



Tel: (01729) 823538

www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk



COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025

PET TRAVEL UPDATE

Changes in pet travel requirements to Northern Ireland – Dogs, Cats & Ferrets

If you are planning a trip to Northern Ireland and want to take your furry companion along, it is essential to understand the travel documentation required.

Since BREXIT Northern Ireland remained aligned with the EU travel rules requiring an AHC (Animal Health Certificate), issued by a vet for non-commercial pet travel from the UK. From the 4th June 2025 pet owners travelling ONLY to Northern Ireland from the UK now have the option to apply themselves for a Northern Ireland Pet Travel Document (NIPTD) and will no longer need an AHC to travel.

If the trip includes onward travel into ROI (Republic of Ireland) then an AHC will still be needed. If however you plan to ONLY travel to Northern Ireland then you can apply now for an NIPTD via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/taking-your-pet-abroad/travelling-to-northern-ireland>

To travel to Northern Ireland under an NIPTD your pet MUST have a microchip but will NOT need rabies vaccinations or tapeworm treatment specifically for travel requirements. Your pet's microchip will be scanned at the port or the airport where officials will check the scanned number against the chip number documented on their NIPTD. If travelling by ferry you will need to scan your pet's microchip yourself at the port before leaving the GB using a scanner provided. If travelling by air, then at least 10 days before travelling you will need to inform DAERA of your travel plans by email (further details and email address are on the link above). An official will then scan your animal on arrival in Northern Ireland and check the microchip number matches the one on their NIPTD.

A NIPTD will only be issued for animals that are travelling as a pet or for assistance animals. Once issued, the document is valid for the life of that pet whilst with that owner. For multi-pet households, you will need to apply for a separate NIPTD for each individual animal.

You can only travel with up to 5 pets as a non-commercial trip. If travelling for an event, sports reasons or to attend a competition with more than 5 animals then evidence of registration will be needed - again follow the link above for full details.

If travelling with more than 5 animals for a different purpose than those above OR travelling with less than 5 animals with the intention to sell or to re-home them, then this is classed as a commercial trip and an EHC (Export Health Certificate) completed by a vet will be needed. For details on EHC's or to apply for an EHC certificate you will need to contact DEFRA directly.

Plan ahead! The NIPTD is valid for the life of your pet so if you think you may be travelling only between GB and Northern Ireland it is worth getting the document application sorted and issued ahead of planning your trip. If your NIPTD has not been issued by the time you are due to travel you will still need an AHC from your vet instead. If you plan to travel onwards into ROI you will still need an AHC and remember the NIPTD is ONLY for Northern Ireland and to travel to any other destination in the EU you will still require an AHC from your vet prior to departure. Animal Health Certificates are a whole separate topic of their own, however, if you require further information on AHC's an information sheet can be requested from our surgery.

Happy travels!



Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Awards 2025

Dalehead Anaesthetics receive "Highly Commended Award" from Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Well done team!

We know that pets having to undergo a general anaesthetic can be very stressful for owners. Our safety measures and protocols for anaesthetics are very robust and we regularly audit our anaesthetic outcomes to help us continually improve. Every anaesthetic we do is carefully monitored using the latest equipment and each patient has their progress and recovery recorded on individual sheets.... so we regularly review these records and identify any patterns to help us keep our patients comfortable and safe.

We look carefully at the information produced from the audits and identify any areas for improvement as needed. We discuss this during our team meetings so that everyone in the team can be involved. We submitted some of our audit findings this year to RCVS Knowledge (part of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) who decided they were worthy of a commendation in their annual awards.

If you have any concerns or questions should your pet require an anaesthetic our expert team will be very happy to help.



**RCVS
KNOWLEDGE**

**HIGHLY COMMENDED
AWARDS 2025**



Congratulations Mr & Mrs Moran



A huge congratulations to our Farm Administrator Louise who tied the knot with her long term partner Ashley on Saturday 14th June.

The wedding service was held at Hellifield church followed by a marquee down the road at The Peel Park. The heavens opened as Louise made her way into church, but the clouds soon disappeared allowing the sun to shine on the couple's picturesque venue where their special day continued long into the night.

Congratulations again to Mr and Mrs Moran and a big thank you from all of us at Dalehead for inviting us to be part of your special day.

Great North Run in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind

Our Practice Manager Emma is taking part in this year's Great North Run on Sunday 7th September to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The run is a half marathon (13.1 miles or 21.1 km) and Emma hopes to raise £650 for this amazing cause.

If you would like to help by sponsoring her, please scan the QR code below which will take you directly to Emma's fundraising page. Thank you and good luck Emma!



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