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.

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 are permitted for passengers travelling with a car or campervan.
- Foot passengers, including passengers travelling with a bicycle or e-bike, cannot travel with pets.
- Pets must be declared and added separately to the booking. A separate pet fare applies for each pet, each way.
- A designated pet-friendly cabin must also be booked when travelling with a pet.
- Booking a pet-friendly cabin does not automatically include a pet or the pet fare.
- If no pet-friendly cabin is available, 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 are permitted per pet-friendly cabin.
- Passengers travelling with pets should 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

- 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.
- The microchip must be ISO 11784/11785 compliant.
- Documentation must match the microchip number.
- Clearly readable tattoos applied before 3 July 2011 may still be accepted under EU rules.

4.2 Travel Documentation

- A valid EU Pet Passport; or
- A valid Animal Health Certificate (AHC), where applicable.
- 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.
- At least 21 days must have passed after a primary vaccination before travel.
- The vaccination must be correctly recorded in the pet's travel documentation.

4.4 Tapeworm Treatment (Dogs Only)

- Dogs travelling from France to Ireland must receive tapeworm treatment administered by a veterinarian.
- Treatment must be given between 24 and 120 hours (1–5 days) before arrival into Ireland.
- Treatment must 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

Minimum legal travel requirements still apply, including microchip, valid travel documentation, rabies vaccination and 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.

- 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

- 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.
- 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, remain on a short strong lead, and 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

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

We recommend bringing bedding or comfort blankets, water bowls, food supplies, waste bags and cleaning items, and 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, or repatriation or onward transport costs arising from non-compliance with pet travel regulations.

11. Useful Official Information

- 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

- Travelling with a car or campervan
- Pet declared and added separately to the booking
- Pet fare paid for each pet, each way
- Pet-friendly cabin booked
- Maximum 2 pets per pet-friendly cabin
- 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.