



Netherlands Food and Consumer  
Product Safety Authority  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Nature and Food Quality

**Directorate Inspection**  
Veterinary & Import division

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Concerns      Information for refugees and Dutch people who travel from  
Ukraine with their pets to the Netherlands  
Home-quarantine

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Residents of Ukraine (and EU expats) who have urgently left home and 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 refugees 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 take the relevant measure of your pet(s): **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 minimize 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.

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.

### **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. A blood sample must be drawn at least 30 days after vaccination against rabies.
- Make sure your animal is kept in home quarantine until the result of the blood test is good. And it is also advised to limit contact with other people and animals for up to 3 months after the good result on the 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 regularly (cocktail)vaccins 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 which may indicate a rabies infection, you or your veterinarian must report this situation to the NVWA as soon as possible via 045-5463188.**

Symptoms which may indicate rabies are:

- Showing different behavior 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*