

reported more frequently and the likelihood of the puppies being unvaccinated is a grave concern.

So, if you want to travel safely with your dog, how do you stay on the right side of the law? If you want to holiday with your

UK bred and owned dog, it is simple. First, your dog must be identifiable and the chosen method for the Pet Travel Scheme is by virtue of a microchip. This was quite controversial at the time the decision was taken but in my opinion, it's the right method for permanent identification of an animal. I've got into trouble for saying this before but the fact remains that tattoos can be changed, they can fade or be obscured. A microchip is extremely difficult to remove, rarely malfunctions and can easily be checked, especially if the traveller is sensible enough to carry their own compatible chip reader.

In the rare event that a chip fails, there is an accepted procedure for its replacement. Your vet should re-chip the dog and you will have to re-do its rabies vaccination so that an entirely new pet passport can be issued. Your vet should then record the fact that the dog has been chipped twice and that another chip might surface intermittently. There is an 'Others' section in the passport where they can do this and if the original chip's number is recorded there, as well as the



ANYONE who knows Kim Culyer-Dawson will understand. I had finally tempted her to see our breed overseas. We travelled to Scandinavia by boat, our cabin in the stern area accessed by swipe card. Kim went to explore. Soon after I heard furious tapping on the porthole and there outside, with the rain beating against the glass, was a windswept, bedraggled face reminiscent of a second world war fighter plane coming down in bad weather. From the wild gesticulating, I gathered she had forgotten her swipe card.



In Denmark, our friend's car restricted to front seats only, Kim perched on the rear floor, fending off Peitits Bassetts Griffons Vendéens' long tongues that stretched to give kisses of greeting from behind her. For protection she donned a handy hard hat and draped a string of onions round her neck like garlic to ward off the welcoming dogs. At the breed festivities we embarrassingly had nothing to contribute towards the raffle. Unperturbed, Kim upended her bag and, alongside the woolly hat and sun tan lotion, unearthed brand new dainty earrings. A shame they were won by a man. The following day, Kim's initiation into handling abroad was marred when, so engrossed in chatting to a new-found friend, she missed the class. From Denmark we flew to Amsterdam for the Winner Show. At Billund, despite having only carry-on cases, we had to check them in. As they rattled away on the conveyor belt, we were asked for our passports. Horror spread across Kim's face as she explained her passport was in her case. We nearly missed the flight. In Amsterdam, I discovered she didn't know the Dutch currency was euros. We spent more time at the show converting krone into pounds into euros than watching the judging.

Over the years the delightful Kim has continued to entertain. Travelling with her has certainly brightened my life - I wouldn't have missed it for the world.
(Linda Skerritt PBGV breed note writer)

ture, February 13, 2015, - 35 good. Either way, your pet is considered to be fit for travel three weeks after the first rabies vaccination. At that time, your vet will issue a pet passport for your dog and it is vital that it is filled in correctly.

Incorrect paperwork is the single biggest issue when travelling with your pet and it pays to double check everything. Once your dog has a pet passport issued, it is important to keep him regularly boosted, according to the dates issued with the passport. You do not need to wait three weeks before travelling after further booster vaccinations but if you miss a

booster date, by even one day, you must wait a further three weeks after the vaccination before travelling.

On the whole, British vets are thorough and well versed in the requirements of the Pet Travel Scheme but if you are travelling abroad and intending to come back with a dog bought in one of the participating EU countries, then you need to be aware that Continental vets frequently fill out the passports incorrectly. I'm not being xenophobic here, just speaking from personal experience. Twice, I have been returning from France with dogs carrying pet passports issued there. On both occasions they were filled out incorrectly. In one case the vet had omitted the date of microchipping and in the other had filled in the date of

number and date of insertion of the new chip, in the event of confusion you are officially covered.

The next thing you need is a rabies vaccination. Indeed, many vets would recommend that your dog should have two, a vaccination and a follow up booster but if you don't want to over-do things (see World Small Animal Veterinary Association guidelines), you can have that first vaccination done and then unofficially blood test your dog to check that the antibody titre is



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