



Technical Notice (8)

Getting ready for the end of the Transition Period

2 November 2020

The Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals.

On 31 December 2020, the Transition Period (sometimes also referred to as the “Implementation Period”) under the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement will come to an end. The end of the Transition Period will bring an end to the current status quo whereby Gibraltar, its citizens and its business, have enjoyed EU rights. Therefore, subject to the outcome of ongoing negotiations concerning the UK and Gibraltar’s future relationship with the EU, the end of the Transition Period will bring about important changes which Gibraltar, as a whole, will need to be ready for.

Purpose.

Gibraltar’s departure from the European Union means that certain processes and procedures will inevitably become more difficult, cumbersome and bureaucratic. It is important that citizens and businesses are aware of this and that, where possible, they plan ahead. The Government can only prepare in areas that are within its control. Even then, there will be certain areas where mitigation is not possible because the new situation simply reflects what it means to be outside the European Union.

The purpose of this Notice is to explain what the effect of those changes are on the non-commercial movement of pet animals from Gibraltar to Spain and to the EU.



Existing position.

EU law regulates animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals into an EU Member State from third countries and sets rules with respect to the checks applicable to such movement. Notwithstanding that EU law will continue to apply to Gibraltar until 31 December 2020 it is important to highlight that, in the context of this particular strand of EU law, Gibraltar has always been treated as a third country. It is for this reason that Gibraltar is listed, in Part 1 of Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 577/2013, as a third country referred to in Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013.

The significance of Gibraltar already being listed as such confirms that the EU considers Gibraltar to be of low-risk for the purposes of the non-commercial movement of pet animals. This is because the EU is satisfied that Gibraltar applies, by way of domestic legislation, rules which are equivalent, in terms of content and effect, to EU rules in this area. The end of the Transition Period will not have an effect on Gibraltar's status under these EU measures and the guidance issued in this Notice would not change in case there is an agreement on Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU.

What does this mean in practice?

The upshot of the above is that there should be no change, as from 1 January 2021, to the controls carried out on pet animals when they cross the land border into Spain and the EU.

Therefore:

- (1) Pet animals entering Spain from Gibraltar during a non-commercial movement will continue to be exempted from official controls at Border Control Posts. This means that owners will continue to be able to introduce their pets to Spain via the land border at La Linea de la Concepcion.



- (2) As usual, owners of dogs, cats or ferrets may be asked, at the request of the Spanish authorities at the border, to present relevant identification documents (referred to in this document as “**Pet Passports**”) and make pets available for those checks.

The above is subject to the usual conditions applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals from Gibraltar into Spain. These are the following:

- (1) Pet animals should be marked by the implantation of a responder or by a clearly readable tattoo applied before 3 July 2011;
- (2) Pet animals should have received an anti-rabies vaccination that complies with the usual validity requirements;
- (3) Pet animals should comply with any specific preventive health measures for diseases or infections other than rabies adopted by the Commission from time to time;
- (4) Pet animals should be accompanied by a valid Pet Passport duly completed and issued by a veterinarian; and
- (5) The maximum number of pet animals which may accompany the owner cannot exceed five during a single non-commercial movement unless documentary evidence can be provided substantiating that the purpose of the movement is for participation in competitions, exhibitions or sporting events or in training for such events.

Pet Passports.

As part of the EU, Pet Passports issued by veterinarians in Gibraltar have thus far complied with the model of passports issued in EU Member States. Ahead of 31 December 2020, HMGoG has made arrangements for veterinarians in Gibraltar to start issuing Pet Passports, which will continue to be valid under EU law, but will be in



accordance with the model of passports which will reflect Gibraltar's status as a listed third-country. The changes to the model of passport are largely cosmetic and will mainly affect the front cover which will no longer display the EU Flag or state "European Union".

Pet owners, who intend to cross into Spain and to the EU with their pet animals as from 1 January 2021, are encouraged to make arrangements to obtain new passports to avoid any problems at the border as of that date.

Local veterinarians will start accepting applications for new pet passports as from 9 November 2020. Subject to applications being made prior to 31 December 2020, and subject to the application being in relation to the renewal of a passport already issued under the current format, passports will be issued free of charge. The initial charge for new Pet Passports (as opposed to renewals) will be £ 20.

Further information.

This Notice is meant for guidance only.

Further information can be sought from brexit@gibraltar.gov.gi.