City State, Vanuatu ,Wallis and Futuna.

I live in a non-EU country and do not qualify for the Pet Passport System and want to bring my pet to Ireland, what are the restrictions?

If you want to bring your pet to Ireland from a country other than one eligible for the EU Pet Passport System, you will have to get an import licence from the Irish Department of Agriculture. Your pet will also be required to spend six months in public quarantine in Ireland.

12. Bringing your Pet to Ireland

Who pays for the costs of transporting and quarantining my pet?

You do. As the owner you will have to pay all costs. It is important to note that all transport and quarantine requirements have to be in place before the import licence is granted. As the owner you have to make all these arrangements.

How do I arrange quarantine and transport for my pet?

There is only one approved public quarantine premises in Ireland. It is Lissenhall Quarantine Kennels and Catteries, Lissenhall, Swords, Co Dublin, Tel: + 353 1 890 0375, Fax: + 353 1 840 9338. Animals must spend their six-month quarantine here.

The animal must be transported by air to Ireland and land at Dublin, Cork or Shannon airports and be brought on by air to Dublin if necessary. Transport from the airport to the quarantine must be undertaken by the sole authorised carrying agent which is Kelly Couriers, 30 Selskar Avenue, Skerries, Co. Dublin. Tel: + 353 1 849 0807 Fax: + 353 1 802 9801.

Where can I get more information on import licences for pets?

You can contact the Department of Agriculture and Food, Special Projects Unit, Floor 4 Centre, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: + 353 1 607 2827
Web: www.agriculture.gov.ie E-mail: pets@agriculture.gov.ie

My pet is not a cat or a dog, will there be special requirements?

Depending on what your pet is there may be additional requirements. You should contact the Department of Agriculture for more information: Live Trade Section, Animal Health and Welfare Section. Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: + 353 1 607 2862 Fax: + 353 1 661 9031 Web: www.agriculture.gov.ie