

## South Africa → United Kingdom

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

### KEY INFORMATION

**COMPLEX ROUTE: Titer test + 90-day wait required | UK Pet Travel Scheme (APHA)**

<b>Preparation Time:</b>	4-6 months
<b>Microchip:</b>	ISO 11784/11785 (must be implanted BEFORE rabies vaccination)
<b>Rabies Vaccination:</b>	Required. Minimum 21 days before travel (primary). Keep boosters current.
<b>Titer Test (FAVN):</b>	REQUIRED. Blood draw 30+ days after vaccination. 90-day wait from draw date.
<b>Documentation:</b>	GB Animal Health Certificate (Export Health Certificate) issued by Official Veterinarian. Valid 10 days. EU Pet Passport NOT accepted.
<b>Tapeworm Treatment:</b>	MANDATORY for UK. Praziquantel, 1-5 days before arrival (not less than 24h, not more than 120h). Most common reason for refusal.
<b>Transport:</b>	ALL pets must enter as MANIFEST CARGO (no cabin flights permitted)
<b>Approved Routes:</b>	MANDATORY. Eurotunnel Le Shuttle, approved airlines, or approved ferry services ONLY. No private boats/planes.
<b>Non-Compliance:</b>	Up to 4 months quarantine at owner's expense (GBP 1,500-3,000+). Dogs may be seized or returned.
<b>Cropped Ears/Docked Tails:</b>	Import ban (Act 2025). Dogs with cropped ears or docked tails cannot be imported.
<b>Breed Restrictions:</b>	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro banned. XL Bully added 2024.
<b>Local Currency:</b>	GBP

### USEFUL TIPS

- Start the process as early as possible. Delays with lab results or vet appointments can push back your timeline significantly.
- Book your FAVN titer test at an EU-approved lab early. Processing takes 7-14 days, and if results come back below 0.5 IU/ml, you'll need to re-vaccinate and re-test (resetting the 90-day clock).
- Keep your dog's rabies vaccinations current with no gaps. If there's a lapse, the titer test validity may be lost and you'll need to restart the process.
- ALL pets must enter the UK as manifest cargo. No cabin travel is permitted. Budget \$2,000-5,000+ for cargo transport. Check GOV.UK for approved carriers.
- The tapeworm treatment window is strict: not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before arrival. This is the most commonly failed requirement.

### PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST

#### EARLY PREPARATION

- Confirm your dog's breed is permitted in United Kingdom
- Book manifest cargo transport (ALL pets must enter UK as cargo, no cabin)
- Purchase IATA-approved travel crate (correct size for your dog)
- Begin crate training

#### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Microchip implanted (ISO 11784/11785) -- BEFORE vaccination
- Rabies vaccination administered (min. 21 days before travel)
- Blood draw for FAVN titer test (30+ days after vaccination)
- Titer test result received (minimum 0.5 IU/ml)
- 90-day waiting period completed (from blood draw date)
- Tapeworm treatment (praziquantel) scheduled 1-5 days before arrival in UK

#### DOCUMENTATION

- GB Animal Health Certificate obtained from Official Veterinarian (valid 10 days)
- All vaccination records compiled
- Titer test certificate included
- Tapeworm treatment certificate with vet stamp, date, and time
- Copies of all documents made (2 sets)
- Manifest cargo booking confirmed (approved carrier)

#### TRAVEL DAY

- All original documents in carry-on bag
- Confirm tapeworm treatment is within the 1-5 day window on arrival day
- Traveling via approved route only (manifest cargo, no private boats or aircraft)
- 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 THE UNITED KINGDOM

- Present documents at Border Control Post (BCP) -- microchip will be scanned
- Register microchip with UK database (Petlog or Animal Tracker)
- Register with local veterinarian



- Check local Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) for lead/muzzle rules
- Ensure dog is not a banned breed under Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 / XL Bully ban

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TailHarbor | <https://tailharbor.eu> | Verified April 2026 | Next review: April 2027 | This guide is for informational purposes only. Always confirm requirements with APHA via GOV.UK.