

## **Possibility of changing requirements for travel of dogs and cats into Europe post-Brexit**

**We have recently been notified that requirements for travel into the EU may change for dogs and cats after the UK leaves the European Union in March 2019.**

**We are told that it is unlikely that requirements will change significantly but a decision has yet to be made.**

**There are three possible outcomes:**

**ONE: Should the UK become a “Part 1 listed” country, there would be little change to the current pet travel arrangements, with only minor changes needed to documentation for travel between the UK and EU and no change for pet owners from what they currently need to do in terms of health preparations.**

**TWO: Should the UK become a “Part 2 listed country”, there would be some new requirements, but they would not be as burdensome as those for unlisted status. There would be no requirement for a blood titre test, although pet owners would still need to ensure rabies vaccinations were kept up to date.**

**THREE: Should the UK become an “unlisted third country”, pet owners would need to prove animals are effectively vaccinated against rabies before they could travel with their pet to EU countries. This would require a blood titre test to demonstrate sufficient levels of rabies antibody, which would need to be carried out a minimum of 30 days after any initial rabies vaccination. If the result shows sufficient levels of antibody, a three-month waiting period before travel would still be required from the date the blood was drawn to ensure no rabies symptoms develop.**

**What this means: If the unlikely third scenario occurs, most pets under the current pet travel scheme will require a blood test prior to travel to the EU, and therefore it is advisable you speak with us regarding your travel requirements at least four months before you intend to travel.**

If you have essential travel with your pet in the initial period following the UK leaving the EU in March 2019 and a worst case third scenario occurs, the blood test would need to be performed BEFORE the end of 2018.

Whilst we are hopeful that the situation will be quickly resolved and additional red tape will not be required, we are advising our clients of this POTENTIAL scenario so that we can take action to avoid disappointment.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/taking-your-pet-abroad-if-theres-no-brexit-deal/taking-your-pet-abroad-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>

Please call us to discuss your situation if you are concerned.