

## GROOM

This guide will go into bringing your pet with you or getting one here in the Netherlands and how to take care of it.

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## 1. Bringing your cat, dog or ferret

You are allowed to take up to 5 pets to the Netherlands, but only if they are not intended for sale or commercial purposes.

If you wish to take your cat, dog or ferret with you when moving to the Netherlands, your pet will require:

- A standardised European pet passport (*dierenpaspoort*) (when moving within the EU/EER) or a standardised certificate (when moving from outside the EU/EER). Both documents can generally be obtained from an accredited vet in the country from which you move. The certificate can't be older than 10 days;
- To have been vaccinated at 12 weeks old;
- A vaccination against rabies;
- An identification chip or tattoo; and
- To be at least 15 weeks old.

Applying for a passport or certificate may take some time, so contact your vet no later than 10 days before moving. If you do not have a passport or certificate when entering the country, your cat, dog or ferret must be vaccinated at the border and will have to spend 30 days in quarantine.

Please be aware that for most non-EU/EER countries, legalisation of certificates and other documents may be required. All documents need to be in Dutch, French, English or German, otherwise an official translation is obligatory. The translation must also be legalised. For more specific information concerning legalisation of the pet's documents, please check with the embassy or your accredited vet in the country from which you move.

### European pet passport (*dierenpaspoort*) / certificate

The following details must be specified in both the passport and the certificate:

1. A declaration from the vet in Dutch, French, English or German that your pet has been vaccinated against rabies and that the used vaccine has been checked and approved, mentioning:
  - the date of vaccination
  - the type of vaccination
  - the expiration date of the used vaccine
  - the name of producer of vaccine
  - the production number or code

2. A description of your pet with its:
  - gender
  - age
  - breed
  - colour
  - type of fur
  - distinguishing marks
3. the name and address of the pet's owner.

### **Rabies vaccination**

If you are moving within the EU/EER, the first rabies vaccination must be administered at least 21 days before departure. After the first vaccination, you need to follow the vaccination schedule for the repeating vaccinations.

If you are moving from a non-EU/EER country, different rabies vaccination rules apply depending on the country you import the pet from. Please check with the embassy or your accredited vet in the country from which you move.

Also, pets from non-EU/EER countries need to take a blood test. After the last rabies vaccination, the amount of medicine (or antibodies) found in the pet's blood needs to be measured (antibody titer). Your vet can provide you with more information.

### **Identification chip (transponder) or tattoo**

All pets should have a clearly legible tattoo or a chip (transponder). Please note that you need an ISO standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO standard 11785 microchip. Your vet can give you more information about this.

### **Registering and chipping your dog**

Dogs that are imported to the Netherlands must receive a chip and be registered with a data bank within 2 weeks after arrival. Dutch vets can tell you where and how to get this done. Chipping costs lie between €10 and €30; registration costs differ per data bank.

**Please note:** Chipping and registration of your pet is obligatory in the Netherlands. Fines can rise up to €19,500.

## 2. Bringing other animals

When you import birds, rabbits, small rodents, fish, reptiles or amphibians from the EU/EER, you require a health certificate. This health certificate can be obtained from an accredited vet in the country from which you move.

It is almost always forbidden to bring protected animals into the Netherlands. This includes, for instance, animals such as: great apes, certain snakes, monitor lizards, turtles, iguana, parrots and other exotic birds. Parrots and parrot-like birds (such as parakeets) cannot be brought into the Netherlands if they come from certain countries.

## 3. Useful websites and telephone numbers

### Dutch Customs

Postbus 3070  
6401 DN Heerlen  
[https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/abroad\\_and\\_customs/restricted\\_prohibited\\_import\\_export/pets/](https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/abroad_and_customs/restricted_prohibited_import_export/pets/)

### Animals to Fly

Arranges importing and exporting of pets on behalf of companies and private persons

Also arranges accommodation for animals in quarantine at the airport

[www.animalstofly.com/en/](http://www.animalstofly.com/en/)

### KLM Royal Dutch Airline

You can find general information on bringing your pet to The Netherlands by air on the KLM website at

[www.klm.com/travel/us\\_en/prepare\\_for\\_travel/travel\\_planning/pets/index.htm](http://www.klm.com/travel/us_en/prepare_for_travel/travel_planning/pets/index.htm).

For more specific information on importing your pet, please contact the Dutch embassy in the country you are moving from.

### Voedsel en Warenautoriteit (Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority)

Catharijnesingel 59  
3511 GG Utrecht  
<https://ivo.nvwa.nl>

### Gelders Forwarding

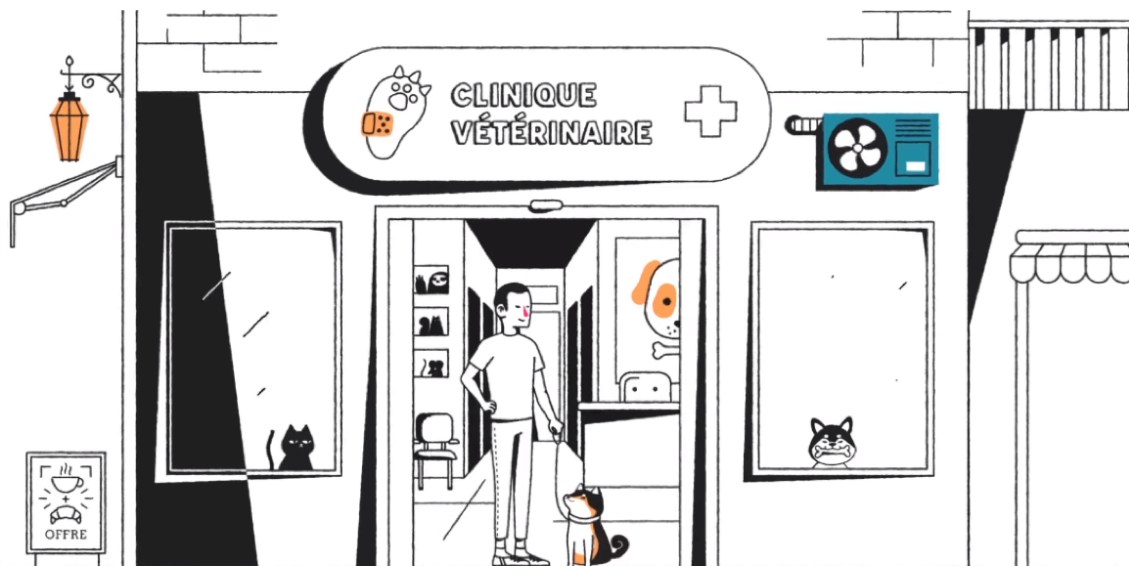
With dedicated personnel looking after the pets

Specialist in moving all kinds of animals

<https://geldersforwarding.com/services/live-animal-transport>

#### 4. Dog Tax

Some, but not all, municipalities in The Netherlands charge dog tax; for instance, Amsterdam does not but The Hague does. Therefore, please check with your local municipality what you need to do in order to be compliant. As an example, here is a link to the information on dog tax on the municipality of The Hague's website [www.denhaag.nl/en/taxes/dog-tax.htm](http://www.denhaag.nl/en/taxes/dog-tax.htm).



#### 5. Taking care of your pet

There are the larger garden centres where you can buy supplies for your pets but you will find several specialised pet shops in your city as well.

A vet can be found <https://www.doggo.nl/overzicht-dierenartsen/> here. Website is in Dutch only alas.

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