

Things to know if you want to take your PET ANIMAL with you on a journey



What is a pet animal?

A “pet animal” is a dog, cat, ferret, as well as other animal travelling together with the owner or the authorised person for non-commercial purposes.

What is non-commercial movement (travelling)?

“Non-commercial movement” means movement for purposes other than for selling a pet animal or transfer of ownership of pet animal.

An “authorised person” is a natural person with written permission of the owner to carry out the non-commercial movement of a pet animal on behalf of the owner.

During the non-commercial movement, the owner or the authorised person may transport no **more than five pet animals**, except for cases when the purpose of movement is to take part in competitions, exhibitions, sporting events or events, during which the preparations for the said events take place, taking into account the following:

- the pet animals are over six months old;
- the owner or the authorised person can present written evidence of the fact pet animals are registered either in the association organising the competitions, exhibitions, sporting events, or registered to attend the above-mentioned events.

Requirements when travelling with a pet animal between the Member States of the European Union (EU)*

Member States of the European Union (EU): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Great Britain, Sweden, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Finland, Germany, Czech Republik, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia. European Economic Area (EEA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway*

*** By the end of the transitional period, that is to say 1 January 2021 if the transitional period is not extended in accordance with Article 132 of the Agreement of the withdrawal.*

Common requirements for non-commercial movement within the EU are established only for dogs, cats and ferrets. When moving other pet animals mentioned in Part B of Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 (e.g. amphibians, rodents, reptiles, etc.), the requirements set by the national legislation of the relevant country for importation of such animals must be observed until common provisions are introduced in the EU legislation.

Upon non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the following is necessary:

1. Identification – microchip microchip (a tattoo is permissible only if it applied before 3 July 2011 and is clearly legible). A microchip must conform to the ISO Standard 11784 and must be readable by a device compatible with ISO Standard 11785. If the microchip does not meet these requirements, the device for microchip reading must be ensured.

2. The EU model passport.



3. Vaccination against rabies – on the date of vaccination the animal must be at least 12 weeks old; it can be taken on a journey 21 days after the vaccination, if the vaccination has been performed for the first time in its life, and also if the revaccination regime has not been observed in compliance with instructions of the vaccine manufacturer. The animal must be identified before vaccination against rabies.

4. Additional requirement set for dogs, when travelling to Ireland, Great Britain, Finland and Malta: deworming against *Echinococcus multilocularis* tapeworms, which must be performed in the veterinary clinic at least 24 hours and no more than 120 hours before entering the above-mentioned countries (the veterinary doctor enters a record on the performed procedure in the passport).

Attention!: Dogs, cats and ferrets under 12 weeks of age whether or not they have been vaccinated against rabies, or 12-16 weeks old and have been vaccinated against rabies, but 21 days have not yet passed, are not allowed to enter in Latvia.

Other EU Member States may permit movement from another Member State to their territory: dogs, cats and ferrets under 12 weeks old, which are not vaccinated against rabies, or dogs, cats and ferrets, which are 12-16 weeks of age and are vaccinated against rabies, but the vaccination is not yet valid for travel (the 21-day waiting period after the vaccination has not been observed).

The permit may be granted in cases where:

- the owner or the authorised person provides a signed declaration that the pet animals from their birth till the time of the non-commercial movement have not been in contact with wild animals of a species predisposed to rabies, or the
- pet animals are together with their mother, whom they still depend upon, and from the identification document accompanying the mother it can be detected that the mother has been vaccinated against rabies prior to their birth.

Requirements when travelling with a pet animal from European Union to third countries

When travelling with animals outside the European Union, the requirements set by the competent authority of the particular third country must be observed. A person, accompanying his/her pet animal, **must timely clarify the import requirements with the competent authority of the country of destination or the embassy of such country.**



Requirements when entering the European Union (EU) with a pet animal from third countries

All pet animals must be presented to the customs control at the traveller's points of entry.

It is permitted to bring in dogs, cats and ferrets, if they are duly prepared:

1. Identification with microchip (tattoo is permissible only if it is applied before 3 July 2011 and is clearly legible).

2. The EU model passport – it is necessary if an animal from the EU has previously left EU to a third country and is returning to the EU.

If you travel to a third country with an animal and expect to return back with the same animal, then upon returning from the third country back to the EU territory only the passport must be presented.

3. Vaccinated against rabies.

4. The test for detection of rabies antibodies has been carried out.

Please remember!

- 1) It is necessary if you travel from third countries not included in the list (*) or in case of transit through such countries. The analysis shall be performed at an EU approved laboratory.
- 2) Blood sample is taken at least 30 days after the vaccination and three months prior to the movement.
- 3) It is not necessary if you are travelling from Andorra, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State.

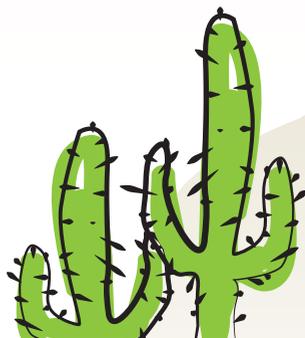
If you depart from Latvia to any of the countries which are not mentioned in the list (*) of the countries or, alternatively, after the transit through these countries, and wish to return back to the EU, the test must be carried out before departure. The 3-month waiting period after performance of the analysis is not necessary.

! Derogation from the requirement of the antibodies test in case of transit: the test is not necessary if the owner or the authorised person provides a declaration that during the period of such transit the pet animals have had no contact with animals of species susceptible to rabies and remain secured within a means of transport or within the perimeter of an international airport.

5. The Veterinary Certificate issued by an official veterinarian is received – duly filled in and issued in accordance with the model specified in Part 1 of Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 577/2013.

Animals travelling from *Andorra, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State* are not subject to control at points of entry.

Please remember! Animals are vaccinated against rabies from 12 weeks of age and they can start travelling 21 days after the vaccination.



Please remember!
Animals from Andorra, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State countries may enter with passports.

Please note! The animal must be presented to veterinary control if it is imported for commercial purposes! Control is performed by the Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) at the Terehova and Pāternieki border control posts.

6. A declaration for the non-commercial movement of the pet animal signed by the owner or the authorised person, confirming that the movement of the animal to the EU is of a non-commercial nature. The model thereof is specified in Part 3 of Annex IV Regulation (EU) № 577/2013.

7. Declaration in case of transit signed by the owner or the authorised representative, if you travel from countries not included in list (*).

(*) List: Ascension Island, United Arab Emirates, Antique and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Aruba, Bosnia and Herzogovina, Barbados, Bahrain, Bermuda Islands, Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba (BES Islands), Belarus, Canada, Chile, Curacao, Fiji, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Japan, Saints Kitts and Nevis, Cayman Islands, Saint Lucia, Montserrat, Mauritius, North Macedonia, Mexico, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Russia, Singapore, Saint Helena Island, Saint Martin, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, United States of America (inter alia, AS – USA Samoa, GU – Guam, MP – Northern Mariana Islands, PR – Puerto Rico and VI – USA Virgin Islands), Saint Vincent and Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Please remember!

The declaration is not necessary if an animal of the European Union is brought back from a third country with the European Union pet animal passport. The declaration is a document to be mandatorily presented to the customs control jointly with other accompanying documents confirming the identity and health condition of the animal.



Please note!

If the domestic animal would fail to meet the requirements when entering the EU, it may be return to the country of origin or isolated under official supervision until the moment when the health requirements are fulfilled.

In case of non-conformities, the isolation expenses must be covered by the owner of the animal. Check conformity to the requirements before you travel. If the animal cannot be return or isolated, it may subject euthanasia without financial compensation.

Special safeguard measures:

1. When travelling with a cat from Australia

It is prohibited to bring cats from Australia into Latvia if they do not have with them the veterinary certificate issued by the competent authority of Australia with following guarantees:

- the animals have not been staying at farms, where during a period within the last 60 days cases of Hendra disease have been confirmed, and
- the animals have passed the ELISA test in a approved laboratory in order to identify the antibodies against the Hendra virus, using the blood samples taken no later than 10 days prior to export, and a negative result is obtained.

2. When travelling with cat or dog from Malaysia

It is prohibited to bring into Latvia cats and dogs from Malaysia (Peninsula) if they do not have with them the veterinary certificate issued by the competent authority of Australia with confirmation that:

- the animals have not been in contact with pigs during a period within the last 60 days before export,
- the animals have not been staying at farms where during a period within the last 60 days cases of Nipah disease have been confirmed, and
- the animals have passed the ELISA test in an approved laboratory in order to identify the antibodies against the Nipah virus, using the blood samples taken no later than 10 days prior to export, and a negative result is obtained.

Requirements for non-commercial import of pet birds, other than domestic birds, into the European Union (EU) from third countries

The EU has set strict restrictions for movement of pet birds from third countries due to the especially pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu).

Control of the documents and identity of **wild or captive birds** (gyrfalcons, hawks) is carried out by the Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) at the Terehova and Pāternieki border inspection posts.

Pet birds may be imported:

1. If they conform to one of the following conditions:

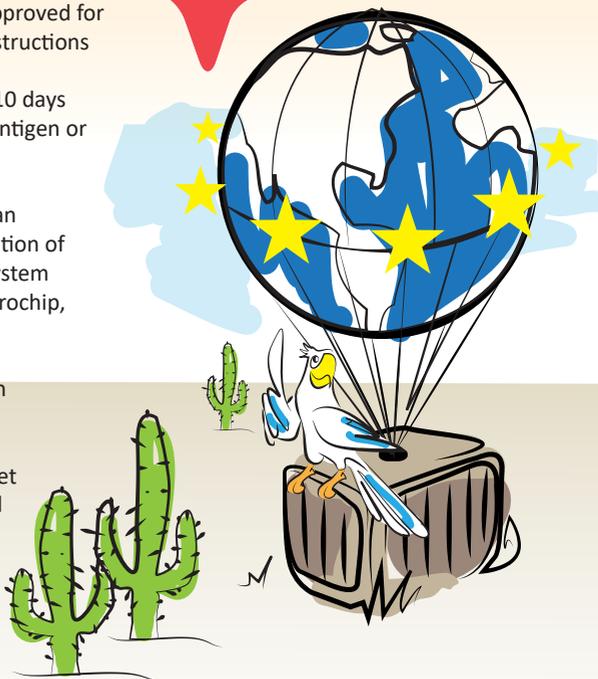
- they have been isolated at the place of export in the third country for 30 days before exporting, or
- the birds, within the last six months and no later than 60 days before export from the third country, have been vaccinated and at least once have been revaccinated against avian influenza of H5 and H7 subtypes with a vaccine which has been approved for the respective species, according to the instructions of the manufacturer, or
- the birds have been isolated for at least 10 days before exporting and tests for H5 and H7 antigen or genome have been performed for them.

2. If the birds are identifiable (must have an individual number which permits determination of the origin thereof, and the identification system must be stated, for example, clip, ring, microchip, transponder).

3. If accompanied by a health certificate in accordance with the model laid down by the EU and a written declaration from the owner is attached that the movement of pet birds to EU is intended for non-commercial purposes.

Please note!

- Please promptly verify whether the third country from which you plan to import the pet bird into Latvia has been included in the list of the approved countries!
- If the pet bird does not meet the requirements, it may be returned to the country of origin or isolated for official supervision until the moment when the health requirements are met.
- In case of non-conformities, the isolation expenses must be covered by the owner; therefore, check compliance with the requirements before you travel.
- If the pet bird cannot be returned or isolated it may be subject to euthanasia without financial compensation.
- Pet birds imported from Andorra, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Vatican City are subject to the same conditions as from EU.



Please note!

The requirements may change; therefore, please see the updated information on the website of the FVS or inquire at the territorial structural units of the FVS.

References to the regulation and decisions:

- Regulation (EU) № 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) № 998/2003
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) № 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries, and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) № 576/2013 of the Parliament and of the Council
- Commission Delegated regulation (EU) № 2018/772 of 21 November 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of Echinococcus multilocularis infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011.
- Commission Decision 2007/25/EC
- Commission Decision 2010/734/EU
- Commission Decision 2017/2410/EU
- Commission Decision 2018/1687/EU
- Commission Implementing regulation (EU) 2019/1293 of 29 July 2019 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 as regards the list of territories and third countries in Annex II and the model of animal health certificate for dogs, cats and ferrets set out in Annex IV

The background features a stylized landscape with rolling hills in shades of light green and yellow at the bottom, and large, soft, white and light yellow clouds against a warm orange and yellow sky above.

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