



FRENCH MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FISHERIES, RURAL POLICY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

INFORMATION

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HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVELLING TO FRANCE WITH PETS FROM COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (non-commercial movement)

pets: animals such as **dogs, cats, ferrets, rodents and domestic rabbits and birds** (all species except poultry*), **reptiles, amphibians, ornamental tropical fish, invertebrates –except bees and crustaceans–**, accompanying their owner or a natural person who has taken responsibility on the owner's behalf during their movement and which are not to be sold or subject to a transfer of ownership

*"Poultry" as per the definition provided in regulation 90/539/EC: fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites (*Ratitae*)

Since 28 May 2010, people travelling with more than 5 dogs, cats or ferrets (in all) must ensure the following requirements are met in addition to those listed in section A below:

- have a veterinary examination carried out. This will be recorded in section IX – of the European pet passport for each animal;
- obtain a movement certificate from the **Direction Départementale (de la Cohésion Sociale et) de la Protection des Populations (Departmental directorate for social cohesion and the protection of citizens)** in your *département*, giving the identification numbers of each animal.
- For animals identified after 3 July 2011, a microchip is the only recognised means of identification for travel within the European Union.
- Animals identified by tattoo BEFORE 3 July 2011 can continue to travel within the European Union as long as the tattoo is clearly readable.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_intra_fr.htm

A - Travelling to France with Cats / Dogs / Ferrets, from a country in the European Union

Animals must have:

1. **Identification:** animals must be identified by a microchip (electronic identification system) or by a clearly readable tattoo (applied before 3 July 2011) to travel within the EU.
2. **A passport** issued by a veterinary surgeon accredited by the competent authority, certifying the animal's identification and rabies vaccination);
3. **A valid vaccination against rabies** (first vaccination and boosters);
First vaccinations are deemed to be valid after 21 days.

Important:

Domestic carnivores (dogs, cats, ferrets) **that are under three months old AND have not been vaccinated against rabies cannot be brought into France.**

However, animals **that are under three months old and have had a valid vaccination against rabies, in line with the requirements in the Member State of origin, can be brought into France.**

B - Important information

Categorised dogs

Importing **category 1 dogs** into France that are classified by their morphological characteristics as dogs of the Staffordshire terrier, American Staffordshire terrier (pit-bulls), Mastiff (boerbulls) and Tosa breeds not registered in a pedigree record is prohibited in France.

Importing **category 2 dogs** into France that are classified by their morphological characteristics as dogs of the Staffordshire terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Rottweiler, Tosa breeds, registered in a pedigree record and dogs similar in their morphological characteristics to Rottweilers, not registered in a pedigree record, is possible. **The rules for movement and ownership of category 2 dogs apply.**

(For further information on pets, please visit: <http://www.agriculture.gouv.fr/animaux-de-compagnie>)

Identification:

If domestic carnivores are microchipped, the owner or natural person in charge of the animal must ensure that the electronic identification system (microchip) is readable.

IMPORTANT: since 3 July 2011, all animals are required to be identified by a microchip or by a clearly readable tattoo (applied before 3 July 2011) to travel within the European Union.

Penalties which may be applied in France if regulatory obligations are not fulfilled

If the above-mentioned health requirements are not complied with, the officials in charge of checks can have the animal sent back to the country of origin at the owner's expense, have it put into quarantine or have it put down, pursuant to Articles L.236-9 and L.236-10 of the French rural and maritime fishing code (*code rural et de la pêche maritime*).

Failure to observe the regulations and thereby causing or contributing to the involuntary spreading of transmissible diseases in domestic or wild vertebrates may result in a fine of €15,000 and two years in prison.

Moreover, if the failure to observe the requirements set out in Article L.236-9 has had a serious effect on human or animal health, the penalties are increased to five years in prison and a fine of €75,000. There are additional penalties for natural people or legal entities.

Deliberately causing or contributing to the spread of transmissible diseases in domestic or wild vertebrates, may result in five years in prison and a fine of €75,000.

For more detailed information, owners of domestic carnivores can browse the website of the French Ministry for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Policy and Local Development:
<http://www.agriculture.gouv.fr/animaux-de-compagnie>

When returning to another Member State ensure that there are no other requirements to be fulfilled.

C - Other pets:

- **Rodents and domestic rabbits**
- **Cage birds**
- **Reptiles**
- **Amphibians**

When entering France, animals should be accompanied by a veterinary certificate drawn up 5 days before departure, stating that they are in good health with no clinical signs of diseases specific to the species.

Furthermore, these animals must not be intended for sale.