



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 03/25

# Request for Official Veterinarians to provide a new checklist to customers travelling to Europe with their pets

**Date issued: 09 January 2025**

### Purpose

To request Official Veterinarians (OVs) located in Great Britain (GB) who issue Animal Health Certificates for European pet travel to give a checklist to their customers titled 'Checklist for returning to Great Britain with your pet dog, cat or ferret' when issuing their Animal Health Certificate.

### Background

Following feedback from members of the public who travel with pets and a review of the PETS08 Non-Compliance data, APHA has created a checklist reminding customers of the requirements for bringing a pet dog, cat, or ferret to GB. As Official Veterinarians are a main point of contact for people due to travel with pets, distributing the leaflet at an Animal Health Certificate appointment will give the opportunity for travellers to identify any gaps in their requirements with time to plan accordingly.

The leaflet contains two pages:

- Short checklist of exact requirements.
- Longer details expanding on the requirements with explanations of how the traveller can prepare for their return journey.

The aim is to reduce the number of non-compliances recorded when travellers re-enter GB with their pets, and to ensure that travellers have a smoother journey at border crossings.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

## Action

Please can OV's print out a checklist and hand one per customer (regardless of the number of animals on the certificate) during Animal Health Certificate appointments. Please can OV's also familiarise themselves with the information in the checklist, so they can support the customer if there are any questions.

## Further Information

The checklist (ET265) is available on the Improve International website here: [ET265 Checklist for returning to GB with your pet dog, cat or ferret](#)

If you have any queries, please email [pettravel@apha.gov.uk](mailto:pettravel@apha.gov.uk)