



## APHA Briefing Note 17/18

### EU Exit related changes to OCQ(V) Export Modules and OV Instructions in the event of a no-deal: OCQ(V) – Small Animals (SX) and Companion Animals (CA)

#### Purpose

1. To make Official Veterinarians (OVs) aware of the changes required for the movement to the EU of pet cats, dogs and ferrets and commercially traded dogs, cats and ferrets travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended) as well as other pets (birds, rabbits, etc.) in the unlikely event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.
2. To make OVs aware of the changes required for the export to the EU of other commercial small animals (e.g. laboratory animals, primates, zoo carnivores), excluding ungulates, travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended).

#### Background

3. The Technical Notices published on 24 September 2018 set out the possible implications of 'EU Exit without a deal' on the UK's ability to export [animals and animal products](#) or [move pet animals](#) (i.e. pet dogs, cats and ferrets) to the EU.
4. The conditions that apply to pets travelling into the EU are set out in the EU Regulations which can be found [here](#). As explained in the Technical Notice on '[Taking your pet abroad if there's no Brexit deal](#)', pets would continue to be able to travel from the UK to the EU in the event of a 'no deal' but the requirements for documents and health checks would differ depending on what category of third country the UK becomes after Exit. There are three categorisations of third country: 'listed: Part 1', 'listed: Part 2', or 'unlisted'.
5. Third countries can apply to the European Commission to be listed under Part 1 or Part 2 of Annex II to EU Pet Travel Regulations. A small number of countries and territories are Part 1 listed, which means pet animals from these countries and territories can enter the European Union in a similar way to pets

from other EU Member States. The majority of countries are Part 2 listed. This means that health preparation requirements for pets originating from those countries are the same as those from Part 1 listed countries but pet owners can only enter the EU with a valid 'EU Model Animal Health Certificate (MHC) for the non-commercial movement into a Member State from a territory or third country of dogs, cats or ferrets in accordance with Article 25(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013', a copy of which can be seen [here](#).

6. If a country has not applied or been accepted as a Part 1 or Part 2 listed country, it is an unlisted third country, and pet owners must take some specific actions several months before they wish to travel.
7. Defra is seeking technical discussions with the European Commission to allow the UK to become a listed third country on the day we leave the EU. We will continue to press the Commission to discuss this option with us. However, to allow for effective contingency planning, this briefing note explains the impacts of all three different types of listed status and the preparations needed under each possible scenario. This briefing note also covers the movement of other pets not covered by the EU Pet Travel Regulations.
8. Further briefing will be provided once the outcome of negotiations are known. Until then, as part of sensible contingency planning, pet owners who wish to travel with their pet(s) from the UK to the EU on or after the 30 March 2019 will need to be aware of the steps they may need to take, and OV's need to be prepared for pet owners to contact them with queries and to start pre-travel preparations.

### **Action for OV's**

9. To read and understand the implications of the Technical Notices on '[Exporting animals and animal products if there's no Brexit deal](#)' and '[Taking your pet abroad if there's no Brexit deal](#)'. In particular, to note that we are advising pet owners who plan to travel on or after 30 March 2019 to contact their vet at least four months in advance to check what health preparations they need to undertake.
10. To note that the module content/guidance/assessment for OV's as part of their initial training and subsequent revalidation (i.e. for the OCQ(V)-SX and CA modules provided by Improve International) and the [OV instructions](#) available through the APHA Vet Gateway will be amended once the final EU Exit position is known and these will clarify the health and documentation requirement for movement of pet dogs, cats and ferrets to the EU.
11. To note that if the UK becomes a Part 2 or unlisted third country pet owners would need to obtain a new MHC each time they wish to take their pet from

the UK to the EU. This would increase demand for OV services from pet owners that travel more than once with their pet (currently they obtain a pet passport that covers multiple trips).

12. To note that if the UK becomes an unlisted third country (or whilst the outcome of the application for listed status is unknown) blank MHCs and accompanying Notes for Guidance will be produced by APHA and issued from March 2019.

## **Pet dogs, cats and ferrets**

### **Before 29 March 2019**

13. Under the EU Pet Travel Scheme, owners of dogs, cats and ferrets can travel with their animals to and from EU countries provided they hold a valid EU pet passport. Before a pet can travel from the UK to an EU country for the first time, it must be taken to an OV at least 21 days before travel. The OV will ensure the animal has a microchip and rabies vaccination, before issuing an EU pet passport, which remains valid for travel for the pet's lifetime or until all of the treatment spaces are filled.
14. If there are more than five pet dogs/cats/ferrets, these can only be moved under the EU Pet Travel Scheme if they are travelling to take part in a competition, show, sporting event or training for such an event. In these situations the pets must be aged over six months. The owner must provide written evidence of attendance/registration and a [declaration](#). When the movement doesn't comply with these requirements it will be classified as commercial and certification will be necessary (see below).
15. Dogs returning to the UK from countries that are not free from *Echinococcus multilocularis* must have an approved tapeworm treatment administered by a vet between 24 and 120 hours before entering the UK.

### **For pets travelling after 29 March 2019 if the UK is a listed Third Country**

#### **Listed: Part 1**

16. Should the UK become a Part 1 listed country, there would be little change to the current pet travel arrangements, with only minor changes needed to documentation for travel between the UK and EU and no change to health preparations. As currently, before a pet could travel from the UK to an EU country for the first time, it would need to be taken to an OV who would need to ensure the animal has a microchip and has received the primary rabies vaccination on or after the date of microchipping and at least 21 days prior to

the date of travel. The OV would also have to ensure that further (“booster”) vaccine doses have been given in accordance with the time intervals set out on the manufacturer’s datasheet. If the vaccinations have lapsed outside of these intervals, a primary dose must be given and the pet may only travel after 21 days have elapsed from this dose.

**Listed: Part 2**

17. Should the UK become a Part 2 listed third country, there would be some new requirements. As above, before a pet could travel from the UK to an EU country for the first time, an OV would need to ensure the animal has a microchip and has received the primary rabies vaccination on or after the date of microchipping and at least 21 days prior to the date of travel. The OV would also have to ensure that further (“booster”) vaccine doses have been given in accordance with the time intervals set out on the manufacturer’s datasheet. If the vaccinations have lapsed outside of these intervals, a primary dose must be given and the pet may only travel after 21 days have elapsed from this dose.
18. OVs would have to issue a Model Health Certificate (MHC) confirming the pet was appropriately identified and vaccinated against rabies and 21 days have elapsed since the date of vaccination. This document would differ from the current EU pet passport. It would be valid for ten days after the date of issue for entry into the EU, and for four months of onward travel within the EU. An MHC would have to be issued for each trip to the EU. Further information on Model Health Certificates is detailed below from section 24 onwards.
19. On arrival in the EU, pet owners travelling with their pet would be required to report to a [Travellers’ Point of Entry](#).

**For pets travelling after 29 March 2019 if the UK is an unlisted Third Country**

**Health Preparations**

20. Should the UK become an unlisted third country, pet owners intending to travel with their pet from the UK to EU countries would need to discuss preparations for their pet’s travel with an OV at least four months in advance of the date they wish to travel. This means pet owners intending to travel to the EU on 30 March 2019 would need to discuss requirements with their vet before the end of November 2018.

Pets would have to visit their OV to undertake the following order of preparation for travel:

- i. Pets would have to be vaccinated against rabies, following the instructions within the manufacturer's datasheet, as a primary course, on or after the date of microchipping.
  - ii. Blood would have to be collected from the pet for a rabies antibody titre test at least 30 days after the date of the vaccination described above and sent to an [EU-approved blood testing laboratory](#), in accordance with Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.
  - iii. The results of the blood test must demonstrate an antibody titre which is equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml to allow the pet to travel.
  - iv. Following demonstration of an adequate antibody titre, pets would have to wait at least 3 months from the date of blood collection to the date of travel, so that an animal incubating rabies prior to, or around the time of vaccination, could be identified.
21. If the results of the blood test show an insufficient antibody titre the pet will not be able to enter the EU and must repeat steps as described in paragraph 20 above.
22. A pet's vaccinations will be considered up-to-date provided they have received the primary vaccination on or after the date of microchipping, and in accordance with the manufacturer's minimum age of vaccination, as defined on the product datasheet. The pet must also have continued to receive further "booster" vaccinations at intervals defined in the manufacturer's datasheet, without any breaks. Vaccinations given prior to microchipping are not valid for travel and the primary course must be restarted on or after the date of microchipping.
23. OV's should advise pet owners to start health preparations at least four months before they intend to travel with their pet.

### **EU Model Health certificates (MHCs) for pet cats, dogs and ferrets to travel to the EU**

24. OV's would only issue a MHC once a pet has undergone the necessary health preparations as described in paragraph 20.
25. The MHC is different from the EU pet passport. It would be valid for ten days after the date of issue for entry into the EU, and for four months of onward travel within the EU. MHCs will be produced and issued by APHA.
26. A new MHC would have to be signed for each trip to the EU. OV's can sign a new MHC up to ten days before travel as long as there is official proof of identification, vaccination history and a satisfactory antibody titre test result.

27. On arrival in the EU, pet owners travelling with their pet would be required to report to a [Travellers' Point of Entry](#).

**Commercial dogs, cats and ferrets travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC  
(as amended)**

28. In a 'no deal' scenario, commercial pets will have to comply with the same health requirements described in section 16 to 23 above. Where an Export Health Certificate (EHC) under Commission Implementing Decision 2013/519/EU is required, the APHA will issue it along with Notes for Guidance to the OV. Please note: commercial dogs, cats and ferrets travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC will have to enter the EU through an authorised [Border Inspection Post](#) rather than a Travelers' Point of Entry.

**Other pets and small animals**

29. Other pets defined in Annex 1 Part B of Regulation (EU) 576/2013 (e.g. pet reptiles, pet mammals), that are not subject to harmonized legislation will have to comply with the national rules applied by the EU member state (MS) of destination, as it is currently the case.
30. The exception are pet birds whose import into the EU is harmonised and would require an Export Health Certificate (EHC) and owners declaration as laid out under Annex II and III of Decision 2007/25/EC. They must enter via a [Travellers' Point of Entry](#).
31. The EU allows imports from World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) listed third countries.

Pet birds must have either:

- Undergone isolation for 30 days prior to export at the place of departure in a third country listed in Part 1 of Annex I or Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, **OR**
- vaccinated and re-vaccinated on at least one occasion against avian influenza of H5 and H7 subtypes within the last 6 months and not later than 60 days prior to the date of dispatch, **OR**
- Have been in isolation for at least 10 days prior to export and have undergone a test to detect avian influenza H5 and H7 subtypes antigen or genome as laid down in in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, carried out on a sample taken not earlier than the third day of isolation, **OR**
- The owner / person responsible for the bird(s) has declared that he/she has made arrangements for the 30 day post-introduction quarantine after

entry into the European Union, in an approved quarantine facility or centre.

32. Other commercial small animals (e.g. laboratory animals, primates, zoo carnivores) travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended), excluding ungulates, are subject to health assurances as required by the importing Member State. Please note that these animals will have to enter the EU through an authorised [Border Inspection Post](#).
33. Where national rules apply (as mentioned in paragraph 29 above) the exporter or the OV, acting on behalf of the owner of the pet, should check whether there is a certificate available on the following [link](#). Alternatively they could contact the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) at [PetExports@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PetExports@apha.gsi.gov.uk) for advice. If there are no certificates available, they should contact the Competent Authority or the Embassy of the EU Member State of destination in the UK and ask for import conditions. Once the import conditions have been received, they should contact CIT so an EHC can be produced.
34. Once the certificate is available, the OV should obtain a copy of the EHC and familiarise themselves with the requirements and the Notes for Guidance well in advance to the export date.

### **Export health certification of Pet and small animals (SX and CA) to non-EU Countries**

35. The movement of pets and small animals to non-EU countries will continue as currently. As usual, OVs must ensure they obtain an up to date EHC and familiarise themselves with the requirements and the Notes for Guidance in case any conditions have changed.
36. Other commercial small animals (e.g. laboratory animals, primates, zoo carnivores) travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended), excluding ungulates can only be certified by OVs being authorised under SX.

### **Scope of OCQ(V) - SX and CA Modules**

<b>OCQ(V) - SX (Small Animal Exports)</b>	<b>OCQ(V) - CA (Companion Animals)</b>
Pets (cats, dogs and ferrets) defined in Regulation (EU) 576/2013	Pets (cats, dogs and ferrets) defined in Regulation (EU) 576/2013
Other pets (birds, rabbits, etc) defined in	Other pets (birds, rabbits, etc) defined in

<p>Annex 1 Part B of Regulation (EU) 576/2013</p> <p>PART B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invertebrates (except bees and bumble bees covered by Article 8 of Directive 92/65/EEC and molluscs and crustaceans referred to respectively in points (e)(ii) and (e)(iii) of Article 3(1) of Directive 2006/88/EC)</li> <li>• Ornamental aquatic animals as defined in point (k) of Article 3 of Directive 2006/88/EC and excluded from the scope of that Directive by point (a) of Article 2(1) thereof</li> <li>• Amphibia</li> <li>• Reptiles</li> <li>• Birds: specimens of avian species excluding those referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2009/158/EC (broadly described as commercial poultry and hatching eggs)</li> <li>• Mammals: rodents and rabbits other than those intended for food production and defined under 'lagomorphs' in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004</li> </ul>	<p>Annex 1 Part B of Regulation (EU) 576/2013</p> <p>PART B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invertebrates (except bees and bumble bees covered by Article 8 of Directive 92/65/EEC and molluscs and crustaceans referred to respectively in points (e)(ii) and (e)(iii) of Article 3(1) of Directive 2006/88/EC)</li> <li>• Ornamental aquatic animals as defined in point (k) of Article 3 of Directive 2006/88/EC and excluded from the scope of that Directive by point (a) of Article 2(1) thereof</li> <li>• Amphibia</li> <li>• Reptiles</li> <li>• Birds: specimens of avian species excluding those referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2009/158/EC (broadly described as commercial poultry and hatching eggs)</li> <li>• Mammals: rodents and rabbits other than those intended for food production and defined under 'lagomorphs' in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004</li> </ul>
<p>Commercial animals (dogs, cats and ferrets) travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended)</p>	<p>Commercial animals (dogs, cats and ferrets) travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended)</p>
<p>Other commercial small animals (e.g. laboratory animals, primates, zoo carnivores) travelling under Directive 92/65/EEC (as amended), excluding ungulates</p>	
<p>Includes export health certification of the above described animals to non-EU Countries</p>	<p>Includes export health certification of the above described animals to non-EU Countries</p>

### Further Information

- More information on the documents that would be required to enter or re-enter the UK if the UK leaves the EU without a deal will be made available on GOV.UK for pet owners and their vets in due course.
- Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and participate in other EU arrangements. As such, in many areas, these countries adopt EU rules. These countries are Part 1: listed countries under the Pet Travel Scheme and citizens will need to understand the pet travel and export of live animal arrangements in the



country they are travelling to and consider whether they need to take any steps to prepare for a 'no deal' scenario.

- [Improve International Website](#)
- [APHA Vet Gateway](#) and [OV instructions](#)

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