

Travelling with the dog or cat: it is a calendar, not a list

Some things only count if they were done in the right order. The chip before the rabies jab, never the other way round.

1 · The papers to gather first

Get everything together before you start. Almost every step in this guide stops dead for one missing document, and starting again costs more than waiting a day.

- The EU pet passport, if you come from a Union country, with the vaccination pages filled in and signed.
- The microchip certificate, with the number and the implant date: that date decides everything.
- The vaccination record with the rabies jab, its date and batch, signed by the vet.
- If you come from outside the Union, the health certificate in the model the destination requires and, depending on the country, the rabies antibody test.
- The owner's identity document, which must match the one on the animal's passport.

2 · The order to do things in

- 1 Start with the microchip. It identifies the animal and must be in place BEFORE the rabies vaccination: done the other way round, the jab does not count and has to be repeated.
- 2 Vaccinate against rabies after the chip, and note the date. The vaccine needs time before it is valid for travel.
- 3 Check the rules of the country you leave and of the country you enter, each on its own official site. Union rules are not non-Union rules.
- 4 If your country requires it, have the antibody test done at an approved laboratory and respect the waiting period that follows.
- 5 On arrival, enter the animal in your town hall's municipal register: it is a local duty and it is always forgotten.

3 · The mistakes we see again and again

- Vaccinating against rabies before the chip is in. That is the mistake that forces you to start again.
- Travelling with a jab given the day before. There is a waiting period before it is valid, and the date is checked at the border.
- Assuming the vet in your home country knows Spain's requirements. Often they do not, and it is not their job.
- Forgetting the municipal register on arrival. It turns into a fine years later, for another reason.

- Buying a carrier without checking the airline's dimensions. Each one has its own.

4 · Where you can check it yourself

Official pages, checked on 22/09/2026. The administration changes its screens without warning: if something does not match, the official source wins, not this guide.

- **Comisión Europea, normas de la UE para viajar con mascotas**

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/carry/animal-plant/index_es.htm

- **Ministerio de Agricultura, comercio exterior ganadero**

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/>

- **Ministerio de Agricultura, sanidad e higiene ganadera**

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/sanidad-animal-higiene-ganadera/>

If you would rather we did it

€59 the calendar and the full checklist for your trip

€79 the same, plus registration in the municipal census on arrival

We are not vets and we do not sign health certificates: a vet does that, and for some destinations an official vet. Nor do we transport animals or work with any pet transport company, and we take no commission from any.

A question? One message is enough

Write to us on WhatsApp at **+34 613 13 87 84** (wa.me/34613138784) and a person answers.
Asking costs nothing and commits you to nothing.

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