

ANIMALS PRODUCTIONS

The No-Panic Pet Relocation Guide

Move your dog or cat across borders — microchip to arrival — without the guesswork. The exact order, documents, timelines and country rules in one place.

2026 Edition · 24 destinations



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Why order matters more than effort

Do the steps in the wrong order and your pet can be turned away at the border — even if you did everything else right.

The single most common, most expensive mistake is doing the rabies vaccine **before** the microchip. If the chip isn't in first, the vaccination doesn't count and the clock restarts. This guide gives you the correct sequence and the realistic timeline so you start early enough.

Golden rule: Microchip → Rabies vaccine → (Titer test if required) → Health certificate → Travel.
Never out of order.

The universal timeline

1

Microchip (ISO 11784/11785)

Must be implanted and scannable first. Every later record links to this chip number.

2

Rabies vaccination

Given after the chip. Usually valid 21 days after the shot before you can travel.

3

Rabies titer test (RNATT) — if required

Blood test proving the vaccine worked (≥ 0.5 IU/ml). Rabies-free countries (Australia, Japan, NZ) require it with long waits — often 90–180 days. This is what makes you start months early.

4

Health certificate

Issued by an accredited vet close to travel (often within 10 days). EU uses the Pet Passport; the US uses USDA-endorsed forms.

5

Permits / import notice — if required

Some countries need an import permit or advance notice before arrival (UAE, Australia, Japan, Thailand).

Documents and how your pet flies

Get these right and the rest is logistics.

Document checklist

- ☐ Microchip implantation record (date + chip number)
- ☐ Rabies vaccination certificate (after the chip)
- ☐ Rabies titer (RNATT) lab result — if destination requires it
- ☐ Veterinary health certificate (endorsed if required)
- ☐ Import permit / advance notification — if required
- ☐ EU Pet Passport (for EU/EEA routes)
- ☐ Airline booking confirmation for the pet (cabin or cargo)

Cabin vs cargo — know before you book

Whether your pet flies in the cabin or as cargo depends on the airline, the route and combined pet + carrier weight (often an 8 kg cabin limit). Some destinations **require cargo** regardless of size.

Cargo-only destinations include: United Kingdom, Australia, UAE, South Africa. Plan for an IATA-approved crate and a longer process.

Carrier tip: Buy the carrier early and let your pet sleep in it for weeks before travel. A calm pet clears the gate easier. (Airline-friendly carriers, bowls and travel water bottles: animalsproductions.site)

QUICK REFERENCE

Country rules at a glance

A fast orientation. Rules change — always confirm on the official government source before booking.

Destination	Key requirement	Quarantine	Official source
USA	CDC/USDA APHIS rules, dog import controls	No	aphis.usda.gov
EU (ES/DE/FR/IT/PT/NL)	EU Pet Passport, chip + rabies	No	food.ec.europa.eu
United Kingdom	Cargo only, breed bans (XL Bully)	No*	gov.uk
Canada	Rabies certificate	No	inspection.canada.ca
Australia	Titer test + import permit, strict	~10 days	agriculture.gov.au
Japan	Titer + 180-day wait + 40-day notice	Possible	maff.go.jp/aqs
New Zealand	MPI permit, titer	~10 days	mpi.govt.nz
Singapore	Licence, strict	~30 days	nparks.gov.sg
UAE	MOCCAE import permit, cargo	No	moccae.gov.ae
Argentina	SENASA health certificate	No	argentina.gob.ar/senasa
Brazil	MAPA / Zoosanitary certificate	No	gov.br/agricultura
Mexico	SENASICA, relaxed entry	No	gob.mx/senasica
Thailand	Import permit (R7)	No	dld.go.th
Turkey	Vet certificate, cabin allowed	No	tarimorman.gov.tr
South Africa	DALRRD permit, cargo	No	dalrrd.gov.za
Switzerland / Norway	EU/EEA-aligned rules	No	blv.admin.ch
South Korea	QIA process	~10 days*	qia.go.kr
Russia	Veterinary Form No.1	No	fsvps.gov.ru

*Conditions apply. For your exact route and pet type, use the free checker at animalsproductions.site, which links to each official source.

AVOID THESE

Costly mistakes & what to pack

Top mistakes that delay or block travel

- Rabies shot before the microchip — vaccine doesn't count, clock restarts.
- Starting too late for titer-test countries (need 3–6 months lead time).
- Booking a flight before checking cabin vs cargo rules for that route.
- Ignoring breed bans (e.g. UK, UAE) — your pet may be refused.
- Health certificate issued too early — many countries require it within ~10 days of travel.
- Trusting a forum post over the official government source.

Travel-day packing checklist

- ☐ IATA-approved carrier or crate (pet already used to it)
- ☐ All documents printed + digital copies
- ☐ Collapsible bowl + travel water bottle
- ☐ Familiar blanket / calming bed
- ☐ Food for the journey + a few hours after
- ☐ Waste bags, wipes, absorbent pad in the carrier
- ☐ Recent photo of your pet + your contact on the carrier

FREE TOOL

Check your exact route — free

Pick your departure, destination and pet type and get the precise checklist with official source links. Plus airline-friendly travel gear.

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Animals Productions is an independent information service. Rules change frequently; always confirm requirements with the official government source for your destination before booking travel. This guide is for general guidance and is not legal or veterinary advice.