



Amigos de la Gente de Edad

Healthcare for dogs and cats

Vaccinations

The law in Spain requires all dogs from the age of three months to be vaccinated against *rabies*. The vaccination **MUST** be repeated every year.

Cats are not required by law to be vaccinated against *rabies*.

Although puppies and kittens inherit up to 12 weeks immunity from their mothers (as long as she has been regularly vaccinated) they can start their own vaccination program from five to seven weeks of age.

Puppies should be de-wormed between four to five weeks of age and examined and declared healthy by a veterinary surgeon. First vaccinations should be for *moquillo* (distemper) and *parvovirus* with a booster two weeks later. In a further two weeks puppies should receive a 'four-in-one' vaccination - *moquillo*, *hepatitis*, *leptospirosis* and *parvovirus*.

The 'four-in-one' vaccination should then be given annually. Although this is not obligatory, it can certainly save a lot of heartbreak should an unvaccinated dog contract any of these very contagious diseases.

Kittens should be de-wormed between five to seven weeks of age and at nine weeks their vaccination program should be commenced with a 'three-in-one' vaccination of *panleucopenia* (a gastro-intestinal disease), *rinotraqueitis* and *calicivirosis* (two types of respiratory infections or 'flu'). The fourth vaccination is *F.C.L.* (feline contagious leukaemia).

These are highly contagious diseases which, if contracted in a non-vaccinated cat, will usually prove fatal.

These vaccinations should, as with dogs, be repeated annually.

Puppies and kittens should stay in their own homes until their vaccinations are completed, are not allowed to walk outside nor have any contact with other (possibly un-vaccinated) dogs and cats.

NOTE: Any reputable boarding kennels/cattery will not accept an animal that has not been fully vaccinated.

Worming

It is advisable to de-worm both dogs and cats three or four times a year for both round and tape worm.

NOTE: It is mandatory throughout Spain that all dogs are micro-chipped.

Pet travel scheme to the UK

The pilot scheme commenced in February 2000.

Approved routes:

Calais to Dover

Caen, Cherbourg, Le Havre or St Malo to Portsmouth

Method of travel:

Rail: Euro tunnel shuttle service

Air: An airline has to be approved to carry livestock under the PET scheme. The only approved routes are from Palma de Mallorca/Frankfurt and Amsterdam to Heathrow Airport - London

In order for pets (dogs and cats) to qualify for entry into the UK under the PETS scheme, they must meet the following criteria:

1. Be fitted with a microchip before vaccination against rabies
2. Be vaccinated against rabies
3. Be blood-tested one month after receiving the rabies vaccination. The sample of blood taken by the vet will be to a MAFF approved laboratory for analysis. Pets cannot enter the UK until six months after a blood sample has been taken and a satisfactory blood analysis result has been received.
4. Be treated for tapeworm and ticks 24 - 48 hours prior to departure to the UK.
5. An official PETS Certificate showing that the animal has been vaccinated and blood tested. **NOTE:** These expire on the date of the next booster injection.
6. A Veterinary Health Certificate showing that the animal has been treated against tapeworm and ticks.
7. A declaration that the animal has lived in the same place for a minimum of six months.

Under the Great Britain Dangerous Dogs Act, it is against the law to enter into the country the following breeds:

- Pit bull terrier
- Japanese tosa
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro

At the point of entry into Britain, the animal and paperwork will be checked. If everything is not in order, the animal will be refused entry and will either be shipped back to the point of origin or placed into six months quarantine.

For additional information telephone:

PETS Helpline — 00 44 870 2411710

The above information has been provided by Dr Daniel Magrini in conjunction with Kifaru Kennels and Cattery, Mallorca.

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