



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA OV Briefing Note 16/19

### Clarity on entering microchip reading dates when preparing pet passports

#### Purpose

1. To clarify the Pet Travel Scheme requirements with regard to microchip reading dates when filling out pet passports.
2. To clarify the course of action when completing a pet passport based on the evidence provided by another vet.

#### Background

3. To be compliant, the Pet Travel Scheme requires animals to be identified with a microchip prior to vaccination (or a clearly legible tattoo if applied prior to 3 July 2011).
4. Section III of the pet passport applies to the marking of an animal, and point two in this section 'date of application or reading of transponder' must be entered. **This date must not postdate the current rabies vaccination** or this will invalidate the vaccination and could make the animal non-compliant with pet travel rules. This may result in pets being quarantined at the owner's expense.
5. Ongoing problems are being encountered with non-compliant animals on the Pet Travel Scheme where OV's are issuing pet passports based on the evidence provided of procedures carried out by another vet. It appears a common error for OV's to record in the passport the date that they themselves read the microchip instead of recording a previous date of reading/application of the microchip that precedes the current rabies vaccination. This can give the impression that the microchip was implanted after rabies vaccination and make the animal non-compliant with pet travel rules.

## **Action going forwards**

6. When issuing pet passports, OV's should check that the animal's ID is correct at the time the passport is issued, but should ensure that the "date of application or reading of the transponder certified in Section III of the passport precedes any current rabies vaccination" (The date of reading/application can be the same day as the rabies vaccination or tapeworm treatment) (or other compulsory treatment required for pet travel). Where required, OV's may certify this information on the basis of evidence provided by another veterinary surgeon. Where suitable evidence is not available then the OV should make the owner aware that the current rabies vaccination would not be valid for pet travel and a new rabies vaccination would need to be administered (after the certified date of application or reading of the microchip) for the pet to be compliant with EU pet travel rules.

Similarly, the dates of vaccination and (if required) tapeworm treatment previously administered by another vet should be certified by the OV as those evidenced dates and not the date on which the OV completes the passport details.

**More information available on Pet Travel can be found on:**

<https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>

[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/Export\\_Instructions/Certification\\_Procedures/Small\\_Animal\\_Exports/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Small_Animal_Exports/index.htm)

**If you have any queries please contact the Pet Travel Helpline on 0370 241 1710 or email [pettravel@apha.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@apha.gov.uk)**

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