

Information for taking your pet on vacation

Dearest owner,

Very nice that your pet is going on a holiday with you! In this letter you will find some extra information that is useful before you take your pet abroad.

Requirements

For all European countries and Switzerland, your pet must meet the following requirements:

- animals must have an European pet-passport
- animals must have a chip (a tattoo is no longer valid)
- animals must be vaccinated against Rabies. This must be done at least 21 days before departure and from then on within the schedule of the vaccinations. This vaccination can be given to an animal when he/she is older than 3 months and has a chip.

For a few countries, there are extra requirements, such as a health certificate for worm treatment. For instance, this certificate is required for entry into the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Malta. There are several countries outside Europe that require a Rabies blood test to ensure that the antibodies are present. This procedure can take several weeks, so it is important to know the requirements for your country of destination well in advance of your travel dates. You can find more information about traveling with your pet on www.licg.nl or ask one of our assistants.

Stress from the journey

Traveling by car or by plane can be very stressful for your pet. To make the journey as pleasant as possible there are several options, for instance: Zylkene (dogs and cats) or Adaptil (dogs) and Feliway (cats). These products can help make the journey less stressful and are very safe. We don't recommend sedative drugs because these products affect several body functions, such as the heart, breathing, and blood pressure. This can be dangerous without proper professional monitoring. Please contact one of our veterinarians or assistants to discuss what is the best option for your pet.

Car sickness

Animals can be susceptible to the same travel-related discomforts as humans. During a (car) trip, pets can get nauseous, they can drool a lot, or they might even vomit. If you know that your pet gets car sick, it is possible to give a Cerenia-tablet in advance to prevent this.

Protecting your animal against foreign diseases

Leishmania

Leishmania is a disease that only affects dogs. Leishmania can be found in the Mediterranean countries. This is a serious and possibly deadly disease in dogs. Leishmania is transmitted through the bite of a little sand-fly (active from sunset until sunrise). This fly transfers the Leishmania-parasite into the blood of the dog. These parasites go further into the dog's body to the organs where they can cause problems such as hair loss, but they can also cause liver and/or kidney failure.

Because Leishmania is difficult to treat, and treatment is long and expensive it is very important to try to prevent this disease. There are several preventive medications, you can give a spot-on solution (Advantix) every two weeks, or use a collar (Seresto). Both these products protect against ticks and fleas. Because the flies are mostly active at night, it is also wise to keep your dog inside after sunset.

There is a vaccination against Leishmania (Canileish). This vaccination is given 3 times in the first year, with 3 weeks between each dose. After that, the vaccination must be repeated every year. Our advice is to test your dog before vaccinating him/her to determine if he/she has already been in a contaminated area. This vaccination can be given to dogs older than 6 months and has to be given 2 weeks before or after other vaccinations. It is most recommended for dogs that come into contaminated areas often. In addition to the vaccine, dogs should still be treated with one of the flea treatments noted above.

Ticks

Ticks are everywhere, also in the Netherlands so it is always important that you protect your pet against ticks. A tick bite can cause an abscess or transmit other parasites for example Ehrlichiose, Babesiose, and Lyme disease. Preventive options are a spot-on product (Advantix for dogs, Bravecto for cats), a collar (Seresto for dogs and cats), or tasty tablets (Nexgard for dogs). However, it is still important to check your dog for ticks after every walk. When you find a tick, you can remove it with a special tick remover. Sometimes it takes days for the tick to release its pathogens into the body, so the quicker you remove it, the better.

Worms

In foreign countries, there are not only roundworms and tapeworms, but there are also lungworms and heartworms. Heartworms are transferred by a certain mosquito, that only lives in south- and east-Europe (starting at France). The larva of the heartworm is given to dogs through a mosquito bite. Full-sized heartworms (which can grow 12-30 cm) are usually found in lung arteries and the heart. They cause a lot of damage here. Symptoms are coughing, less energy, weight loss, and organ failure. Without treatment, a heartworm infection is deadly. You can prevent worms by treating the animal before the larva become adult worms. This is why it is very important to give a deworming tablet on the day you arrive in the Netherlands, and to repeat it 1 month later. If you are abroad longer than one month, give your dog a tablet every month, instead of the 4 times a year we do here in the Netherlands. We recommend Milbemax deworming tablets. Another option is a spot-on product (Advocate for dogs and cats, Broadline for cats).

If you have any questions, or if you would like to know which product is the best option for your pet, please don't hesitate to ask one of our vets or assistants.

Have a great holiday!