



Hibernia Line Pet Travel Policy

At Hibernia Line, we know that pets are treasured members of the family and we are delighted to welcome dogs and cats onboard our Ireland–France services. Our goal is to make travelling with your pet as safe, comfortable and straightforward as possible for both pets and their owners.

To help ensure a smooth journey for everyone onboard, all pet travel is subject to European Union animal health regulations together with the applicable Irish and French entry requirements. This policy explains the booking conditions, onboard arrangements and legal requirements for travelling with pets between Ireland and France.

1. Booking Your Pet

- Pets must be declared at the time of booking.
- A pet may only travel where:
 - the applicable pet fare has been paid; **and**
 - a designated pet-friendly cabin has been booked.
- If no pet-friendly cabins are available, unfortunately a pet cannot be added to the booking and travel will not be permitted.
- Pet accommodation is limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- A maximum of 2 pets may be included per booking.
- Any booking with more than 2 pets must be pre-approved by Hibernia Line prior to travel.
- Passengers travelling with pets must check in at the relevant port approximately 2 hours before departure to allow sufficient time for document inspection and boarding procedures.

2. Pet Accommodation Onboard

Pets must remain in their designated booked accommodation during the voyage.

Available accommodation may include:

- Pet-friendly cabins
- Designated kennel accommodation where available

Pet-friendly cabins:

- Are subject to availability
- Allow pets to remain with their owners during the crossing
- Require pets to remain supervised at all times

Dedicated Pet Deck Area

- A dedicated external deck area will be available onboard for pets to use during the voyage.
- This area is provided for pet toilet breaks and short supervised exercise periods.
- Pets must remain under their owner's control at all times while using the deck area.
- Dogs must remain on a lead and restricted breeds may be required to wear a muzzle.
- Cats must remain safely contained or harnessed where appropriate.
- Owners are fully responsible for cleaning up after their pets both onboard and within port terminal areas. Appropriate waste disposal facilities will be provided onboard.
- Hibernia Line reserves the right to restrict access to the pet deck area where required for operational or safety reasons.

Pets are not permitted in:

- Restaurants/Cafés
- Bars
- Passenger lounges
- Children's play areas
- Other general passenger spaces

Exception: Recognised assistance dogs are permitted in passenger areas with their owners subject to compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

3. Eligible Pets

This policy applies to:

- Dogs
- Cats

Other animal types are not currently accepted for carriage unless specifically agreed in writing by Hibernia Line.

4. Legal Pet Travel Requirements

All pets travelling between Ireland and France must comply with EU Pet Travel rules and the requirements of the destination country.

4.1 Microchip

Pets must:

- Be microchipped before or at the same time as their rabies vaccination
- Have an ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip
- Have documentation matching the microchip number
- Clearly readable tattoos applied before 3 July 2011 may still be accepted under EU rules.

4.2 Travel Documentation

Pets must travel with:

- A valid EU Pet Passport; or
- A valid Animal Health Certificate (AHC), where applicable

Important information:

- EU Pet Passports issued in Northern Ireland remain valid for EU travel.
- Great Britain-issued EU Pet Passports are no longer valid for travel into the EU and an Animal Health Certificate may be required instead.

Original documents must be presented at check-in.

4.3 Rabies Vaccination

Dogs and cats must:

- Have a valid rabies vaccination administered by a registered veterinarian
- Wait at least 21 days after primary vaccination before travel
- Have the vaccination correctly recorded in their travel documentation

4.4 Tapeworm Treatment (Dogs Only)

Dogs travelling from France to Ireland must receive tapeworm treatment.

The treatment must:

- Be administered by a veterinarian
- Be given between 24 and 120 hours (1–5 days) before arrival into Ireland
- Be correctly recorded in the pet passport or Animal Health Certificate

This requirement does not apply to cats.

Failure to comply may result in refusal of entry into Ireland by the relevant authorities.

5. Assistance Dogs

Officially recognised guide dogs and assistance dogs are welcome onboard.

For recognised assistance dogs:

- No pet fare applies
- A pet-friendly cabin is not required
- Assistance dogs may accompany their owner in passenger areas

However, the following minimum legal travel requirements still apply:

- Microchip
- Valid travel documentation
- Rabies vaccination
- Tapeworm treatment where applicable

Passengers may be requested to provide supporting documentation confirming recognised assistance dog status.

6. Emotional Support Animals

Emotional support animals are classified as standard pets for travel purposes onboard Hibernia Line.

This means:

- Standard pet fares apply
- A pet-friendly cabin must be booked
- All booking conditions apply
- All EU and national pet travel requirements must be satisfied

Emotional support animals do not qualify for the exemptions applicable to recognised assistance dogs.

7. Check-In & Boarding Procedures

Passengers travelling with pets should:

- Arrive at the port approximately 2 hours before departure
- Present all original pet documentation for inspection
- Ensure pets are safely secured during embarkation and disembarkation

Additional boarding requirements:

- Cats must remain in a secure carrier or enclosed accommodation when outside the cabin.
- Dogs must remain on a lead when outside their accommodation.
- Restricted breeds may be required to wear a muzzle.
- Owners are responsible for ensuring pets are fit and safe to travel.

8. Restricted Dogs & XL Bully Regulations

Certain dog breeds are subject to additional control requirements under Irish law.

Restricted breeds include:

- American Pit Bull Terrier
- English Bull Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Bull Mastiff
- Doberman Pinscher
- German Shepherd (Alsatian)
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Rottweiler
- Japanese Akita
- Japanese Tosa
- Bandog and related crosses

Where applicable:

- Dogs must be muzzled in public areas
- Dogs must remain on a short strong lead
- Dogs must be controlled by a person over 16 years of age

XL Bully Dogs

Ireland introduced significant restrictions affecting XL Bully dogs from October 2024 onwards, including restrictions on importation, breeding, sale and ownership unless exempted under Irish law. Passengers intending to travel with XL Bully-type dogs should contact Hibernia Line before booking.

9. Pet Owner Responsibilities

Owners are responsible for:

- Ensuring pets meet all legal travel requirements
- Supervising pets at all times
- Providing food, water, bedding and any required medication
- Cleaning up after their pets onboard and within port areas

We recommend bringing:

- Bedding or comfort blankets
- Water bowls

- Food supplies
- Waste bags and cleaning items
- Leads, carriers and muzzles where appropriate

10. Refusal of Carriage & Liability

Hibernia Line reserves the right to:

- Refuse boarding where documentation is incomplete or invalid
- Refuse carriage for pets showing signs of illness, aggression or distress
- Require pets to remain within designated accommodation areas

Hibernia Line accepts no liability for:

- Refusal of entry by government authorities
- Quarantine or veterinary costs
- Repatriation or onward transport costs arising from non-compliance with pet travel regulations

11. Useful Official Information

Passengers are strongly advised to review the latest official guidance before travel:

- Irish Department of Agriculture Pet Travel Information
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/28ae66-pet-travel/>
- EU Pet Travel Rules
https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/carry/pets-and-other-animals/index_en.htm
- French Customs & Pet Entry Rules
<https://www.douane.gouv.fr/fiche/travel-coming-france-your-pet>

12. Quick Travel Checklist

Before travelling, please ensure you have:

- Pet declared at booking
- Pet fare paid
- Pet-friendly cabin booked
- Microchip
- Valid EU Pet Passport or AHC
- Rabies vaccination in date
- Tapeworm treatment for dogs returning to Ireland
- Lead, carrier and muzzle where applicable
- Food, water and comfort items

We look forward to welcoming you and your pet onboard Hibernia Line.