Pet travel checklist: *the UK and Europe, both ways*

Everything your dog or cat needs for a private car journey through the Channel Tunnel.
Tick each line before your travel day.

> **Your pet's documents are your responsibility.** They are checked at LeShuttle Pet Reception before the crossing, and a pet without the right documents can be refused. Rules checked November 2026 on GOV.UK. Ask your vet if anything is unclear.

ALL JOURNEYS The basics

- [ ] **Microchip**
  Fitted before, or at the same time as, the rabies vaccination. The number must match the travel document.
- [ ] **Rabies vaccination**
  Your pet must be at least 12 weeks old when vaccinated. After a first vaccination, wait at least 21 full days before travelling. Keep boosters up to date so there is no gap.
- [ ] **Up to 5 pets per vehicle**
  This is the legal limit for a private journey. More than 5 pets counts as commercial transport.
- [ ] **Travelling without the owner?**
  The pet must travel within 5 days of the owner, and the person with the pet must carry the owner's written permission.

LEAVING THE UK UK to Europe

- [ ] **Animal Health Certificate (AHC) for each trip**
  Issued by a UK Official Veterinarian. It must be used to enter the EU within 10 days of being issued, then it covers onward EU travel and your return to the UK for up to 6 months, while the rabies vaccination is valid.
- [ ] **UK residents: no EU pet passport**
  Since 22 April 2026, EU pet passports are no longer accepted for people living in England, Scotland or Wales entering the EU. Use an AHC instead.
- [ ] **Dogs going to France: check the breed**
  France does not allow Category 1 attack dogs, and Category 2 dogs must meet extra conditions. Tell us the breed when you ask for a quote.

COMING TO THE UK Europe to the UK

- [ ] **A valid travel document**
  An EU pet passport, your UK Animal Health Certificate if it is still valid, or a certificate issued by a vet in the EU.
- [ ] **Dogs: tapeworm treatment**
  Given by a vet no less than 24 hours and no more than 5 days (120 hours) before you arrive in the UK. The vet records the product, date, time, stamp and signature in the document. Not needed when coming directly from Finland, Ireland, Malta, Norway or Northern Ireland.

Time the tapeworm treatment from your arrival, not your departure. For a 10:00 crossing on Saturday, a treatment between Monday 10:00 and Friday 10:00 is valid. Too early or too late and the dog can be refused, or the treatment has to be repeated and you wait at least 24 hours.

PACK For the journey

- [ ] Original documents, together in one folder
- [ ] Harness and lead, or a secure crate or carrier
- [ ] Water, bowl and a small meal
- [ ] Familiar blanket or toy
- [ ] Waste bags and a towel
- [ ] Your vet's phone number

ON THE DAY With Pet Traveller

- [ ] Your pet travels in the car with you, door to door
- [ ] We book the LeShuttle crossing and plan the timing
- [ ] We stop at Pet Reception for the document check
- [ ] Comfort breaks for walks, water and rest
- [ ] Climate-controlled car the whole way
- [ ] Medication only if your vet has advised it

CHECK FOR YOURSELF Official guidance

Taking your pet abroad: gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad
Bringing your pet to Great Britain: gov.uk/bring-pet-to-great-britain
New EU rules for GB residents (22 April 2026): gov.uk/government/news/new-eu-rules-for-pet-travel-for-gb-residents

Travelling between the UK and Europe with your pet?
Get your price in under a minute at pettraveller.co.uk/getaquote

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