

Puppy smuggling

glossary of terms



APHA

Animal and Plant Health Agency is the Government agency responsible for safeguarding animal and plant health. Amongst other things the agency is responsible for facilitating international trade in animals and identifying and controlling endemic and exotic diseases and pests in animals.

APHA officers are deployed at the ports and have the power to stop and seize puppies that do not comply with the regulations, licensing them into quarantine where necessary.

Article 13

This is the article (Rabies Control Order 1974) that is issued when puppies travelling to the UK are deemed to be underage, and therefore not old enough to have had the rabies vaccine properly administered. Article 13s can only be issued with a vet present to age the puppy.

Balai Directive

The Balai Directive sets out the conditions for the commercial import and export of various species of animals within the EU which are not covered by other legislation, including dogs. The Directive states that animals covered by this legislation can only be exported from premises which are either registered or approved by the countries in the exporting countries.

Carriers

Carriers is a term used to collectively refer to the channels that smugglers use to bring puppies into the UK illegally. These are predominantly P&O (through the Port of Dover) and Eurotunnel.

Defra

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the government department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Defra is responsible for Government policy in the areas of animal health and welfare. vaccination is 12 weeks.

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Echinococcus Multilocularis

Not currently found in Great Britain, this tapeworm can easily infect dogs. Although it produces non clinical signs in dogs it can cause potentially fatal conditions in humans. EU law states that dogs must receive treatment with wormer between one and five days prior to their return to Great Britain.

Identification and Registration

A term used to describe a means through which breeders, sellers and puppies can be easily traced to help make it difficult for offenders to smuggle puppies illegally. For example, this could be done via a microchipping and third party licensing system.

PETS

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows pet dogs, cat and ferrets to enter the UK without quarantine as long as they comply with the regulations. Your pet must be microchipped, have a pet passport or third-country official veterinary certificate and have been vaccinated against rabies. Dogs also need to have a tapeworm treatment.

Puppy Pilot

Dogs Trust set up the Puppy Pilot to take unwanted puppies that are seized at the ports through their time in quarantine and onto its rehoming centres where puppies are socialised and rehomed responsibly. By funding the care of the puppies, it empowers the relevant agencies to seize illegally imported puppies, knowing their fate is secure with Dogs Trust. Dogs Trust works hard with the enforcement teams at the port and couldn't have achieved so much with the Puppy Pilot without their support.

Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that causes inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals. Once symptoms appear the disease is almost always fatal. Great Britain has a rabies-free status. Dogs travelling to Great Britain must have received the rabies vaccination.

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Trading Standards

Trading Standards is the name given to the Local Authority Department responsible for enforcement of a wide range of legislation relating to environmental health, health and safety and licensing.

Transporters

Transporters are people who are employed to transport puppies illegally from Central and Eastern Europe to the UK.

Zoonotic

A disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

15 weeks

The minimum age that a puppy can be brought into Great Britain. A puppy must wait three weeks from having a rabies vaccination to travelling. The minimum age to receive the rabies vaccination is 12 weeks.