

## **Intra-Community movement of pet dogs, cats and ferrets when travelling as of 29 December 2014**

### **Scope**

These conditions, based upon Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013, apply to the Member states of the European Union and the EEA (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden), as well as Northern Ireland and Switzerland.

### **COVID 19 in connection with restrictions in the movement of people (if the animals are handed over at the Austrian border)**

- the purchase contract must already have been concluded in the Member State of origin;
- when handing over the animal at the Austrian border, the Austrian owner must be entered in the EU pet passport;
- any required rabies clearance certificate (for animals between 8 and 15 weeks) must be issued by the person entitled to dispose of them and carried with them to the place of destination in Austria;
- a declaration (private movement of pets on behalf of the owner) must be completed and signed by the Austrian owner and carried with him to the place of destination in Austria;
- these exemptions from the trade regulations do NOT apply to animal welfare organizations.

### **Pet animals**

Pet animals are defined as dogs, cats, ferrets, invertebrates (except bees, bumble bees, molluscs and crustaceans), ornamental aquatic animals, amphibia, reptiles, birds (except fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites (Ratitae) as well as rodents and rabbits (not intended for food production) which are accompanying their owners or a natural person responsible for such animals on behalf of the owner during their movement (written authorisation by the owner) and **are not intended to be sold or transferred to another owner**.

The conditions for other pets than dogs, cats and ferrets can be found at the following link: <https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Topics/Health/Information-for-travellers/Movement-of-other-pets-between-Member-states-of-the-EU,-the-EEA-and-Switzerland0.html>

### **Dogs, cats, ferrets**

Since 3 July 2004, a pet pass (Heimtierausweis) can be issued by any self-employed veterinarian in Austria for dogs, cats and ferrets to be moved between Member states of the European Union when travelling.

A **maximum number of five** animals per person may be transported.

## Identification

Each animal has to be identified by either a clearly readable tattoo or a microchip. After 3 July 2011 animals may be identified only by microchip. Tattoos applied before 3 July 2011 remain valid as long as they are clearly readable.

## Passport

Each animal has to be accompanied by a passport issued by a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority certifying valid anti-rabies vaccination, or re-vaccination if applicable, of the animal concerned.

EU pet passports issued before 29.12.2014 remain valid. (Please note: This applies to pet passports issued in the United Kingdom only in the case of Northern Ireland).

## Validity of anti-rabies vaccination

Basically anti-rabies vaccination is deemed valid if, among others, the condition has been fulfilled requiring that the date of vaccination must not be earlier than the date of microchip implantation as entered into the pet pass or animal health certificate. However, for animals bearing a clearly readable tattoo, which has been applied before 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011, this tattoo is recognised as identification.

Anti-rabies vaccination is deemed valid 21 days after finishing the basic vaccination procedure, if

- the animal has been vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine or recombinant vaccine against rabies in accordance with the marketing authorisation of the vaccine in the country of origin;
- the vaccine meets the required standards (Chapter 2.1.13 of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals) of the World Organisation for Animal Health;
- the animal has been re-vaccinated at regular intervals.

## Member states with additional requirements

We recommend inquiring for information before moving dogs, cats or ferrets to Ireland, Malta, Sweden, and Finland as well as to Northern Ireland or Norway at the respective websites.

## Movement of animals younger than 12 weeks by private travellers to Austria

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013, Austria permits the movement of dogs, cats and ferrets younger than 12 weeks if

- each animal has been identified by a microchip,
- each animal is accompanied by a pet pass,
- the animal has not been vaccinated against rabies,
- **the animal owner (to whom the animal belongs or who bought the animal in another EU-country) has declared** by additional declaration (declaration of compliance regarding rabies, to be downloaded from the BMASGK website), which has to be taken along with the animal, that the animal has been kept in the place in which it was born

since birth without contact with wild animals likely to have been exposed to the infection or is accompanied by its mother on whom it is still dependent. In this case evidence is required that the mother has received a valid anti-rabies vaccination before birth of the whelps.

**ATTENTION !** There are also animal welfare conditions applicable to the movement and the keeping of dogs and cats less than 8 weeks old. (Link to the “Animal Welfare Act” and regulations, in German only <https://www.sozialministerium.at/site/Gesundheit/Tiergesundheit/Tierschutz/>).

## **Movement of animals vaccinated against rabies and aged between 12 and 16 weeks by private travellers to Austria**

For this possibility of movements, dogs, cats and ferrets have to be vaccinated against rabies in any case!

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013, Austria permits the movement of dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated against rabies and aged between 12 and 16 weeks if

- each animal has been identified by a microchip,
- each animal is accompanied by a pet pass,
- the animal has been vaccinated against rabies,
- **the animal owner (to whom the animal belongs or who bought the animal in another EU-country) has declared** by additional declaration (declaration of compliance regarding rabies, to be downloaded from the BMSGPK website), which has to be taken along with the animal, that the animal has been kept in the place in which it was born since birth without contact with wild animals likely to have been exposed to the infection or is accompanied by its mother on whom it is still dependent. In this case evidence is required that the mother has received a valid anti-rabies vaccination before birth of the whelps.

**For information regarding obligatory muzzles or leads for dogs, or entry of specific dog breeds please contact the locally competent district administrative authority/magistrate (official veterinarian) directly, as these requirements may differ.**

Further information:

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