



Reception procedure for pet dogs and cats arriving from Ukraine with their owners



Ukraine is not a rabies-free country. A system for payment of veterinary costs has been implemented in order to forestall any sanitary risk linked to arrivals of animals on French territory.

Vétérinaires Pour Tous, *Fondation Brigitte Bardot* and veterinary practices have come together to meet the entirety of the costs arising from this surveillance and veterinary care for refugees' pets.

1. Regulatory provisions applicable to entry into the European Union

Dogs and cats entering the European Union from Ukraine must usually :

- **be identified** by a microchip or a tattoo if carried out prior to 3 July 2011,
- **be correctly vaccinated against rabies** (a period of 21 days is required from the date of vaccination for confirmation of the vaccination's effectiveness - vaccination to be carried out after identification of the animal),
- **have undergone an antibody titration test** with a satisfactory result at least three months prior to importation,
- **be accompanied by** the original of a sanitary certificate.

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2. Exceptional emergency arrangements for reception of refugees' pets

→ Given the urgency of the situation in Ukraine, France, like many Member States, has put in place arrangements to allow **emergency reception of pets that do not meet the above requirements. Those arrangements can apply to a maximum of five pets accompanying the owner.**

www.agriculture.gouv.fr/rage-informations-grand-public-et-voyageurs

→ Sanitary surveillance will apply immediately from the arrival of the animal: refugees accompanied by their pets will be invited immediately on arrival to consult a veterinarian or to contact the French Departmental Directorate for the Protection of the Public (*Direction départementale de la protection des populations - DDPP*) in the territorial département where they have been housed.

→ This will allow them to be assisted in completing these formalities.

→ A list of veterinarians belonging to the non-profit entity *Vet Pour Tous* can be obtained from DDPP. www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/coordonnees-des-DDPP-et-DDETSPP

→ Contact address for *Vet Pour Tous* : secretariatvpt@gmail.com

→ Several veterinary examinations for the purposes of sanitary surveillance will be necessary during the weeks following initial reception.

→ Vaccination against rabies will also be scheduled following such surveillance if the pet is not deemed to have been correctly vaccinated.



3. Regarding the risk of rabies, what can refugee reception centres and accommodation facilities do?

→ Inform refugees by giving them the information sheet describing the surveillance measures in the French, English and Ukrainian languages as available at: www.agriculture.gouv.fr/rage-informations-grand-public-et-voyageurs

→ Inform the DDPP in the département by email with a list of pets accompanying Ukrainian refugees, detailing as far as possible the names of the individuals and their reception centre.

www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/coordonnees-des-DDPP-et-DDETSPP



A REMINDER OF THE RISKS LINKED TO RABIES



Rabies is a fatal disease in human beings and animals. It is caused by a virus. Once the symptoms of rabies appear, there is no treatment capable of preventing death. Humans are usually infected by animal saliva due to a bite or scratch.

Following a lengthy incubation period, the disease becomes apparent in clinical signs lasting ten days at most, followed by death. The fortnight preceding symptom onset can be very hazardous insofar as this period can lead to undetectable infection of humans and animals.

→ The delay between infection of an animal and the appearance of the symptoms of rabies (i.e. the incubation period) can last between several weeks and six months, without there being any way of detecting the presence of the virus in the animal during incubation.

→ Towards the end of the incubation period, approximately a fortnight before clinical expression of the disease, the infected animal begins to excrete the rabies virus. It is this period of pre-symptomatic excretion that is the most dangerous because a person or animal can be infected without the contact with a rabid animal being identified since its behaviour continues to be normal.

→ The end of the incubation period is followed by the onset of the disease, which includes behavioural changes (aggressivity, apathy, isolation) and neurological signs (paralysis) possibly accompanied by difficulties in swallowing and hypersalivation. Finally, the disease continues to develop, ending in the unavoidable death of the infected animal within ten days.

France has been free of rabies since 2001. The most recent cases of rabies observed in domestic animals have been linked to the introduction of animals from third countries where canine rabies is present. **Ukraine is among the countries where there is a risk of rabies.**

www.agriculture.gouv.fr/gare-la-rage