

RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom

Shipping Pets

Shipping Your Pet

Pets are an important part of your family; however, bringing them in and out of the UK can be a complicated process. It can also be very costly and time consuming. To ensure everything goes smoothly, you will want to start the process early and make sure you have a complete understanding of the UK rules and regulations, which can be found [online](#). When deciding whether to bring your pet to the UK, you will want to keep his/her health in mind. Please note the preparation time to bring a pet is 7-8 months. If you do not have 7-8 months you can place your pet in quarantine, or ship you pet at a later date once the 7-8 month preparation has occurred. Please check with your TMO and finance office to inquire about reimbursements associated with quarantine.

If you would like to wait until you arrive to adopt a pet, there are pets available for adoption in the UK. The veterinary treatment facility (VTF) on RAF Feltwell, DSN 314-226-7097, or commercial 011-44-1638-527097, is available to answer your questions and assist you.

Transportation

Pets can now enter the UK from select countries. For a list of approved countries, [click here](#). If allowed into the UK, your pet will have to process through the stringent Pet Travel Scheme (PETS), which can be very complicated and can take up to 8 months to complete. For up-to-date guidance, please check the [DEFRA website](#) for specific regulations. These regulations must be followed completely and in order. Failure to follow the rules exactly can cost you time and/or money.

On the DEFRA site, you will note the requirement for FAVA blood tests for your pet. Those traveling from the EU can have this done through their EU veterinarian and approved in an [EU-approved laboratory](#). AD and DoD civilians stationed in the US can have the test done inexpensively through the DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Lab. For the required forms and information [visit their website](#). Additionally, for pets traveling from the United States a specific export certificate must be obtained from the USDA, which is slightly different to the certificate found on the DEFRA site. Information regarding the export certificate, can be obtained [on-line](#).

For those traveling from the EU, US, or other PETS approved countries, only certain transport companies and routes can be used to bring dogs, cats and ferrets into the UK. To find out the approved companies and routes, visit the [DEFRA Website](#). (Scroll down on the webpage for the link for the specific area that you are traveling from).

Another item to keep in mind is that some airlines have travel restrictions for pets during inclement weather or certain seasons. You will need to contact the airline directly to see their rules/regulations. When your pet arrives in the UK by air, it will have its microchip and official documentation checked on arrival by staff at the Animal Reception Centre. Your pet may be subjected to a further official check by DEFRA after it is checked by the transport company. If your pet fails the check, it will have to go into quarantine or be re-exported. If your pet fails because of the tick and tapeworm treatment, it must be treated again and held for 24 hours after the treatment. It is advisable to have a quarantine kennel ready to take your pet as it is very expensive to leave your pet in quarantine at the kennels at Heathrow.

Boarding

Gateway Inn has designated "pet friendly" rooms available on a first-come, first-served basis for guests traveling with a maximum of two cats or dogs. The cost is an additional \$10.00 per night, which is not reimbursable. If you have pets and a pet friendly unit is not available, you will have to make arrangements for your pet in another location and be housed in a regular room or TLF.

There are various pet boarding facilities available in the immediate area and generally costs about £8-£10 a night. You will want to make arrangements for boarding before you arrive in the UK. Prior to booking a kennel, check to see if your sponsor will visit the facility to ensure it meets your needs. Below are a few options(no federal endorsement implied):

- Breckland Kennels -- 3 The Mount Lynford Road Munford, Norfolk; 01842 878301
- Forest Boarding Kennels -- The Homestead Mundford Road Weeting, Norfolk;
- Winterbrooke Boarding Kennels -- Mill Lane Hockwold, Norfolk; 01842 829735
- Holiday Homes for Dogs -- Third Bridge Farm Haddenham, Cambridgeshire; 01353 741620
- Pampered Paws/Feline Boarding Cattery -- Barrels Road Thurston, Suffolk;01359 233033

- 5 Ways Boarding Kennel & Cattery -- Tuddenham Road Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk; 01638 711917
- Parkbreck Boarding Kennels & Cattery -- Church Farm Lodge Kenny Hill, Mildenhall Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk; 01353 675400
- Bury St. Edmunds Kennels & Cattery -- Rushbrooke Lane Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk; 01284 766992
- Pine Farm Kennels & Cattery -- Wilde Street Beck Row, Suffolk; 01842 860432
- Country Club Kennels & Cattery -- Qua Lodge Dolver Drove Soham, Cambridgeshire; 01353 721196
- Cosy Kennels & Cattery -- 52 Cambridgeshire Road Stretham, Cambridgeshire; 01353 649536
- Forest Boarding Kennels & Cattery -- Mundford Road Weeting, Norfolk; 01842 81320
- Fordham Boarding Cattery -- 30 Station Road Fordham, Cambridgeshire; 01638 72109

You can check out the [Boarding Kennels Organization website](#) for some options of kennels – check the Suffolk or Cambridgeshire counties for the closest kennels.

Before you decide on a kennel, you will want to do your research. You will also want to ensure you keep the following items in mind:

- Ensure your pet's vaccinations are current.
- Leave clear instructions and enough supplies of any medications.
- Boarding kennels generally offer their own food, but if you have specific feeding instructions, discuss this with staff.
- Ensure your pet is wearing an identification tag
- Leave emergency contact information for yourself and your pet's veterinarian

Quarantines

The quarantine regulations require all mammals entering the UK to be quarantined for up to six months, unless they meet the requirements for the PETS. Six months quarantine in the UK can cost more than £3,000. Requirements can be found on the [DEFRA site](#).

To be sure you've completed all PETS requirement and that they are correct, call the PETS helpline on 011-44-870-241-1710.

The Quarantine Facility (QF)

The nearest QFs for both cats and dogs are:

1. [Little Acre Quarantine Kennels and Cattery](#) near Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire, about a one hour drive from the base, is a family owned business. Phone 011-44-1733 840291 or Fax 01733 840348.
2. [London & Essex Kents Farm](#), North Wield, near Harlow. It is about an hour's drive from the base. Phone 011-44 -1992-522183/523499 Fax 011-44-1992-522705.

No federal endorsement implied.

Arriving in the UK

If you have met all regulatory requirements for the PETS, you can take your pet with you. Prior to arriving, have your sponsor reserve a pet friendly room for you and your pet. Reserve early, as there are a limited number of pet friendly rooms and they fill up quickly! If there are no rooms available you will be responsible for boarding for your animal.

Local Kennels:

- Fiveways Kennels/Cattery on 011-44-1638 711917
- Church Farm Kennels/Cattery on 011-44-353 675400
- Pine Farm Kennels on 011-44-1842 860432

No federal endorsement implied.

If you need to quarantine your pet, contact the quarantine facility of your choice and they will provide the requirements you will need. To alleviate any problems or additional time in quarantine, you should contact the quarantine kennels before you arrive in the UK. It is important to keep in mind that quarantine kennels are not the same as boarding kennels, so you will want to ensure you contact a quarantine kennel.

These kennels will also assist you if you have any questions or queries. The price of the quarantine will depend on the size of your pet and how long your pet is in quarantine, but may cost more than £3,000. Make sure that you ask about all charges, to include the tick and tapeworm treatment, transportation from the airport, any vet fees etc. Please ask your losing and gaining finance office about possible partial reimbursement for quarantine fees.

Vaccinations, Licensing and Registration

It is important to realize pet laws in the UK are different than laws in the US. The Pet Welfare Act makes the owner of a pet legally responsible for care of your pet including:

1. Proper diet and fresh water
2. Suitable shelter for your pet (e.g. dog house, etc)
3. Any need to be housed with or apart from other animals
4. The ability to express normal behavior
5. Protection from and treatment of any injury or illness

You are also required to have a tag with contact information on your pet. UK leash laws require your dog be on a leash at all times while out of your garden (yard). If your pet is picked up by the council without contact information, you could be fined up to £100.

It is illegal to dock your pet's ears or tail. De-clawing a cat is considered mutilation. No vets will perform the surgeries in the UK.

More information can be [found online](#).

If you go away on vacation, you are responsible to either leave your pet with someone or make sure someone stays in your home to care for your pet.

There are a number of companies in the UK offering pet insurance. You can find information on several companies, such as PetPlan, Tesco, and Direct Line, offering pet insurance online or through your UK vet office. Be sure to read the small print and double-check the monthly premium.

Veterinary Clinic

Our veterinary treatment facility (VTF) is located on RAF Feltwell approx. 30 minutes from Mildenhall. The mission of the U S Army Veterinary Detachment at RAF Feltwell is to examine, immunize and treat pets of DoD personnel stationed in the United Kingdom. The Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment (NEVD) unit in Feltwell is the only US military clinic for all of the UK and Iceland. There are satellite clinics held quarterly at RAF Alconbury and RAF Croughton and RAF Menewith Hill. All pets MUST be registered with the VTF within two weeks of arrival.

Registration requirements include:

- DD Form 2343
- Signed copy of Clinic Policy Letter
- Copy of orders
- One photocopy of the front of sponsor's ID card
- One copy of animal's vaccination record/medical record

To ensure you have all required documents, contact the U.S. Army Veterinary Detachment at DSN 314-226-2146 or 011-44-522146 or check out the [Veterinary Clinic web site](#).

Useful Websites

[Click here](#) for information about what the UK requires.

[Click here](#) for information about the airlines/travel routes.

[Click here](#) for the USDA (who provides the transportation certificate).

[Click here](#) for the Department of Defense Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory for US animals requiring Blood Test.

[Click here](#) for information about EU pets requiring blood test.

[Click here](#) for quarantine requirements if your pet will not have the 7-8 month prep time and your pet cannot be shipped later.

Associated Links

[Guardian Angels for Soldiers' Pet](#)

Military Service Members and Veterans needing assistance in locating a caring, loving, and safe home for your pets during deployment or emergency hardship. Supporting our military service members, veterans, and their beloved pets to ensure the pets are reunited with their owners following deployment or emergency hardship.

[MOVE.MIL](#)

Agency responsible for the shipment and storage of your personal property during a move. Online portal for customer use to ship and store their household goods.

[USDA Pet Inspection Service](#)

Contains information on pet quarantines and traveling with pets.

[UK Pet Quarantine](#)

Information necessary to bring Pets to the UK.

[Shipping Pets to Japan](#)

Information on quarantine and shipping pets to Japan

[Korean National Quarantine Station](#)

Information on quarantine and shipping pets to South Korea

[Hawaii Quarantine Procedures](#)

Information on pet quarantines for Hawaii.

[Air Force Household Goods -- Official AF Web Site](#)

Official AF household goods shipment and storage web site.

[TSA Service Animal Information](#)

Find information about traveling with service animals on planes.

[Traveling Tips for Persons with Disabilities](#)

Find information on air travel.