



FRENCH MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

INFORMATION

From 29 December 2014

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVELLING TO FRANCE WITH PETS FROM COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (non-commercial movement)

pets: animals such as **dogs, cats, ferrets, rodents and domestic rabbits and birds** (all species except poultry*), **reptiles, amphibians, ornamental tropical fish, invertebrates –except bees and crustaceans–**, accompanying their owner or a natural person who has taken responsibility on the owner's behalf during their movement and which are not to be sold or subject to a transfer of ownership

*Poultry = as per the definition provided in regulation 2009/158EC: fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites (*Ratitae*).

A - Travelling to France with Cats / Dogs / Ferrets, from a country in the European Union

Animals must have:

- 1 - Identification:** animals must be identified by a microchip (electronic identification system) or by a clearly readable tattoo (applied before 3 July 2011) to travel within the EU.
- 2 - A valid vaccination against rabies given at a minimum age of 12 weeks (for animals vaccinated from 29/12/2014)** (first vaccination and boosters).

First vaccinations are deemed to be valid after at least 21 days.

- 3 - a passport** issued by a veterinary surgeon accredited by the competent authority, certifying the animal's identification and rabies vaccination.

Passports issued from 29/12/2014 must comply with the new passport (new features include: improved security for the animal identification page, which is now covered with a transparent film, and indication of start and end of validity dates for rabies vaccinations). There is no need to replace passports issued before 29/12/2014.

Important: Domestic carnivores (dogs, cats, ferrets) **that are under three months old AND do not have a valid vaccination against rabies cannot be brought into France.**

If the animal is not travelling with its owner, the person transporting it must possess written authorisation to transport the animal issued by its owner.

B - Travelling with more than 5 dogs, cats, ferrets: additional requirements apply

From 6 dogs, cats, ferrets, in addition to the above requirements, it is necessary:

- to have a veterinary surgeon accredited by the competent authority perform a physical examination of the animal within 48 hours prior to the departure time. This visit is recorded by the veterinary surgeon in the pet passport in the "Physical examination" section,
- to obtain and travel with an official certificate issued by the veterinary authorities of the country of origin (TRACES certificate).
- Authorised means of transport.

Exemption when taking part in a show, a competition or a sporting event, and only in this context, an exemption from these additional requirements exists if: the animals are aged over 6 months **AND** the owner has a registration document for the event (dates / place of participation / animals entered / identification).

This registration document may also be supplemented by certification by the owner.

C - Important information

Categorised dogs

Importing **category 1 dogs** into France that are classified by their morphological characteristics as dogs of the Staffordshire terrier, American Staffordshire terrier (pit-bulls), Mastiff (boerbulls) and Tosa breeds not registered in a pedigree record is prohibited in France.

Importing **category 2 dogs** into France that are classified by their morphological characteristics as dogs of the Staffordshire terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Rottweiler, Tosa breeds, registered in a pedigree record and dogs similar in their morphological characteristics to Rottweilers, not registered in a pedigree record, is possible. **The rules for movement and ownership of category 2 dogs apply.**

(For further information on pets, please visit: <http://www.agriculture.gouv.fr/animaux-de-compagnie>)

Identification:

Animals must always have been identified before vaccination for identification to be deemed valid.

If domestic carnivores are microchipped, the owner or natural person in charge of the animal must ensure that the electronic identification system (microchip) is readable.

IMPORTANT: since 3 July 2011, all animals are required to be identified by a microchip or by a clearly readable tattoo (applied before 3 July 2011) to travel within the European Union.

Penalties which may be applied in France if regulatory obligations are not fulfilled

If the above-mentioned health requirements are not complied with, the officials in charge of checks can have the animal **sent back** to the country of origin at the owner's expense, have it **put into quarantine** or have it **put down**, pursuant to Articles L.236-9 and L.236-10 of the French rural and maritime fishing code (*code rural et de la pêche maritime*).

Failure to observe the regulations and thereby causing or contributing to the involuntary spreading of transmissible diseases in domestic or wild vertebrates may result in a fine of **€300,000** and **two years in prison**.

Moreover, if the failure to observe the requirements set out in Article L.236-9 has had a serious effect on human or animal health, the penalties are increased to **five years in prison** and a fine of **€600,000**. There are additional penalties for natural people or legal entities.

For more detailed information, owners of domestic carnivores can browse the website of the French Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forestry :

<http://www.agriculture.gouv.fr/animaux-de-compagnie>

When returning to another Member State ensure that there are no other requirements to be fulfilled.

D - Other pets:

- **Rodents and domestic rabbits**
- **Cage birds**
- **Reptiles**
- **Amphibians**

When entering France, it is best that animals be accompanied by a veterinary certificate drawn up 5 days before departure, stating that they are in good health with no clinical signs of diseases specific to the species.

Furthermore, these animals must not be intended for sale.