

Portugal → Bulgaria

Dog Import Checklist & Quick Guide | TailHarbor | Updated April 2026

KEY INFORMATION

SIMPLE ROUTE: EU Pet Passport accepted

Preparation Time:	1-2 weeks
Microchip:	ISO 11784/11785 (must be implanted BEFORE rabies vaccination)
Rabies Vaccination:	Required. Minimum 21 days before travel (primary). Keep boosters current.
Titer Test:	Not required (EU-listed/equivalent origin)
Documentation:	EU Pet Passport with current microchip + rabies records
Cropping/Docking:	Dogs with cropped ears or docked tails may face import restrictions in Bulgaria
Registration:	TRACES registration within 2 weeks of arrival
Entry Points (BIP):	Sofia Airport (primary), Katolina (Serbia border), Kapitan (Turkey border)

USEFUL TIPS

- Start the process as early as possible. Delays with lab results or vet appointments can push back your timeline significantly.
- Research airline pet policies early. Some airlines have limited cargo spots, especially in summer. Temperature embargoes apply above 30C / below -5C at any transit airport.
- Start crate training weeks before travel. A calm, crate-confident dog will have a much less stressful journey.
- **IMPORTANT:** Bulgaria requires mandatory quarantine for pets. Plan well in advance and budget for quarantine costs.
- Make 2 copies of every document (microchip cert, vaccination record, AHC, airline confirmation). Keep originals in your carry-on and copies in checked luggage.

PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST

EARLY PREPARATION

- Confirm your dog's breed is permitted in Bulgaria
- Research airline pet policies and book cargo/cabin spot
- Purchase IATA-approved travel crate (correct size for your dog)
- Begin crate training
- Apply for import permit from Bulgaria's national authority

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Microchip implanted (ISO 11784/11785) -- BEFORE vaccination
- Rabies vaccination administered (min. 21 days before travel)

DOCUMENTATION

- EU Pet Passport up to date with current microchip + rabies records
- All vaccination records compiled
- Copies of all documents made (2 sets)
- Airline booking confirmation printed

TRAVEL DAY

- All original documents in carry-on bag
- Crate labeled with your name, phone, destination, and 'Live Animal'
- Water dish filled and attached inside crate
- Arrive at airport early (3+ hours for international with pet)

AFTER ARRIVAL IN BULGARIA

- Present documents at Travellers' Point of Entry / Border Control
- Register dog in TRACES within 2 weeks
- Register with local veterinarian
- Obtain pet liability insurance (recommended)