

# COVID-19 Guidance on Unaccompanied Pet Travel via Private Chartered Aircrafts from the UK & Crown Dependencies

**Always check the most up to date COVID-19 guidelines [here](#).**

Please note that any persons travelling into Guernsey will be **required by law** to follow the self-isolation, or enhanced passive surveillance, requirements that are in place at the time of your arrival. This is a legal requirement, and failure to comply is a criminal offence. For further information visit the COVID-19 [website](#).

## Should I transport pets at this time?

Please be aware of the risks of virus spread due to pet (and human) travel. If the movement of pets is not necessary, please postpone it.

If you are transporting pets to the island, the following guidelines should be adhered to.

We advise that you also read the [non-COVID related pet travel information](#) and contact your travel service provider directly if you have any queries.

## How can I transport my pet to Guernsey?

Pets can be transported through the use of private licensed chartered flights and via commercial transport methods ([Aurigny](#) and [Condor Ferries](#)). For information on your booking, please contact your service provider directly.

The following information is for the importation of pet dogs, cats and ferrets (which we shall refer to collectively as 'pets'), unaccompanied by their owners, on private chartered aircrafts from the **United Kingdom (UK) and Crown Dependencies (CD's) ONLY** – information regarding the importation of other animals or imports from other countries or territories must be sought from the States Veterinary Officers ([svo@gov.gg](mailto:svo@gov.gg)).

Information on pet travel via commercial transport methods and accompanied pet travel on private chartered aircrafts from mainland EU Member States and Switzerland can be found in separate documents on the [pets and livestock](#) page.



The Office of the Director of Civil Aviation has advised the following, with reference to the Air Navigation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2012 [Chapter XVI Section 141.], which requires proportionality to the number of persons carried on the flight.

- If what is carried is a dog only, then that does not count (a dog is not a legal or natural person in law) and the flight cannot, therefore, fall within cost-sharing.
- If the dog owner were to accompany the pilot to pick up the dog, 50% share of the costs can only be shared.
- It is recommended that engagement with the Office of the Director of Civil Aviation is made before any proposed flight is agreed to ensure compliance with the law. Contact details can be found [here](#).
- Please note: should you decide to travel with the pilot, you will be required to self-isolate on return to Guernsey. Further information on travelling during phase 5c can be found [here](#).

Welfare in transport:

- Travel time must be kept to a minimum to protect the welfare of animals being transported – if there is poor weather, it is advised that travel is postponed.
- Transporters should ensure that the pet is provided with comfortable and appropriate accommodation such as crates/pet carriers, including bedding, during transport – see [Travellers Pet Corner](#).

Multiple pets can be transported from different households at any one time, provided that:

1. They are in separate crates;
  2. There is documentation of:
    - a. Where they are coming from;
    - b. Which pets travelled together on the flight;
    - c. Where their destination is.
- This is to ensure that if there are any signs of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, it can be traced.

What do I need to do before my pet travels?

- Make a Pet Care Plan in the event that you cannot care for your pet for a period of time. You should have:
  - A plan for who might be able to care for your pet in the event of emergency;
  - Written details as to the care, feeding and medical history of your pet;
  - Your vet's contact details.
- Purchase some disinfectant wipes/detergent to clean the surfaces that your pet has come into contact with before bathing.
- Purchase some pet shampoo/pet safe disposable wipes to clean/bath your pet on arrival.
- Ensure that you have at least 2 weeks supply of pet food, treats, litter, poo bags, bedding etc. should you become ill and need to self-isolate.



- For new pet owners: Prior to transportation, the owner should be given advice from the breeder/carer on the immediate care of their pet(s), including what food to purchase.
  - Ensure that you have your own collar/leash/crate/pet carrier/bed etc. for your pet.

### Pet handover procedure:

1. Allocate a specific date and time for your pet to be transported.
2. Ensure that all parties involved in the pet transportation are aware of the date and time of arrival and the handover procedure.
3. Owners should be ready to collect their pet(s) as soon as they land.
4. All parties involved in the handover should be wearing disposable gloves to minimise risk of infection and hands should be thoroughly disinfected with hand sanitiser/washed with soap and water after removal of gloves.
5. **Contact with your pet must be kept to a minimum until it has been thoroughly bathed/wiped down at home.**
6. A member of staff from a Fixed Base Operator (i.e. ASG or Aiglle) should remove the pet from the aircraft (within its crate/pet carrier) and give it to the owner.
7. If pets need to be transferred from the crate/pet carrier that they travelled in, to the owner's crate/pet carrier, this should be done in a secure room that can be cleaned and disinfected, using the owner's collar (and leash).
  - a. Before transferring the pet to its new crate/carrier, it should be wiped over with a pet safe damp disposable cloth.
  - b. No equipment, such as a basket/bed/pet carrier/leash etc., used by the breeder/transporter should be given to the new owner unless it can be appropriately cleaned and disinfected.
  - c. A member of staff from a Fixed Base Operator should return the transporter's crate (and any other belongings e.g. collar) to the aircraft, ensuring that it is wiped over with a pet safe damp disposable cloth.
8. The owner can then take their pet to their vehicle for the journey home, ensuring that they remove their gloves and sanitise their hands – do not stop off anywhere on the journey home!
9. UK-based aircraft crew members should not leave the aircraft (apart from remaining within the footprint of the aircraft on stand to permit necessary pre-flight safety checks), they must refuel and leave as soon as possible.

All waste such as gloves, wipes, masks etc. must be placed in a plastic bag, tied up, then inserted into a second plastic bag, tied up, and quarantined for 72 hours before being left out for collection.

### What do I do once my pet is at home?

- Wash your hands as soon as you gather everything needed to bath your pet.



- **Bath your pet immediately**/thoroughly wipe it with pet safe damp disposable cloth.
  - Cats are particularly sensitive to disinfectants and also fastidiously clean their coats and are therefore at risk of poisoning. If in doubt, shampoo cats using a human baby shampoo and then thoroughly rinse it out.
  - Separate your pet from any other animals in the household until it has been bathed.
  - Contact with your pet must be kept to a minimum until it has been thoroughly bathed/wiped down at home.
- All items associated with your pet must be **cleaned, disinfected and fully dried**, including crate, towels, the owner's clothing, vehicle etc. Wash your hands thoroughly, immediately after cleaning these items.
- Bathing pets and cleaning, disinfecting and drying all things associated with them, is likely to be enough to ensure that the virus is not present on your pet's fur.
  - As always, it is standard veterinary advice to wash your hands after stroking, touching, feeding, or cleaning up after an animal.
  - Should owners show any clinical signs of the virus, they must contact a medical professional/call 01481 756938 or 01481 756969.
- **Contact with your pet must be kept to a minimum if you are showing any clinical signs of COVID-19 or have had a positive result.**
- Follow the [Pets and livestock guidance](#) for further information.

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### Specific advice to cat and ferret owners:

Evidence suggests that cats and ferrets can contract COVID-19 from humans, as well as other cats/ferrets.

Cats and ferrets should be **kept indoors for at least 2 weeks upon arrival in Guernsey.**

If your pet has respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, contact your vet for advice.