



Temporary procedure concerning the handling of pet animals accompanying passengers entering Estonia from Ukraine and Russia during the military conflict

The European Commission has advised the Member States of the European Union (EU) to relax the requirements for the movement of pet animals accompanying **refugees coming from Ukraine** and **EU citizens returning from Russia**.

The risk of introduction into Estonian territory of infectious diseases, in particular infection with rabies virus, with animals which do not comply with the veterinary requirements when leaving the military operations area with their owners is high. The purpose of this temporary guide is to establish a procedure that reduces the risk of the introduction of infectious diseases into Estonian territory and facilitates the movement of people across borders.

Due to the war situation in Ukraine, Estonia authorises the entry of pet animals accompanying refugees from Ukraine and EU citizens returning from Russia, in particular dogs, cats and ferrets, which **do not comply with one or more of the veterinary requirements listed below**, provided that the owners of pets **have notified** the Agriculture and Food Board and the Estonian Tax and Customs Board of such movements.

Veterinary requirements

1. Dogs, cats or ferrets must be marked by microchip or have a clearly readable tattoo if applied before 3 July 2011.
2. Dogs, cats and ferrets have been vaccinated against rabies.
3. Dogs, cats and ferrets have undergone a rabies antibody titration test in an authorised laboratory with satisfactory results (0,5 IU/ML or higher) and 3 months or more have passed from the date of the blood sample (*the requirement applies only to pets of Ukrainian origin*).
4. Dogs, cats or ferrets have an identification document – animal health certificate or, in the case of pets of EU origin, the EU pet passport – showing the result of rabies antibody titration test carried out before leaving the territory of the European Union.

When and how to notify

It is necessary to notify of the movement of a pet animal if the pet animal does not comply with veterinary requirements and if:

- the country of destination of the pet is Estonia, or
- the pet is transiting through Estonia.

The animal owner or authorised person fills out the [notification form](#) (either in advance in the country of dispatch or on the spot at the border crossing point) and sends it to the e-mail addresses pta@pta.agri.ee, darja.trohhatsova@pta.agri.ee and elika.brosman@emta.ee.

If the pet animal enters the EU through another Member State, but the country of destination is Estonia, the competent authority of that Member State must notify Estonia of the animal (preferably by means of the notification form).

A pet is detained at the border of Estonia only if the animal has clinical symptoms suggesting infectious diseases or if the animal's health is at risk.

If the country of destination of a non-compliant pet is Estonia, the animal will remain under the supervision of the Agriculture and Food Board. If necessary, the Agriculture and Food Board determines the conditions for the isolation of the animal and the period of validity of the isolation.

When moving with other pets – invertebrates, tropical ornamental fish, amphibians, reptiles, rodents, domestic rabbits and some species of birds – it is not necessary to notify the Agriculture and Food Board as there are no special rules for the movement of such pets in Estonia. The general requirement is that animals must be clinically healthy and their welfare requirements must be ensured during their movement.