



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 39/20

An update on the order and distribution process for Animal Health Certificates which Official Veterinarians will need to issue for pet travel to the European Union after the end of the Transition Period

Date issued: 10 December 2020

Dear Official Veterinarian

I am taking this opportunity to update you on the order and distribution process for Animal Health Certificates (AHCs) which you will need to issue for pet travel to the European Union (EU) after the end of the Transition Period.

From 1 January 2021 Great Britain (GB) will become a third country with respect to the EU Pet Travel Scheme. On 3 December 2020 the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) of the EU voted in favour of giving Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies **Part 2** listed status for the purposes of non-commercial pet travel after the Transition Period. This listed status will be formally adopted by the EU in due course. As a consequence, the requirements for travel between GB and the EU will change. We intend to publish detailed guidance on what this will mean for travellers on GOV.UK, but we felt it was important to alert you to changes relating to AHCs ahead of time.

Animal Health Certificates (AHC)

Under Part 2 listed status, EU pet passports issued by Official Veterinarians (OVs) in GB will no longer be valid to travel to Europe. Instead, a pet travelling from GB to the EU will need an AHC. You will need to issue AHCs, instead of EU pet passports, to owners travelling with their pet animal to the EU from 1 January 2021. Please note, this would affect any travellers with pets arriving in an EU Member State after 23:00 GMT on the 31 December 2020.

An AHC is valid for:

- 10 days after the date of issue for entry into the EU
- A single trip for entry to the EU
- Onward travel within the EU for 4 months after the date of issue
- Re-entry to GB for 4 months after the date of issue.

OVs who have been issued with AHCs or Unique Certificate Numbers (UCNs) in the past are asked not to issue these versions.

The process for ordering and distributing AHCs.

AHCs are available as dual-language certificates written in both English and the official language of each EU country. OVs should issue an AHC which is written in an official language of EU Member State of entry to the EU.

These certificates are available, free of charge, for OVs to download via the Vet Gateway. The AHC can be updated electronically or printed and completed by hand.

To validate the AHC, you will need to add a UCN. UCNs are available from APHA in batches of 50 and will be emailed to you upon completion of the AHC order form (PETS10).

OVs who ordered passports in 2020 will automatically receive an email containing 50 UCNs. OVs who did not order passports in 2020 will need to apply for UCNs.

The Pet Travel requirements Notes for Guidance, instructions on how to complete AHCs, along with information on the order and distribution process, is available on the [Vet Gateway](#).

To request UCNs for AHCs please complete the order form available on the [Vet Gateway](#) and email it to the PetPassports.Carlisle@apha.gov.uk mailbox.

Actions for OVs

- Get ready to start issuing the latest version of AHCs instead of EU pet passports from 22 December
- Place an order for Unique Certificate Numbers using the PETS10 form (available from 14 December)
- Familiarise yourself with the guidance for completing an AHC on the Vet Gateway: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Small_Animal_Exports/Animal_Health_Certificates.html

Pet owners travelling with more than 5 pets, and not attending or training for a competition, show or sporting event, must follow the commercial rules for importing animals. Guidance is available on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-on-importing-and-exporting-live-animals-or-animal-products>. AHCs will not be valid for the commercial movements of dogs, cats or ferrets.

If you have any questions about the AHC order process, please email the PetPassports.Carlisle@apha.gov.uk mailbox or telephone 03000 200 301.

For more information on rabies testing please see the guidance on the Vet Gateway: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/EU_Exit.htm

We will continue to keep update you if there are any changes to this guidance.

Kind regards,



Andrew Soldan

APHA Veterinary Director