



APHA OV Briefing Note 08/15

Pet Passports

Dear Official Veterinarian,

As you are aware after 29 December 2014, new rules came into force regarding Pet Passports. Before a dog, cat or ferret can (re)-enter GB under the Pet Travel Scheme, it must be checked either at the point of departure (for ferry and most rail operators) or at the point of arrival (for airlines and some cruise and rail services).

The correct completion of the passport is vital for the animal to be allowed in to GB avoiding quarantine and to prevent pet owners from incurring unnecessary expense and inconvenience as a result of administrative errors in the completion of pet passports.

There are different errors that can be made when completing a passport we have stated the common mistakes identified by the pet checkers below.

New style Pet Passport:

Every pet passport issued from 29 December 2014 must be in the new format. Any passport issued before that date will remain valid for the lifetime of the pet or until the treatment spaces are filled.

Any old style passports issued after 29 December 2014 will not be valid for travel, and must be recalled and replaced with a new passport.

Any old style passports that remain unissued must be disposed of securely.

Use of OV stamp:

You **MUST** be an OV appointed in the appropriate OCQ(V) to complete sections IV, V, VI and X of the passport. However in new style pet passports the use of the OV stamp depends on the section of the passport being completed.

- The OV stamp **MUST** be used in:

section IV-**Issuing of the passport** and section VI- **Rabies Antibody Titration Test**.

- **DO NOT** use your OV stamp in:

section V-**Rabies vaccination** and section X- **Clinical examination**. The following information must be included in the 'authorised veterinarian' box: name, address, telephone number and signature. You can either use a **practice** stamp which contains this information or write these details by hand. **Please write your SP number in or near the entry.**

- Section VII, VIII and IX can be completed by any veterinarian.

Please note that for any old style pet passports issued prior to 29 December 2014; the OV stamp must still be used when entries are made in the rabies vaccination section.

Lamination:

There are three lamination sheets in the passport.

After the required information has been entered in Section III (Marking of the animal), the first lamination sheet which is adjacent to page 6 must be carefully peeled and separated from the backing to cover all of page 6.

There are two additional sheets for lamination included in the passport. The second and third sheets are 'kiss-cut' and individual sections can be removed. Where the information on one of the pages of the passport takes the form of a sticker, one of the individual laminate sections must seal that sticker.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the completion of the new style pet passports.

Detailed guidance notes for completing both the new and old style pet passports can be found at the following link: [Pet passports - OV Instructions](#). You will also find a document regarding the most frequently asked questions which you may find useful.

Full details on the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme can be found [on the Gov.uk website](#).

We hope you find this information useful. If you need further assistance you can contact the Pet Travel helpline on 03702 411 710, or email us at Pettravel@apha.gsi.gov.uk.

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