

# **ID139 Pet owner/homeowner guidance on home isolation of pet animals imported from Ukraine**

**August 2022**

## **Contents**

Home isolation requirements .....	1
How do I recognise the signs of rabies? .....	4
Follow up arrangements .....	5
Annex .....	7
Signs of rabies to look out for in pet animals .....	7
What to do if a person is bitten, scratched, or exposed to an isolated pet under rabies investigation.....	7

1. This guidance is an Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Information Note to inform Ukrainian pet owners and their hosts/sponsors on the requirements for the home isolation of pet animals.
2. As part of the Government's response to the exceptional situation in Ukraine, we are temporarily allowing certain pets that meet strict criteria to complete the quarantine process in officially authorised home isolation.
3. As a host, we want to thank you very much for your support in hosting Ukrainian refugees and their pets in your home.
4. Upon arrival in Great Britain (GB), some pet animal(s) might be required to undergo veterinary assessment at a triage centre to determine if any vaccinations, treatments or blood samples need to be administered/taken. Assessment at the triage centre is required for pet animal(s) that enter GB through Folkstone via the Eurotunnel service or through the seaport of Dover where the pet animal(s) are not being licenced into an approved Quarantine Kennel on their arrival. The veterinary assessment will determine the next steps and the type of licence that will be issued to enable the import of the pet animal(s) into GB before travelling to Home Isolation. Failure to present a pet required to attend the triage centre for veterinary assessment upon arrival in GB, may result in the pet animal(s) being detained in an approved Quarantine Kennel for up to four months.
5. You will have been informed of how long the individual pet staying with you needs to stay in home isolation as this is determined by several factors, including when the pet was vaccinated against rabies and when it left Ukraine.
6. If you don't have an enclosed garden, it might not be possible to host a pet dog of a Ukrainian refugee that requires home isolation. If you or any member of your family are pregnant or have severe health issues that might impair your immune system, we recommend that you discuss the potential risks to your health of hosting any Ukrainian pets with your GP.
7. Defra endeavours to ensure that all pet animals originating from Ukraine will have been fully vaccinated against rabies, will have received flea and tick treatment and that dogs will be treated for tapeworm before being allowed into households, there is still a small risk that they could develop these infections.
8. It is therefore important that you understand what to look out for and how to report any behavioural changes and concerning signs in the pet and any resident pets, and how to manage these risks. Rabies is a very serious infection for both animals and people and prompt reporting of any suspicion of disease will mean that the right treatment can be given to you and your pet if there are any concerns.

## Home isolation requirements

1. Defra has produced a set of requirements and standards for home isolation that must be strictly adhered to, to minimise risk of infection to people and other animals in the UK. Make sure you read this letter and follow these requirements of home isolation and guidance about what to do if you or the pets owner notice any behavioural changes or concerning signs in the visiting or resident pets.

2. Please be aware that The Secretary of State or Scottish Ministers and the supervisory Veterinarians are not in any way liable for the loss, death, injury or sickness of any animal or any harm or damage caused by or inflicted to the animal(s) to or by third parties while in transit or in any official authorised isolation in England.
3. Please be aware that breaches of the requirements set out on the licence might lead to enforcement actions including the transfer of the pet(s) to a quarantine or boarding kennel.
4. The authorisation requirements for home quarantine are as follows:
  - the animal(s) must not leave the perimeter of the authorised premises.
  - cats and ferrets must be kept indoors at all times and care must be taken not to leave doors or windows open. cat flaps should be locked at all times.
  - there must be a private, secure, escape proof garden for dogs. dogs can be allowed into the garden for toileting but must be kept on a lead at all times.
  - dogs cannot be exercised or walked outside the authorised garden.
  - faeces must be quickly picked up, double bagged and disposed of carefully into a secure bin which cannot be accessed by any other animals/wildlife.
  - contact between the animal(s) and children should be minimised and children must not feed or play with the animal(s).
  - numbers of visitors to the authorised premises should be minimised and any visitors must be prevented from coming into contact with the isolated animal.
  - no other animals may visit the authorised premises.
  - you must always cooperate with the authorised veterinary surgeon when requested. you will receive a weekly telephone call and may receive visits from the authorised veterinary surgeon to confirm that these conditions are being met and animals remain healthy. if the authorised veterinarian has any concerns about the health of any animal in the household, access to the premises will be required.
  - the animal owner must take a daily note of the health and wellbeing of the animal and discuss this with the authorised veterinary surgeon at the weekly calls.
  - the animal owner will be provided with contact details for the authorised veterinary surgeon and asked to contact them with any concerns about their animal, including biting or scratching incidents or unexpected changes in behaviour. written records must be kept of any concerns and any veterinary visits.
  - the animal owner must follow the guidance provided on clinical signs for rabies. the owner must be aware of and report any clinical signs or the death of the animal (or resident animals) to the authorised veterinary surgeon immediately
  - where a licence is issued, the pet animal(s) referred to in that licence must not be moved to any other accommodation.
5. Please note that additional conditions will be used where APHA issue a licence permitting the animal to be detained with resident dogs, cats, and ferrets. We recommend that:
  - resident cats and ferrets that may come into contact with the animals subject to the licence must also be kept indoors at all times.

- Where other pets are resident in the authorised premises, including any pets owned by the host, it is strongly recommended that these resident dogs/cats/ferrets are rabies vaccinated (if they have not been vaccinated before). DEFRA will cover the costs of these vaccinations. The resident pet can be vaccinated by our own vets if you are happy for them to do so. Please ask them to organise it before they visit your premises. If our vet is not available or you want to vaccinate your pet sooner than we can visit, please feel free to use your own vets. They can invoice APHA via email. Please let them know that all invoices must be in PDF format and should be emailed to: [PetSchemeReimbursement@apha.gov.uk](mailto:PetSchemeReimbursement@apha.gov.uk) Only rabies vaccination will be paid by APHA.
  - As resident pets are sharing the household with Ukrainian pets, they must be considered contact cases and are therefore subject to rabies risk management rules. We do not consider that any resident pets are at a high risk of contracting rabies, but we need to make sure that we minimise the risks for the wider animal and wildlife population of the UK.
  - Please be aware that upon inspection, our designated vet may require for your resident pet to observe a short quarantine period as a precautionary measure. If that is required, you will be explained by our vet the reason why and the duration. If needed, the quarantine period is likely to be shorter than the one imposed to the pet/pets from Ukraine. Please also note that we do recommend that resident dogs that are not subject to quarantine, but which are in contact with Ukrainian animals, are always walked on a lead and muzzled when outside the premises until the quarantine of the Ukrainian pet is over.
  - People who are immunocompromised should not live with the animals brought from Ukraine using this scheme during the isolation period.
  - Where there is more than one animal from Ukraine being isolated at the same premises, all animals coming from Ukraine should arrive together.
6. Please note that the animal owner or anyone caring for them must fully meet the welfare needs of the animal. This includes its needs for a suitable environment, suitable diet, the ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns within the constraints of isolation and its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. For more information, please refer to GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare-legislation-protecting-pets>
  7. When the animal is being transported, it must be transported by an authorised carrying agent. This includes where the animal needs veterinary assistance in an emergency. The owner must inform the veterinarian before the animal arrives at the practice of its status as an 'animal from Ukraine undertaking officially authorised home isolation'.
  8. If APHA have issued transporter authorisation to you (pet/homeowner) rather than to an agent for the transport of the Ukrainian pet to the home isolation, please be aware of the following conditions:
  9. **This authorisation only applies for the initial movement into home isolation. For any urgent visits to the vet, where the authorised vet agrees that the movement is necessary you will need to apply for a specific licence. The pet must not be moved from the premises or transported under any other circumstances.**

10. The authorisation applies as detailed in the licence for the journey of the licensed animal to an authorised premises, or any urgent visits to the vet during the period of isolation if a license has been granted for that specific movement.
11. The animal must always be moved directly to the authorised premises.
12. Where a licence is provided to be moved to a veterinary practice, the animal must be moved directly between the authorised premises (your home) and the veterinary practice. The animal must only be moved to a veterinary practice following agreement from the authorised veterinary surgeon that the movement is necessary and upon reception of our license.
13. The animal must not leave the vehicle at any time during the journey.
14. The animal must not be left unattended in the vehicle.
15. The animal must be transported securely within the vehicle. The animal must be transported either within a secure crate or carrier or in a secure car boot and must not be able to gain access to the rest of the vehicle. The animal should have a muzzle, where this is possible.
16. Where the animal is being transported in the passenger area of the car, it must be in a secure crate or carrier and the crate/carrier must be secured.
17. Dogs must be always kept on the lead when loading, unloading and for the duration of the journey.
18. The carrying agent must immediately notify APHA of the death or escape of an animal in their charge.
19. The carrying agent must confirm to the authorised veterinary surgeon that the animal has arrived safely at the authorised premises (your home) upon return.

## How do I recognise the signs of rabies?

1. If at any time any pet in the household shows any of the clinical signs described below, or if you have any concerns, please contact immediately the pet's authorised veterinarian via the contact details provided to the pet owner. If you cannot contact the authorised veterinarian and you suspect rabies, please call immediately APHA on 03000 200 301 (option 1).

### **What to look for and who to call:**

1. Unexpected behavioural changes. These are pets, so the owners will know best what is normal and abnormal for them. Please note, that the experience of travelling to the UK and living in a strange household may cause the animals to behave differently. More details of what to look out for are included in an annex to this letter. We are interested in signs of unusual aggression, fear, undue friendliness, drooling and light and sound hypersensitivity. If you see any of those signs, please take immediate action.
2. If any concerning clinical signs or rabies are noted, please do call for official veterinary advice immediately. If you are unable to get in contact with the authorised veterinarian, please contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) via the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. Provide the Official Veterinarian (OV) or APHA with information about the animal, and any animals or people who have been in contact with this pet. APHA will assess the situation and act accordingly. Please note that the suspect animal may have to move to official quarantine for further observation.

3. If anyone has been bitten, scratched or has been exposed to saliva in the previous two weeks from any animal in your household showing any of these clinical signs, please make sure that the authorised veterinarian and APHA is informed over the phone without any delay.
4. If APHA has assessed the animal as a high risk for rabies, we will inform public health authorities who may contact you to get further information and ensure you receive appropriate prophylaxis and/or treatment, if needed.
5. Routine play, licking and accidental scratching or nipping is not a sign of rabies, and it is only a risk if the animal develops clinical signs.
6. Other infections can occur if you are bitten or scratched by an animal. As with any animal bite, seek medical attention if you are concerned or the wound is serious or potentially infected.
7. If the pet escapes home isolation at any point, please immediately inform the pet owner's authorised veterinarian.
8. You can find all Official information about rabies here on GOV.UK:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rabies>

## Follow up arrangements

1. As part of this process, you may receive an unannounced visit from your Local Authority representative, government official or the supervising veterinarian to your property. If this happen, please be reassured that the reason is to confirm that the rules above are being complied with and/or to check upon the health and wellbeing of the pet. Please be aware that failure to comply with the conditions above may lead to enforcement action.
2. For your information, if the pet did not have a positive blood test for rabies antibodies following the rabies vaccine in quarantine or at the port of entry (hence proving sufficient protection), the pet owner will need to arrange this for their pet before they can be released from home isolation. The pet owner must not release their animal from home isolation until they have received confirmation from APHA that their pet has completed the rabies risk management process fully.
3. Towards the end of the quarantine period, APHA will issue an Authorisation of Release from Home Isolation (ID132) document will be issued to you as well as the supervising veterinarian for the home isolation.
4. The Authorisation of Release from Home Isolation (ID132) will state the date of release. Your pet must remain in home isolation under the conditions of the licence issued until the release date. If you have not received the ID132 document from APHA, the supervising veterinarian will inform you when your animals can be released from home isolation. When the release date is reached, your pet is free to move outside the boundaries/perimeter of your sponsors address and can be moved to another address in GB if required.
5. After home isolation has been completed, if you intend onward travel to another country outside Great Britain with your pet animals, please refer to the guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/taking-your-pet-abroad) about taking your pet abroad. This may require you to apply for an export health certificate. If you are required to apply for an export health certificate, your

pet may require additional treatments or vaccinations. Please consult with your veterinary surgeon prior to travel for further export conditions.

# Annex

## Signs of rabies to look out for in pet animals

1. Early clinical signs of rabies include:
  - behavioural changes - friendly animals may become cautious, shy animals may become bold, in dogs sometimes there is a tendency to excessively seek attention and lick owners
  - hypersensitivity to noise or light
  - excess vocalisation
2. However, some animals may show no signs at all.
3. This can be followed by:
  - increased aggression - dogs may try to break free and attack objects, animals and handlers, cats may hiss and spit
  - eyes taking on a staring expression,
  - excessive drooling
  - excessive itching
  - abnormal thirst
4. The final stages of rabies include:
  - weak muscles, especially legs and tail
  - difficulty swallowing
  - drooping eyelids
  - saliva frothing at the mouth
  - general paralysis followed by convulsions and coma before death.

## What to do if a person is bitten, scratched, or exposed to an isolated pet under rabies investigation

1. Rabies can be transmitted to humans through exposure to saliva, for example in bites, scratches, licks on broken skin or where saliva gets into your eyes, nose, or mouth. Other infections can also be transmitted from animals in the same way (for example tetanus, diphtheria, or skin infections) therefore you should follow advice from the NHS and public health authorities to minimise risks of infection:
  - immediately clean the wound with running water and soap for several minutes
  - disinfect the wound with an alcohol- or iodine-based disinfectant and apply a simple dressing, if possible
  - other infections can occur if you are bitten or scratched by an animal. As with any animal bite or scratch, please seek medical attention if the wound is serious or potentially infected to ensure the wound can be properly assessed and managed. You may require antibiotics and/or vaccinations.
2. If the veterinarian designated by APHA has assessed the animal poses a high risk for rabies, they will inform public health authorities who may contact you to get further information and ensure you receive appropriate treatment, if needed.



© Crown copyright 2020

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/) or email [PSI@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:PSI@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

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.