



Concerns Information for displaced persons from Ukraine and Dutch people
who travel from Ukraine with their pets to the Netherlands

Home-quarantine

Dear Sir/Madam,

Due to the current situation in Ukraine, you have travelled with your pet(s) to the Netherlands.

Residents of Ukraine (and EU expats) who have urgently left home because of the war in their country are welcome in the Netherlands. This also applies to the pets, who are very important to their owners during this difficult time. The NVWA therefore does everything it can to avoid having to separate owners and animals, in accordance with European policy.

But we must not lose sight of public health. Ukraine is a high-risk country for rabies. Rabies is a dangerous and deadly disease for humans and animals. We want to keep the risk of rabies in the Netherlands as low as possible, which is why displaced persons from Ukraine have to take their pet to a veterinarian to have the animal vaccinated against rabies. It is important that there is as little contact as possible with other animals and people to avoid the risk of contamination. Therefore we strongly advise you to keep your pet(s) in **home-quarantine**.

In some exceptional cases, for example when home-quarantine is not possible, animals must be temporarily placed in official quarantine as a precaution.

What does home-quarantine mean?

We strongly advise you to avoid contact between your pet(s) and other animals or humans until the minimum EU health requirements have been met at a veterinarian. This is to minimise the risk of rabies spreading in the Netherlands.

This means you keep your pet(s) indoors. Dogs can only be walked on a (short) leash, preferably muzzled, and avoid contact with other animals and humans during the walk. A visit to a veterinarian is always allowed. Inform the veterinarian in advance about the home quarantine so that they can take this into account.

How long does home-quarantine last?

- Home-quarantine must last for at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination and when the rabies antibody level test is at least 0.5 IU/ml.

- In addition, you are strongly advised to limit your contact with other people and animals **for 3 months** after receiving a good result on this blood test.

What do we ask of you?

You must visit a veterinarian within the Netherlands with your pet(s) as soon as possible, to make them meet the minimum EU requirements.

This means your pet(s):

- Must get microchipped in case they were not
- Must be provided with an EU pet passport with the associated registration
- Must be vaccinated against rabies
- Must have a result of the rabies antibody level test that is good, at least 0.5 IU/ml. Make an appointment with the veterinarian to have a blood sample drawn 30 days after the vaccination against rabies.
- Make sure your animal is kept in home quarantine until the result of the blood test is good. And limit your contact with other people and animals **for 3 months** after receiving a good result on this blood test.
- Was it impossible to visit the veterinarian after entrance in The Netherlands due to circumstances? Do this as soon as possible!

Furthermore, we advise you to:

- Have your dogs vaccinated with the standard (cocktail) vaccines against parvo, canine distemper, HCC (Hepatitis Contagiosa Canis), leptospirosis and kennel cough.
- Deworm your pet(s) and, if necessary, have them treated against fleas
- To notify your veterinarian if you travel with your pet to a different address or country.

Rabies risk

Rabies is caused by a virus. Humans and animals can become infected through a bite, scratch or lick from an infected animal. Infection is fatal in many cases. The rabid pet can, in the early stage of the disease, appear to look healthy, while it already is shedding the virus. This is called 'the incubation period'. This period is very long in case of rabies and can be months.

Every year, approximately 50,000 people worldwide die from rabies. The Netherlands is currently free from rabies and these measures will contribute to keep it that way.

If your pet(s) show(s) symptoms that may indicate a rabies infection, you or your veterinarian must report this to the NVWA as quickly as possible via 045-5463188. If you think you yourself may be infected with rabies, immediately contact your general practitioner or the GGD (public health service).

Symptoms which may indicate rabies are:

- Showing different behaviour than usual, such as aggression, drooling and symptoms of paralysis
- Unwellness, fever (above 39 °C, puppies above 39,5 °C)
- Problems with swallowing and breathing
- At a later stage: saliva running out of the mouth

Questions

If you have any more questions please contact us at 0900-0388

or through email <https://english.nvwa.nl/contact>.

We ask a lot of you in this already unfortunate and difficult situation and we wish you a lot of strength.

Sincerely,

J.J. Cats
Head of Inspection