



Food and  
Veterinary Service  
Republic of Latvia

# THINGS TO KNOW IF YOU WANT TO TRAVEL WITH YOUR PET ANIMAL





## WHAT IS A PET ANIMAL?

A “pet animal” is a dog, cat, ferret who are 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 selling a pet animal or transferring 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 within 5 days

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, considering the following:

- ✓ the pet animals are over six months old
- ✓ the owner or the authorised person can present written evidence that 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, Sweden, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Finland, Germany, Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia  
**European Economic Area (EEA) countries:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway

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.** 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, or there is non-compliance with booster regimen in accordance with instructions of the vaccine manufacturer. The animal must be identified before vaccination against rabies.



**! DEROGATIONS** from vaccination against rabies for young dogs, cats and ferrets: Starting from 29 December 2014 it is prohibited to import in **Latvia** dogs, cats and ferrets which are under 12 weeks old and are not vaccinated against rabies, or 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 past).

## 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 past).

## 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 species susceptible 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.

- 4. **Additional requirement set for dogs, when travelling to Ireland, Great Britain, Finland, Norway, 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 (veterinarian records the performed procedure in the pet passport).



## REQUIREMENTS WHEN TRAVELLING WITH A PET ANIMAL FROM LATVIA TO THIRD COUNTRIES

When travelling with animals outside the European Union, the requirements set by the competent authority of the third country must be complied. 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.

**PLEASE REMEMBER!**

Animals travelling from list (1) countries are not subject to control at points of entry.

## IT IS PERMITTED TO BRING IN DOGS, CATS, AND FERRETS IF THEY ARE DULY PREPARED:



### 1. Identification with microchip.

\* **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 with the same animal, then upon returning from the third country back to the EU territory only the passport must be presented.



### 2. Vaccinated against rabies.

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER!**



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

- 1) It is necessary if you travel from third countries not included in the list (2) or in case of transit through such countries. The analysis shall be performed **at an EU approved laboratory.**
- 2) Blood sample is taking at least 30 days after the vaccination and three months prior to the movement.
- 3) It is not necessary if you are travelling from countries included in the list (1).

**PLEASE REMEMBER!**

**! 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 animals have not been in contact with animals of a species predisposed to rabies, and they remained unthreatened in the vehicle or the territory of the international airport.

If you depart from Latvia to any of the countries which are not mentioned in the list (2) of the countries or, alternatively, after the transit through these countries, and wish to return to the EU, **the test must be carried out before departure.** The 3-month waiting period after performance of the analysis is not necessary.

If the rabies booster regimen has been complied with, then the rabies antibody test shall be carried out on the animal once in a lifetime.



**4. 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.

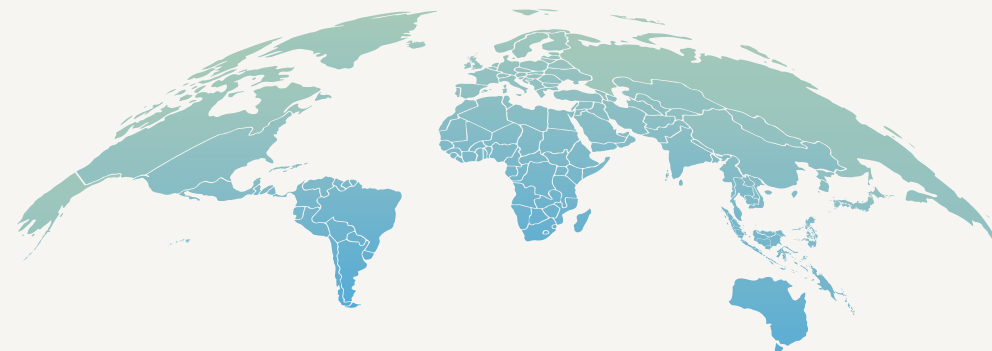


The animal must be presented to veterinary control if it is imported for commercial purposes! Control is performed by the Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) at the Terehova and Paternieki border control posts.

**5. 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) No 577/2013.



- ✓ 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.



**6. Declaration in case of transit** signed by the owner or the authorised representative, if you travel from countries not included in list (2).

**(1) Applies to the following countries:** Andorra, Switzerland, the Faeroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State

**(2) Test for detection of the antibody level does not apply to the following countries:** Ascension Island, United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Aruba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Barbados, Bahrain, Bermuda Islands, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (BES Islands), Canada, Chile, Curacao, Fiji, Falkland Islands, United Kingdom\*, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Japan, Jersey, Saints Kitts and Nevis, Cayman Islands, Saint Lucia, Montserrat, Mauritius, North Macedonia, Mexico, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Singapore, Saint Helena, Sint Maarten, 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*

*\*In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union, Northern Ireland is not included. When moving pets from Northern Ireland, the same requirements apply as when traveling between EU member states.*



- ✓ 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 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

### 1. WHEN TRAVELLING WITH A CAT FROM AUSTRALIA

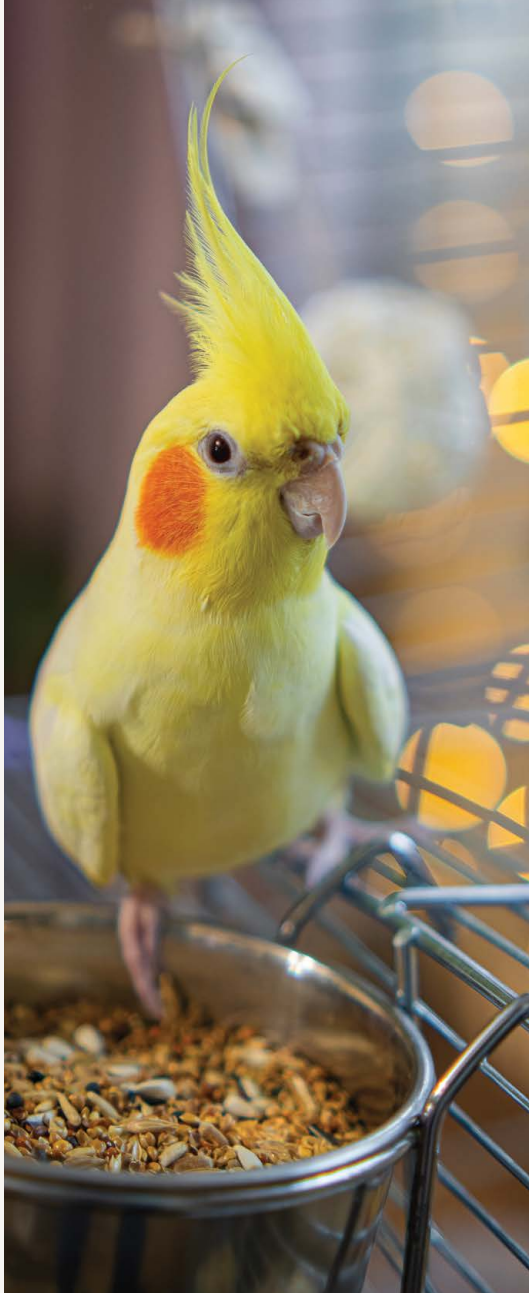
It is prohibited to bring cats from Australia into Latvia if they do not have with them the veterinary certificate issued by the competent authority of Australia with them the

- ✓ 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 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 Paternieki border control posts.

### PET BIRDS MAY BE IMPORTED:

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

- ✓ 30 days before export, they are isolated in the third country or territory of export, which is specified in the table of Part 1 of Annex V, Annex XIV or Annex XIX of Implementing Regulation (EU)2021/404; or
- ✓ the birds have been immunised within the last six months and not later than 60 days before export from the third country and at least once have been revaccinated against avian influenza using the H5 and H7 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 14 days before exporting and tests for H5 and H7 antigen or genome have been performed for them: sample for test taken not earlier than the third day of isolation,
- ✓ within 48 hours on the last working day before the day when the pet birds were sent from the territory or a third country, an official veterinarian has performed a clinical examination and no signs of disease have been detected.
- ✓ pet birds have not been in contact with other birds from the time of the clinical examination to the time of removal from the territory of dispatch or a third country.



- 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 the Veterinary Certificate of the EU-established model is present**, and if the veterinary certificate is attached by written declaration of the owner that the movement of the pet bird to the European Union takes place for non-commercial purposes.



! Pet birds imported from Andorra, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Vatican City are subject to the same conditions as from EU.



**4. After being imported into the European Union, the birds are moved to their home** and they are not allowed to participate in shows, fairs, exhibitions, or other gathering places of birds for 30 days, except if they are moved to an approved quarantine point after being imported into the European Union.

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 animal cannot be returned or isolated, it may be subject to euthanasia without financial compensation.

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) No 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) No 998/2003
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 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) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- 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
- 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 Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933 of 14 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding rules for non-commercial movements of pet birds into a Member State from a territory or a third country.
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1938 of 9 November 2021 establishing the model identification document for non-commercial movements of pet birds into a Member State from a territory or a third country and repealing Decision 2007/25/EC
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 of 24 March 2021 laying down the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council
- Commission Decision 2006/146(EC) of 21 February 2006 on certain protection measures regarding certain fruit bats, dogs and cats coming from Malaysia (Peninsula) and Australia



FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE  
Peldu street 30, Rīga, Latvia, LV-1050  
Telephone: + 371 67095230  
Helpline: + 371 67027402  
[www.pvd.gov.lv](http://www.pvd.gov.lv)

