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The form of the veterinary certification of the European Union changed, while it was taken into consideration the necessity for confirming the type of transportation (commercial or otherwise) , for those transporting more than 5 dogs. Furthermore, regarding the vaccination against rabies, the existing terms were complemented with the section referring to puppies less than 12 weeks old. The new regulation defines that animals' vaccination less than 12 weeks old is not allowed. The main document, regulating at present dogs' transportation (as well as cats') in the European Union territory, constitutes the Regulation No 576/2016 of the European Parliament and Council of the 12th of June 2013.

1. Completion of transport formalities: As far as animals originating from Russia are concerned, the necessary documentation for their transportation to the territory of the European Union member-states is the veterinary certification, as was the case. You may find attached the [«Sample of Pet Health Certificate»](#).

2. Vaccination against rabies: Regarding the adult animals (older than 15 weeks old), which were vaccinated against rabies and kept in isolation for 21 days, the procedure remains as followed: the vaccination must be realized after the chip is implanted. From the moment of the initial vaccination against rabies, realized pursuant to the requirements mentioned in the Annex III of the Regulation (EE) No 576/2013 (the requirements limit the list of the administrating vaccines) and lasting for at least 21 days, all vaccinations followed must, also, be realized before the phasing out of the previous one. If the animals must be transported via a country with strict regulations against rabies, it may be required a blood test, with positive results for antibodies against rabies. In the new Regulation, though, it is mentioned that if the animals do not leave the aircraft or cross the boundaries of the international airport, a blood test for antibodies against rabies is not required, when an animal is transported via countries with stricter regulations.

As for animals that have not reached the age of 12 weeks old and been vaccinated against rabies, as well as animals up to 12-16 weeks old that have been vaccinated against rabies but the 21 days of the initial vaccination have not passed yet, according to the new Regulation of the EE No 576/2013 the member-states of the EE have the freedom to form their own policy. The Greek health authority forbids the entry of animals falling within the aforementioned cases.

The veterinary certification of the EE must be drawn up in English and in one, at least, of the official languages of the entry member-states. The certification must be completed with block letters, either in the official language of the member state or the English language (travelling through Poland the certification must be completed in English and the document is then drawn up in Polish, English and Russian – filling in Russian is required for the authorities of the Federal Service for Veterinary & Phytosanitary Supervision which legalizes the Certificate with the appropriate signatures and seals).

3. Pets must be accompanied by their owner or another natural person. If accompanied by another natural person, then a written authorization either in plain English or in Greek, written by the owner, is required, authorizing the natural person to carry out the movement of the pet on their behalf. Moreover, there should be a copy of the owner's boarding pass or the copy of the owner's air ticket, certifying that the pet traveled within 5 days of the owner's travel and not more than 5 days. The owner of the natural person, will have to sign a declaration, in plain English or Greek, that the movement of the pet is not done with the intention of selling the pet or changing its owner (see a sample in Annex IV, Part 3, page 176/168 of 577/2013).

4. All pets must be identified with a microchip

5. All pets need to have valid rabies vaccination.

Attention: The date of the rabies vaccination cannot be earlier than the date of inserting the microchip.

When the rabies vaccination is done for the first time, there is a mandatory quarantine period of 21 days, before the pet can travel (even day 0 is considered to be the day of the rabies vaccination is). If the owner vaccinated their pet for rabies late, again a quarantine period of 21 days is mandatory, starting from the day when the rabies vaccination took place, as previously.

6. Identification document, which can be (depending on the case):

Case 1: European Passport for returning EU pets that visited some of the third countries, listed in attachment II part 1 and 2 of the European Regulation 577/2013

Case 2: Passport, for pets from Andorra, Switzerland, Faeroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Munich, Norway, San Marino and the Vatican.

Case 3: European Passport for returning EU pets, who also have a **blood titer test (rabies anti-body test)**, if they have visited one of the countries, not included in attachment II part 1 and 2 of the European Regulation 577/2013

Case 4: Veterinary certificate (see example of the certificate on page 96/28 up to 96/34 of the European regulation EE 561/2016 together with the amendment 215/37 until 215/38, attached herein) for **pets coming from one of the third countries**, listed in attachment II part 1 and 2 of the European Regulation 577/2013

Case 5: Veterinary certificate (see example of the certificate on page 96/28 up to 96/34 of the European regulation EE 561/2016 together with the amendment 215/37 until 215/38, attached herein), who also have a **blood titer test (rabies anti-body test)**, for **pets coming from one of the third countries not** in attachment II part 1 and 2 of the European Regulation 577/2013.

Attention:

- Greece does not accept young animals that have not been vaccinated against rabies.
- For transit cases, page 96/31 of the European Regulation refers to various cases of transit.
- The blood titer test for rabies is done BEFORE the pet leaves the EU. Alternatively, it can be done in a third country, with a mandatory quarantine period of 3 months, from the time the blood sample was taken, before the pet can return to the EU.

The veterinary certificate, as well as the blood titer test, must be written in plain English.

Kindly find hereunder some examples of cases:

Case 1: If it is an EU pet, that has visited for example Russia or Belarus, then, in order to return to the EU, it needs a microchip, a valid anti-rabies vaccination and the EU passport.

Case 2: If it is a pet coming from Switzerland, Munich or Norway, then for it to enter the EU, it needs a microchip, a valid anti-rabies vaccination and a passport.

Case 3: if it is an EU pet and it has visited for example Armenia, Georgia or Turkey, then for it to return to the EU, it need a microchip, a valid anti-rabies vaccination and the EU passport, **as well as a blood titer test (rabies anti-body test)**.

Case 4: If the pet is coming from, for example Russia, Belarus, or Canada, then it needs a microchip, a valid anti-rabies vaccination and a veterinary certificate (see example of the certificate on page 96/28 up to 96/34 of the European regulation EE 561/2016 together with the amendment 215/37 until 215/38)

Case 5: If a pet is coming from, for example Armenia, Georgia, Turkey or China, then it needs a microchip, a valid anti-rabies vaccination and a veterinary certificate (see example of the certificate on page 96/28 up to 96/34 of the European regulation EE 561/2016 together with the amendment 215/37 until 215/38) **as well as a blood titer test (rabies anti-body test).**