



PRACTICAL PET TRAVEL GUIDE

Dog Travel Checklist: UK to France

A concise preparation checklist for a private dog journey from Great Britain to France.

Updated 5 September 2026

Use this checklist with official guidance

Rules checked 5 September 2026. Requirements can change. Recheck GOV.UK, French Customs, your vet and your chosen carrier before travel.

1. Before booking

- ☐ **Confirm the movement is private and non-commercial**
Sale, rehoming and unaccompanied movements can have different rules. Do not use this checklist as a substitute for the correct commercial or import process.
- ☐ **Confirm the dog's identity and age**
Check the dog is old enough for the selected journey and that its microchip is readable and recorded consistently.
- ☐ **Choose an eligible route and operator**
Check the carrier accepts dogs, the route is approved or eligible, and any border or pet check-in process before paying.
- ☐ **Confirm who is travelling with the dog**
The dog can travel with the owner or an authorised person. If someone else travels with the dog, prepare written permission and check the official 5-day window.



2. Vet and documents

Use the dog's record and the current official guidance together. A UK resident leaving Great Britain normally needs a current Animal Health Certificate from a UK Official Veterinarian for each trip from GB to the EU.

☐ **Microchip before rabies vaccination**

The microchip must be implanted and readable before the rabies vaccination. Make sure the number matches the travel document.

☐ **Valid rabies vaccination**

The vaccination must be valid on the date of EU entry. Ask your vet to confirm booster timing if there has been no gap in cover.

☐ **Allow at least 21 full days after a primary course**

Do not count partial days or assume a first vaccination gives immediate travel permission.

☐ **Current AHC from a UK Official Veterinarian**

Arrange the Animal Health Certificate with a UK OV and keep the original or accepted document with you.

☐ **Use the official 10-day EU entry window**

The AHC must be used for EU entry within the official 10-day window from issue. After entry, it can support onward EU travel and re-entry to GB for up to 6 months, or until rabies validity expires.

☐ **Recheck the 22 April 2026 pet passport guidance**

GB residents should not rely on an EU pet passport for EU entry without checking the current residence and document exceptions.

☐ **Carry originals and matching records**

Carry the accepted document, vaccination record and any written authorisation. Check names, dates, microchip number and owner details before leaving.

Document detail

For the full document explanation, use the online guide at silverpettravel.co.uk/blog/documents-for-dog-travel-to-france.



3. Booking and travel day

☐ Add the dog to the booking

Tell the carrier that a pet is travelling and confirm any pet fee, vehicle, kennel, lounge or cabin requirement before departure.

☐ Complete pet check-in

Follow the operator's check-in and document process. Keep the dog secure and available for checks without rushing the handover.

☐ Know the route difference

LeShuttle is a vehicle shuttle through the Channel Tunnel. Ordinary pets are not allowed on London Eurostar services; assistance animal rules are different.

☐ Pack conservative welfare essentials

Bring water, a familiar restraint, a lead, waste bags, a towel, current documents and a calm plan for breaks. Do not give medication unless your vet has advised it.

☐ Keep emergency contacts accessible

Carry your vet's number, the carrier contact, the owner or authorised person's number and the destination address.

☐ Allow time for checks and rest

Arrive with enough time for the carrier process. Keep the dog secured, shaded and supervised, and never leave the dog in a hot vehicle.

Route reminder

Check your chosen operator's current pet policy before travel. A ferry, LeShuttle vehicle shuttle, Eurostar service and private pet taxi do not follow the same booking rules.

Final travel-day scan

☐ Documents, booking confirmation and contact details are together

Do one final scan before leaving for the terminal.



4. France arrival and return to Great Britain

☐ Present for carrier or border checks

Have the dog, accepted travel document and identification ready when requested.

☐ Check French restricted dog categories

Category 1 attack dogs are prohibited and Category 2 dogs may have conditions. Do not self-classify from appearance; check French Customs guidance.

☐ Check the return document before leaving France

A new French AHC is not automatically needed. Confirm which eligible document remains valid for your return movement, including a valid GB-issued AHC where applicable.

☐ Arrange tapeworm treatment for GB entry

A vet must administer and record the dog tapeworm treatment 24 to 120 hours before arrival in Great Britain. Time it against arrival, not only departure.

☐ Keep the return confirmation and scan documents again

Keep booking confirmation, treatment record and travel document together for the return checks.

5. Useful official links

GOV.UK: taking your pet abroad

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad>

GOV.UK: Animal Health Certificate

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/getting-an-animal-health-certificate>

GOV.UK: tapeworm treatment for dogs

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/tapeworm-treatment-for-dogs>

French Customs: travelling with a dog, cat or ferret

<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/en/demarche/you-are-traveling-dog-cat-or-ferret>

LeShuttle: on the day

<https://www.leshuttle.com/uk-en/travelling-with-us/before-you-go/on-the-day>

Eurostar: travelling with pets

<https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en/travel-info/travel-planning/travel-with-pets>

Need help with a private pet taxi journey?

Discuss your route at silverpettravel.co.uk/contactus or call +44 7387 223383.