



Every summer, many families dig out their passports and head off for a couple of weeks somewhere warm and sunny. These days many people are choosing to take their dogs with them. Dogs (and cats) can travel in the EU on their own pet passports.

How it works:

Pets must be micro-chipped and then vaccinated against rabies before being issued with a special pet passport. There is a waiting period of 21 days after the vaccination before they can travel. After this, they can go on holiday with you. All pets must be seen by a vet to be treated for tape worm between 1 and 5 days before re-entering the UK from Europe. This must be entered into their passport.

Points to remember:

There are diseases present in Europe, spread by biting insects (ticks and sand flies) which our pets have never been exposed to here in the UK. It is really important to chat to your vet about where you plan to go so that they can advise you on what anti-parasite treatments to use and ways to keep your dog safe and healthy.

The weather in parts of Europe can be extremely hot. Dogs can't sweat like we can so they have to cool down by panting. Some breeds with very thick coats or those with shorter faces really struggle with the heat and they might be happier left back home or in kennels.

Thousands of dogs each year go to Europe on holiday and they have a great time with their families but it's important to plan ahead.

More information about the Pet Travel Scheme can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/pets/>

