

## **Animal Health Certificate**

An **Animal Health Certificate (AHC)** is your pet's ticket to travel! If you're planning to take your dog, cat, or ferret from Great Britain (GB) to the EU or Northern Ireland, this document is essential.

### **What is an AHC?**

Think of the AHC as a new type of travel passport for your furry friend. It's issued by a veterinarian and replaces the pet passports that used to be issued in Great Britain. This certificate allows your pet to journey with you to specific countries.

However, keep in mind that each country has its own set of travel regulations, and these rules can change. So, whether you're heading out of the UK or coming back, it's crucial to check the latest requirements for both your destination and your return.

**Important Note:** It's your responsibility to stay updated on travel regulations for any country you plan to visit, including the rules for coming back to Great Britain. Make sure to check the official government websites for accurate information.

### **How Do I Get an AHC?**

To obtain an AHC, you'll need to visit an **official veterinarian (OV)** authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). It's a good idea to call your vet clinic and ask if they have an OV available to handle your AHC appointment. If they don't, they can usually help point you in the right direction.

### **Preparing for Your Appointment with the OV**

1. **Plan Ahead:** Getting an AHC isn't a last-minute task. Make sure to book your appointment well in advance to meet all the necessary requirements.
2. **Gather Your Documents:** Your vet will need specific information and documents about your pet. This often includes details about their microchip and vaccination status. Don't hesitate to ask your vet for a checklist to ensure you have everything you need.
3. **Check on Rabies Vaccination:** Your pet might need a rabies vaccination to travel. Keep in mind that rabies vaccinations aren't typically included in annual vaccinations in the UK.

### **Can I Use My Pet's Old Passport?**

Unfortunately, no. Pet passports that were previously issued in Great Britain are no longer valid for travel. However, if your pet has a passport issued in another country, it may still be valid for travel from GB to other destinations. It's always best to double-check the UK government website for the most accurate details.

## **Final Thoughts**

Just like you wouldn't travel without your passport, your pet's travel documents are equally important. Before you embark on your journey, make sure you have all the required documents by consulting with an official veterinarian and checking government resources.