

Summer Holidays: By David McCormick BVM&S BSc PhD MRCVS

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Only two weeks ago it seemed that we were still in the depths of Winter. My newly sown grass, having just popped its head out of the ground, was met with a cold curtain of frost and scarf and coat did not seem inappropriate. And now! The week-end has heralded the onset of summer. Everywhere you look, whether it be pavement or pastoral, signs of summer are to be found. For school children the inevitable round of exams must be endured as the summer weather seems to laugh at them as they sit, head in book and pen in hand. The reward? The long summer vacation when thoughts of school can be dismissed in favour of beaches and warm climates. Our pets too enjoy the Summer weather. My own two cats love nothing more than to laze on top of the wood pile, soaking up the warming rays: home comforts and sunshine suit our cats. Dogs on the other hand, can now play a full part in our summer escapades, be they at home or abroad. Living as we do, in the South East, the continent is but a short hop, skip and a jump away and many of us take full advantage of this fact when planning our summer holidays to France, Spain or Italy. As most of us now know, it is a relatively simple matter to provide our pets with a 'Pet Passport' which can enable them to come on holiday with us.



So what's required?

First off, a Pet Passport is principally designed to allow the free movement of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets (I suspect you will not be taking your ferret on holiday!) to EU Listed Countries. A passport can be used as part of the paperwork for Non-EU listed countries but additional paperwork and testing is very likely to be required both when travelling to the country and when coming back into the UK.

When travelling to an EU listed country, the following is required:

- An identifying microchip must be inserted (now also required for all UK resident dogs).
- A rabies vaccination must be given (Our current rabies vaccine lasts for 3 years).
- An EU passport must be issued by your vet.
- In addition, when coming back into the UK a vet must treat your dog against tapeworms and this must be entered in the Passport. This treatment must be given within 1 and 5 days (between 24 and 120 hours) before you're going to enter the UK.
- Contact your vet for further details.

Comprehensive guidance can be found on the UK Government Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview>

So when 'Schools out for Summer' don't spend the 'Summer in the City' when you should be 'walking on Sunshine'. Feel those 'Good Vibrations' and let the 'Summer Breeze' cool you in the evenings. And most of all have a great 'Holiday'. Ok enough.....