



## Natural Environment

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Dear Pet Owner

### EU Pet Passports

We understand having an EU Pet Passport allows owners to easily take their own pets into the EU and return to Jersey, the alternative is to get an Animal Health Certificate on each occasion your pet(s) travel. Some EU vets however are, in some cases, not completing the pet passports correctly and the EU passport may not be valid to return to Jersey or even go back to France.

**The main issue is around the date of microchipping.** When the Authorised Veterinarian is completing your pet's EU Pet Passport; **make sure the date of implantation or date of reading of the microchip is the same date, or before the date of the rabies vaccination.** On some occasions, EU vets are entering in the pet passport the date they read the microchip when they complete the pet passport and then enter a rabies vaccination which was given before the date of reading the microchip. The date of microchip must be either before or the same date as the rabies vaccination. This is a requirement under Annex III of REGULATION (EU) No 576/2013 and provides assurance that the rabies vaccination was given to a correctly identified animal.

If an animal is already rabies vaccinated by a Jersey or UK vet, the date and make of the rabies vaccination can be entered in the EU Pet Passport based on practice records or suitable supporting evidence, which must show the animal's microchip number. An Animal Health Certificate which is an official EU health certificate for entry into the EU should be sufficient supporting evidence for the EU vet. The rabies vaccination entry in the passport must be signed and stamped in the name of the EU vet and not the name of the Jersey or UK vet. This is because it is an official EU document which our vets cannot have their name in (post Brexit). EU vets should keep a copy of the supporting evidence for their own records.

This must be frustrating for pet owners when they find out the EU pet passport is not valid, most owners are able to get back to Jersey because they have a valid UK pet passport or a valid Animal Health Certificate. The problem is if they then decide to travel to France with a pet passport that is not valid and are stopped by French Customs. French Customs have powers to refuse entry, detain the dog, return the dog or as a last resort where its return is not possible or isolation is not practical euthanise the dog - Article 35 of REGULATION (EU) No 576/2013.

Attached is a copy of Annex III from REGULATION (EU) No 576/2013 with important information about the rabies vaccination and the requirements in English, Portuguese and French.

When you travel all the necessary requirements ideally should be in only one document a Pet passport OR an Animal Health Certificate.

Kind Regards Animal Health and Welfare Team