

Your pet travel checklist and timeline

A step-by-step plan from the first vet visit to the day you land. Timings vary by country: tell us your route and we confirm the exact dates for your trip.

The timeline

As soon as you plan to travel (weeks or months ahead)

- Contact Charter-A with the route, the date and your pet's breed, age and weight. We confirm the rules for your route and give you a dated plan.
 - Check your pet's microchip is an ISO chip and that the number matches your records. If there is no chip, fit one first: it must go in before the rabies vaccination.
 - Book the rabies vaccination if it is due or out of date. Many routes have a waiting period after it, so do this early.
 - Check your own passport and visa needs, and your pet's puppy or kitten age limits for the route.
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A few weeks ahead

- Book the vet visit for the official health certificate or travel document. It must be issued by an authorised vet inside a set window before you travel.
 - Ask whether your route needs a blood test, a tapeworm treatment or an import permit, and book them in the right order.
 - Practise with the carrier or harness so it is familiar.
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The week of the flight

- Collect the health certificate and check every detail: your pet's name, the microchip number, dates and the vet's stamp and signature.
 - Check the treatments are inside their time window for your arrival date.
 - Confirm the arrival airport and any arrival checks with Charter-A.
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The day before and the day

- Pack: original documents, microchip number written down, harness or carrier, lead, blanket, water bowl, treats, waste bags, towel, medication.
 - A good walk before you reach the airfield, and a light meal a few hours before the flight.
 - Arrive at the time you are given. Keep your pet secured for take-off, landing and turbulence.
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Documents checklist

- ☐ Original official health certificate, pet passport or travel document for your route (not photocopies)
- ☐ Rabies vaccination record, with the dates
- ☐ Microchip number and the date it was fitted
- ☐ Record of any tapeworm or other treatment required

- ☐ Any blood test result or import permit your route needs
- ☐ Your own passport, and your pet's carrier or harness, ready on the day

Do not sedate your pet for the flight unless your vet specifically advises it. Many vets recommend against it. A calm owner, a familiar blanket and a quiet cabin usually do more.

Flat-faced breeds and young puppies

Bulldogs, pugs, French bulldogs and other flat-faced breeds can find flying harder. Speak to your vet first and tell us the breed: we plan the time of day, the weather and the aircraft around your dog. Puppies must be old enough to have been microchipped and vaccinated for your route before they can travel.

Travelling with your pet? Tell us the route, the date and your pet's breed and weight, and we plan the rest.
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Rules for travelling with pets are set by governments and change at short notice. This guide was checked on 20 October 2026 and is an outline, not legal or veterinary advice. Charter-A confirms the rules in force for your specific route and dates when you book; always check the official source.

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