**Traveling with Pet Animals: Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets**

The European Union regulations facilitate travel to another EU country

These rules also apply to traveling to the European Union **from a non-EU country or territory**.

With a few exceptions, your pet can travel with you to another EU country or to the EU from a non-EU country if:

* **It has been microchipped (in accordance with the technical requirements of Annex II to the EU Regulation on the movement of pet animals)**
* **It is vaccinated against rabies.**
* It has been treated (dewormed) for the parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis*, if traveling to an area where this parasite infection does not occur (Finland, Ireland, Malta, Norway, and Northern Ireland). **must be administered no more than 120 hours and no less than 24 hours before the planned time of entry into these countries** – when travelling to Slovakia it is recommended.
* **In case of Turkey Rabies Antibody Test - at least 30 days after the vaccination date and no less than three months before the date of entry into the EU.**
* **It has a valid** European Pet Passport when traveling from an EU country or Northern Ireland to another EU country or Northern Ireland, **or an EU Animal Health Certificate when traveling from a non-EU country (no more than 10 days old).**
* **Declaration of Animal Owner-** Dogs, cats, and ferrets must be accompanied by a written declaration completed by the owner or an authorized person, confirming the non-commercial nature of the transport and, if necessary, certifying the transportation of the animal under the responsibility of the authorized person, to be completed within five days from the owner's relocation. **A sample declaration is provided in Section 3 of Annex IV of Regulation (EU) No. 577/2013.**

**Entry Points for Travelers**

The pet must pass through an entry point for travellers designated by the member states. The owner must contact the relevant authority present at the entry point at the time of entry for document and identity checks.

A list of entry points for travelers can be found on the official website of the European Commission. – Slovakia - airport

**Notice:** The European Union rules on traveling with pet animals, as outlined above, apply to **private travel with pets**, where there is no change of ownership or sale.

**EU Animal Health Certificate** An EU Animal Health Certificate is another type of document containing specific information about your pet (identity, health, rabies vaccination) and follows a standard EU format.

If you are traveling from a non-EU country or territory, your pet must have an EU Animal Health Certificate issued by an official veterinarian in the country of departure**, no more than 10 days before entering the EU**. This certificate is valid for travel between EU countries for four months from the issue date, or until the expiration of the rabies vaccination, whichever comes first.

Additionally, you must complete a written declaration that you are not moving your pet for commercial purposes and attach it to the EU Animal Health Certificate. This declaration is also necessary if another person is responsible for your pet during the journey. In such cases, your pet must be returned to you within five days from the date of its movement.

**Rabies Antibody Test**

The test must be performed on a sample taken by an authorized veterinarian (authorized private veterinarians within Slovakia) at least 30 days after the vaccination date and no less than three months before the date of entry into the EU.

For the test to be considered satisfactory, the level of neutralizing antibodies against the rabies virus in the serum must be equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml.

The test must be carried out in an approved laboratory. A list of approved laboratories can be found on the official website of the European Commission.

The test must be documented by an authorized veterinarian (authorized private veterinarians within Slovakia) in the relevant section of the identification document.

**Pets Traveling Without Their Owner**

Pets generally must travel with their owner. However, you can grant written permission for another person to accompany your pet instead of you (this written declaration is described above). Your pet must be returned to you within five days from the date of its movement.

**Notice:** If your pet is traveling without you, it must comply with the animal health regulations äthat apply to the import of dogs, cats, or ferrets into the EU or trade with them within the EU.

**Prohibited/Dangerous Breeds**

Countries may adopt national regulations restricting the entry and movement of certain breeds of pet animals, so it is important to inform yourself in advance with the relevant veterinary authority of the country you plan to travel to or through.

**Slovakia** does not have any specific requirements regarding different animal breeds, and the conditions for their entry into our territory do not differ.

Breeds generally considered to be risky, with possible restrictions, include:

* Wolf-dog hybrids (Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, Saarloos Wolfdog, Italian Wolfdog, Kunming Wolfdog)
* Argentine Dogo
* Brazilian Fila
* Tosa
* Canary Mastiff
* American Pit Bull Terrier
* American Staffordshire Terrier
* Staffordshire Bull Terrier
* English Bull Terrier
* Kangal
* Central Asian Shepherd Dog
* Caucasian Shepherd Dog
* Tornjak
* Yugoslav Shepherd Dog
* Anatolian Shepherd Dog
* and others…

**After entry:**

* the veterinary in Slovakia should be visited as well
* registration at the municipality

**How to Register a Dog at the Municipality**

Registering a dog at the municipality in Slovakia is mandatory and must be done in accordance with local regulations. Here is the procedure for registering a dog at the municipality:

**1. Visit the Municipality Office (according to the address of your residence in Slovakia)**

The registration of the dog must be done in person at the relevant municipality office, typically at the department responsible for animal registration or, if necessary, with an employee in charge of this agenda.

**2. Submit Required Documents**

When registering the dog, you will need to provide the following documents:

* **Passport of the owner**,
* **Birth certificate of the dog** (if available, especially for puppies),
* **Microchip or identification of the dog** (confirmation of the microchip),
* **Rabies vaccination certificate**
* **EU Animal Health Certificate**

**Or you will submit the documents same as when entering the country**

**3. Fill Out the Registration Form**

At the municipality office, you will need to fill out a form with information about the dog, including:

* Dog's name,
* Breed,
* Gender,
* Date of birth,
* Microchip number,
* Owner's name and contact details.

**4. Registration Fee**

In some municipalities, a fee for dog registration may be required, which is paid at the time of registration. The fee varies depending on the municipality and may depend on the number of dogs the owner has.

**5. Receive the Registration Certificate**

After registering the dog at the municipality office, you will receive a registration confirmation. This document is necessary to prove that the dog is properly registered in the municipality.

**6. Additional Information**

Some municipalities may have specific requirements or restrictions, such as limits on the number of dogs per household or rules regarding dog parks. It is advisable to inquire directly at the municipality office about local regulations.

If you own a dog, it is important not to forget to register it, as failure to comply with this obligation could result in fines.

Also there is a tax fee to be paid annually.