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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

date of receipt: 20 January 2026

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject: COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for non-commercial movement of pet animals

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Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 20 final.

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Encl.: C(2026) 20 final



Brussels, 20.1.2026  
C(2026) 20 final

**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...**

**of 20.1.2026**

**supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for non-commercial movement of pet animals**

(Text with EEA relevance)

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### 1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

Current rules for non-commercial movement of pet animals are laid down in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup> and its derived acts. Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 was repealed by Article 270(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup> as from 21 April 2021. However, Article 277 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides that notwithstanding that repeal, Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 is to continue to apply until 21 April 2026 in respect of non-commercial movements of pet animals.

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down rules on transmissible animal diseases and rules for the non-commercial movement of pet animals into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory. This Regulation empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts, and more particularly under Part VI, supplementing the above rules.

In the interest of coherence, transparency and to avoid duplications, it is important that those supplementing rules are laid down in a single delegated act.

The supplementing rules laid down in this Delegated Regulation largely replicate rules currently laid down in existing Union acts covering non-commercial movement of pet animals as they have proven to be effective in preventing the spread of the listed diseases within the Union. However, they have been updated to take into account of experiences gained, and the legal framework of the Animal Health Law.

Accordingly, this Delegated Regulation lays down the following supplementing rules for:

- (a) general provisions, and in particular:
  - (i) the rules for authorising non-commercial movement of pet animals by an authorised person
  - (ii) specified situations where derogations may be granted by Member States to the requirements laid down in the Regulation;
  - (iii) the rules applicable to pet animals in transit through the Union;
  - (iv) the rules applicable to the refusal of entry by a third country or territory of pet animals originating from and returning to the Union.
- (b) the requirements for non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory, and in particular as regards:
  - (i) the means of identification of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, including the application and use of those means of identification;

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 (OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/576/oj>).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>).

- (ii) the specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures applicable to pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets when being moved during a non-commercial movement;
  - (iii) the identification documents which must accompany pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets during non-commercial movement, including their content, their distribution and the conditions for their issue and completion;
- (c) the requirements for non-commercial movement of pet birds into a Member State from a third country or territory, and in particular as regards:
- (i) the maximum number of pet birds which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement;
  - (ii) the means of identification of pet birds, including the application and use of those means of identification;
  - (iii) the specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures applicable to pet birds when being moved during a non-commercial movement;
  - (iv) the identification document which must accompany pet birds during non-commercial movements, including their content, their distribution and the conditions for their issue and completion;
- (d) special rules for non-commercial movements of pet animals within and into Member States under certain specified circumstances;
- (e) transitional measures to protect the acquired rights and legitimate expectations of stakeholders resulting from pre-existing Union acts.

## **2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT**

The Commission had several meetings and exchanges with the Expert Group on animal health (E00930). The draft Delegated Regulation was also made available to the European Parliament and the Council. There were no comments received from the European Parliament and the Council. A number of meetings have been held with a range of stakeholders within the framework of the Animal Health Advisory Committee where the main elements of the draft act were illustrated and discussed.

In addition, stakeholders' comments on the draft delegated regulation were collected in the context of the Better Regulation feedback mechanism during the period between 11 November 2025 and 9 December 2025. 32 pieces of feedback were received in total, including opinions of the following stakeholders: Grupo de Socorro Animal de Portugal (PT), MSD Animal Health (BE), European Pet Organisation (NL), Idee Economiche di Marco Bava (IT), Four Paws (BE), EuroPetNet (BE), UK member of EU Cat & Dog Alliance (UK), Syndicat National des Vétérinaires d'Exercice Libéral (FR), Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V. (DE), Eurogroup for Animals (BE), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (BE), Lega Anti Vivisezione (IT), Born Free Foundation (UK), Slovenian Alliance of non-governmental organisations for the protection of animals (SI), 1 public authority (NL), 6 particular citizens (ES (1), IE (1), SI (2), SK (1) and USA (1)) and 9 anonymous contributions (DE (3), NL (2), PT (1) and SI (3)).

The main requests submitted and points raised were the following:

- comments in relation to electronic identification standards for pet animals;

- requests for the compulsory registration of pet animals in databases and for the creation of interoperable registration databases;
- comments in relation to mandatory anti-rabies vaccinations and antibody titre tests for pet animals entering the Union;
- Comments in relation to the requirements for non-commercial movements of young animals;
- comments in relation to identification documents for non-commercial movements of pet animals and the development of e-passport for pet dogs, cats and ferrets;
- requests for adequate information to relevant stakeholders and the public and training to ensure proper operational implementation of the rules;
- comments on the need to ensure coherence with the future rules on animal welfare of dogs and cats;
- comments in relation to further animal welfare rules on transport of pet animals and to enhanced enforcement measures by competent authorities to tackle fraudulent practices, including suggestions for using data analytics and AI.

### **3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT**

This Delegated Regulation is to be adopted within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and in particular pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 3(5), Article 245(3), Article 246(3), Article 249(3), Article 252(1) and Article 254 thereof.

**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...**

**of 20.1.2026**

**supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for non-commercial movement of pet animals**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law')<sup>1</sup>, and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 3(5), Article 245(3), Article 246(3), Article 249(3), Article 252(1) and Article 254 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup>, which lays down the rules for non-commercial movement of pet animals, was repealed by Article 270(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as from 21 April 2021. However, Article 277 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides that notwithstanding that repeal, Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 is to continue to apply until 21 April 2026 in respect of non-commercial movements of pet animals, in place of Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.
- (2) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down rules for the prevention and control of diseases which are transmissible to animals or humans, including the animal health requirements applicable to non-commercial movements of pet animals into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 also empowers the Commission to adopt rules to supplement certain non-essential elements of that Regulation by means of delegated acts. As the transitional period related to the repeal of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 is to cease on 21 April 2026, it is therefore appropriate to adopt such supplementing rules in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the legal framework established by Regulation (EU) 2016/429.
- (3) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 aims to provide a simpler and more flexible regulatory framework compared to the one applicable prior to its adoption, while at the same time ensuring a more risk-based approach to animal health requirements, and improved animal disease preparedness, prevention and control. It also aims to compile the rules on animal diseases in a single act. In the interests of simplicity and transparency of

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 (OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/576/oj>).

Union rules, as well as to facilitate the application of those rules and avoid duplication, the rules for non-commercial movements of pet animals into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory should be laid down in a single act rather than in a number of cross-referenced separate acts. In addition, as there is a substantive link between the empowerments laid down in Article 3(5) and in Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 relating to the animal health requirements for non-commercial movements of pet animals, it is appropriate that the supplementing rules be laid down in a single act.

- (4) The keeping of pet animals by humans in their households, both indoors and outdoors, generally poses a lower health risk compared to other ways of keeping or moving animals on a broader scale, such as those common in agriculture, aquaculture, animal breeding, animal shelters and the transport of animals more generally. This explains why it is appropriate to establish a commensurate set of animal health requirements on non-commercial movements of pet animals that should focus on measures adequately addressing the specific nature and risks presented by pet animals and their non-commercial movements, as applying the general framework to these animals would represent an unjustified administrative burden and cost.
- (5) The rules and risk mitigation measures laid down in this Regulation supplement the animal health requirements laid down in Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards non-commercial movements of pet animals to ensure a sufficient level of safety to mitigate the public and animal health risks involved in non-commercial movements, and more particularly the risk of the spread of listed diseases defined in that Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and categorised in accordance with Article 9(1), point (d), of that Regulation by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882<sup>3</sup>, and to remove any unjustified obstacles to such non-commercial movements.
- (6) The existing animal health rules laid down in previous Commission acts concerning non-commercial movements of pet animals have proved to be sound, proportionate and effective. Therefore, the aim and main provisions of those existing rules should be maintained in this Regulation but updated to take account of the rules on better regulation, of the new animal health framework laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and of international standards and experience in applying previous Union acts in that field.
- (7) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 already lays down a number of definitions. In addition, this Regulation should also have regard to the definitions laid down in other Union acts in the related areas of official controls, and in particular those laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>. However, for the

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 of 3 December 2018 on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases (OJ L 308, 4.12.2018, p. 21, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2018/1882/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj)).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision

purpose of laying down the animal health requirements for non-commercial movements of pet animals, it is appropriate to specify the animal species to which the rules laid down in this Regulation applies and to include particular definitions. These definitions should include the specific ‘travellers points of entry’ used for non-commercial movements from third countries or territories, and the ‘authorised veterinarians’ to whom specific tasks are delegated by the competent authority in this field in relation to prevention and risk-mitigation measures and issuing of passports for pet dogs, pet cats and pet ferrets in Member States and in relation to prevention and risk-mitigation measures and issuing of animal health certificates for pet dogs, pet cats, pet ferrets and pet birds in third countries.

- (8) As defined in Article 4, point (11), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, a ‘pet animal’ is a kept animal of the species listed in Annex I thereto, kept for private non-commercial purposes, and includes dogs, cats, and ferrets. Such animals are usually kept privately for recreational or companionship purposes. However, in the case of certain dogs, these animals may also, while still being considered as a pet animal, be kept for extra purposes than purely recreational or companionship ones.
- (9) Those extra purposes include participating in competition, sporting, training, exhibition or working events where they are used for certain capacities they acquire by training, as provided by Article 246(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. In a similar way, such extra purposes may also take advantage of other capacities acquired by certain dogs, in particular when used for military, law enforcement or search-and-rescue activities.
- (10) Movements of dogs in all these circumstances are carried out under the supervision of the pet owner or a responsible person who may in particular belong to military, law enforcement or search-and-rescue bodies. It is, therefore, appropriate to clarify that the rules laid down in this Regulation also apply to the movements of these latter categories of animals, and to provide for a certain flexibility, in accordance with the empowerment given to the Commission under Article 249(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 to adopt delegated acts concerning the conditions for granting derogations from the requirements laid down in Article 249(2) of that Regulations, when such animals enter into the Union or return to the Union after movements outside the Union.
- (11) In order to make a clear distinction between the rules that apply to non-commercial movements of pet animals, and those applicable to standard movements between Member States or from third countries or territories, of dogs, cats, ferrets and captive birds, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 defines a ‘pet animal’ and a ‘non-commercial movement’. To fall within these definitions, the pet animal is to accompany its owner and be part of the movement of the pet owner either under the direct responsibility of the pet owner or, on duly justified and documented grounds, under the responsibility of an authorised person, in cases where the pet animal is physically separated from the pet owner.
- (12) In that context, Article 245(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides that where the non-commercial movement of a pet animal is carried out by an authorised person, it may only take place within five days from the movement of the pet owner. Article 245(3) of that Regulation empowers the Commission to lay down supplementary

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92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation) (OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>).

requirements in relation to the documentation of the non-commercial movement of a pet animal when carried out by an authorised person. It is therefore appropriate to provide that where a non-commercial movement of a pet animal is carried out by an authorised person, a written authorisation signed by the pet owner should be attached to the identification documents accompanying the pet animal either for the non-commercial movement into a Member State from another Member State or into a Member State from a third country or territory.

- (13) In addition, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 fixes the maximum number of pet animals of the species listed in Part A of Annex I to that Regulation, namely dogs, cats and ferrets, which may accompany their owner or an authorised person. Article 246(1) of that Regulation provides that the number of such pet animals which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement is not to exceed five. It also lays down the conditions for derogations whereby that maximum number may be exceeded.
- (14) In that context, movements of more than five pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, which do not fulfil the conditions for the derogation laid down in Article 246(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, may not be regarded as non-commercial movements under that Regulation and should fall within the scope of its Parts IV or V.
- (15) For the movements of pet animals of the species listed in Part B of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2016/429, including birds, Article 246(3) of that Regulation empowers the Commission to adopt supplementary rules setting the maximum number of pet animals of those species which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement. As moving a large number of birds may increase the risk for the introduction and spread of the avian influenza virus, it is necessary to introduce such a maximum number for pet birds when accompanying their owner or an authorised person into the Union from a third country or territory.
- (16) By setting such maximum number, this also aims to ensure that Parts IV and V of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 are correctly applied to pet birds and that movements into the Union of more than that maximum number are to be carried out in accordance with the requirements for the entry into the Union of captive birds laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692<sup>5</sup>, and to be subject to official controls at border control posts as laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625.
- (17) Still in that context, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 makes a clear link between the maximum number of pet animals that can be covered by a non-commercial movement and the fact that this movement should be carried out as a single non-commercial movement. However, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 does not define a ‘single non-commercial movement’. This may lead to different interpretation by Member States and be a source of abuse in the case of several pet owners travelling together in the same private means of transport. For certainty reasons, in order to ensure that Parts IV and V of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 are correctly applied to pet animals, it is also necessary to further specify the conditions that should apply to the notion of ‘single non-commercial movement’.

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<sup>5</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 of 30 January 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 379, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2020/692/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/692/oj)).

- (18) Article 252(1), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 empowers the Commission to lay down detailed species-specific requirements for the means of identification of pet animals of the species listed in Annex I to that Regulation and the application and use of such means of identification.
- (19) Prior to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Union rules on the identification of pet animals were laid down in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 for pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, and in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933<sup>6</sup> for pet birds. The rules laid down in those Regulations have proven to be effective in ensuring the proper identification of pet animals. Accordingly, the main substance of those rules should be maintained in this Regulation but updated to take account of the practical experience gained by Member States in their application.
- (20) Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets are to be regarded as appropriately identified when they bear either a clearly readable tattoo, if applied before 3 July 2011, or are implanted with an electronic identification system (transponder). Implantation of transponders requires certain competences to be carried out. It is therefore necessary to clarify in this Regulation the persons that have the specific knowledge to perform this task.
- (21) In that context, this Regulation should also lay down rules concerning the means to identify pet birds to be moved into a Member State from a third country or territory, in order to ensure that a link can be made between the pet bird and the corresponding identification document.
- (22) Article 252(1), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 empowers the Commission to lay down detailed species-specific requirements for the prevention and risk-mitigation measures to ensure that pet animals do not pose a significant risk for the spread of the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), point (d), of that Regulation due to movements of pet animals of the species listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (23) Prior to the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Union rules on prevention and risk-mitigation measures to be complied with by pet animals when being moved into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory were laid down in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 for pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, and in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933 for pet birds. Those rules have proven to be effective in minimising the risk of the spread of listed diseases through such movements. Accordingly, the main provisions of those rules should be maintained in this Regulation but updated to take account of the practical experience gained by Member States in their application. This Regulation should also provide possibilities for derogations in cases where alternative risk-mitigation measures are put in place.
- (24) According to Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, pet keepers in the Union, including pet owners, are in the best position to observe and ensure the health of the animals under their responsibility. Therefore, they bear primary responsibility for carrying out measures for the prevention and control of the spread of diseases among animals under their responsibility. This also means that pet owners are required to ensure that the animals moved under their responsibility are free from disease symptoms and fit for such non-commercial movements.

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<sup>6</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933 of 14 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to rules for non-commercial movements of pet birds into a Member State from a territory or a third country (OJ L 396, 10.11.2021, p. 4, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2021/1933/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2021/1933/oj)).

- (25) To mitigate any risk of the spread of animal disease from outside the Union, it is appropriate to require in this Regulation that pet animals originating in a third country or territory and being moved into the Union show no disease symptoms and are fit for such non-commercial movements.
- (26) Due to its potential effects on humans and animals, infection with rabies virus is the disease of most concern in the Union affecting dogs, cats and ferrets. Infection with rabies virus is listed in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 as a category B disease, for which disease control measures must be taken in all Member States with the goal of eradicating it throughout the Union.
- (27) To prevent rabies from spreading in the Union, rules should be laid down in this Regulation regarding the vaccination requirements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets subject to a non-commercial movement into a Member State from another Member State, or from a third country or territory.
- (28) It is possible that rabies vaccines administered to pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets before the age of 12 weeks do not induce protective immunity due to competition with maternal antibodies. Consequently, vaccine manufacturers recommend not to vaccinate young pet animals before that age. In order to authorise the non-commercial movement from a Member State to another Member State of young pet animals that have not been vaccinated, or that have been vaccinated but have not yet acquired protective immunity against rabies, this Regulation should establish certain preventive measures to be taken, and give the Member States the possibility to authorise such non-commercial movements into their territory when young pet animals comply with those preventive measures.
- (29) In addition, in order to prevent the introduction of rabies into the Union and to prove that the animals have been properly vaccinated against rabies, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets that are being moved into a Member State from a third country or territory for non-commercial purposes must have undergone a valid rabies antibody titration test in accordance with point 1 of Annex XXI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. This Regulation should also provide for derogations from the requirement to undergo a rabies antibody titration test for non-commercial movements into the Union of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets from third countries or territories that have demonstrated that they apply rules, the content and effect of which are the same as those applied by in the Union, or that they have implemented a robust surveillance, prevention and control system for rabies in accordance with the criteria laid down in this Regulation.
- (30) Infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* is listed in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 as a category C disease, which recognises that it is a disease of relevance to some Member States and for which measures are needed to prevent it from spreading to parts of the Union that are officially disease-free or that have eradication programmes for the listed disease concerned.
- (31) Pet dogs intended for movement into a Member State with disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* should comply with additional requirements to ensure the protection of that status in those Member States. In this regard, a preventive treatment should be applied to such dogs before they are moved to any disease-free Member State. This Regulation should provide possibilities for derogations in cases where alternative risk-mitigation measures are put in place.
- (32) Avian influenza is an infectious viral disease of birds which can have a negative impact on animal and public health and a severe impact on the profitability of poultry

farming as its highly pathogenic form can result in high mortality rates in poultry species. Furthermore, although avian influenza is mainly found in birds, under certain circumstances infections can also occur in humans even though the risk is generally low.

- (33) Since the global threat of avian influenza has increased in recent years, this Regulation should establish protection measures to ensure that non-commercial movements of pet birds into the Union do not pose a risk for the introduction and spread of infection with avian influenza virus.
- (34) The prevention and risk mitigation measures for non-commercial movements of pet birds into the Union should provide for several alternative requirements for such non-commercial movements, including isolation prior to such non-commercial movements and pre-movement testing for the H5 and H7 sub-types of the HPAI virus and vaccination against H5 and H7 sub-types of the HPAI virus.
- (35) However, the option of isolation prior to the non-commercial movement into the Union should only be allowed for pet birds originating in territories or third countries which have been assessed for avian influenza and other diseases relevant for the avian species. Therefore, this option should be limited to the third countries or zones thereof listed in the table set out in Part 1 of Annexes V, XIV or XIX to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404<sup>7</sup>, from which the entry into the Union of poultry and germinal products of poultry, fresh meat of poultry and game birds, or eggs and egg products, respectively, is permitted.
- (36) To further mitigate the risks of the spread of the avian influenza virus into the Union via non-commercial movements of pet birds from third countries or territories, those pet birds should be kept in isolation for an appropriate period of time following their entry into the Union, and in particular during that period, they should not be entered in shows, fairs, exhibitions or other gatherings of birds.
- (37) In addition, this Regulation should provide possibilities for derogations in cases where alternative risk-mitigation measures are put in place. This should only be permitted for establishments that can guarantee the animal health status of the animals. It should, therefore, be required that under this option, pet birds are to be placed in a quarantine establishment approved in accordance with Article 14 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035<sup>8</sup>.
- (38) Article 254, point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts concerning the entries for the insertion of the information to be included in the identification documents required to accompany non-commercial movements of pet animals into a Member State from another Member State, or from a third country or territory. Point (d) of that Article also empowers the Commission to

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<sup>7</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 of 24 March 2021 laying down the lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council (OJ L 114, 31.3.2021, p. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2021/404/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/404/oj)).

<sup>8</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 of 28 June 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (OJ L 314, 5.12.2019, p. 115, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2019/2035/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2019/2035/oj)).

adopt delegated acts concerning the issue, completion and, where applicable, endorsement of such identification documents.

- (39) Prior to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Union rules on the identification documents of pet animals were laid down in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 for pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, and in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933 for pet birds. The rules laid down in those Regulations have proven to be effective in ensuring the traceability of pet animals during non-commercial movements of such animals into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory. Accordingly, the main provisions of those rules should be maintained in this Regulation but updated to take account of the practical experience gained in their application.
- (40) Identification documents accompanying pet animals which are subject to non-commercial movements into Member States are necessary to attest compliance with the animal health requirements laid down in this Regulation. This Regulation should, therefore, establish the requirements for the contents of those identification documents, and the conditions for their issuing or, where necessary their endorsement, to ensure their validity.
- (41) As a general principle, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 requires that standard movements of animals are to be accompanied by an animal health certificate to be completed and issued by the competent authorities of the country of dispatch, or where applicable by an authorised veterinarian and subsequently endorsed by the competent authority of the country of dispatch, to ensure its validity. This requirement should also be applied to non-commercial movements of pet animals into a Member State from a third country or territory.
- (42) To facilitate non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into a Member State from another Member State, an alternative identification document (pet passport) was introduced by Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 to replace the animal health certificate which is of use for other animal movements. It is therefore appropriate to ensure that such pet animals continue to be accompanied by a passport.
- (43) In this context, this also implies that the pet passport is only intended to be issued to pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets kept in the Member State where their pet owners reside habitually and have their main residence. Such information is to be furnished by the pet owner to allow the issuing veterinarian to duly and accurately complete the pet passport.
- (44) In these circumstances, pet passports are not intended to be issued to pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets which are kept by pet owners who have their main residence outside the Union and reside only temporarily or seasonally in the Union. For such situations, the general principle should apply, and the identification document required for non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into the Union from a third country or territory (animal health certificate) has to accompany the non-commercial movement of these animals into the Union. It is, therefore, appropriate to ensure that this identification document remains valid for a reasonable time period to allow third country pet owners to reside temporarily or seasonally in the Union or make further movement to other Member States during that period.
- (45) The restriction on pet passport issuing should not prevent pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets which were moved into the Union from a third country or territory for non-commercial purposes with the identification document required for such movement,

from being issued a pet passport, where their pet owners remain in a Member State after the end of the validity period of the identification document and set their main residence within the Union as demonstrated for instance by a residence permit.

- (46) In accordance with Article 254, point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, this Regulation should provide the necessary conditions for allowing Member States to authorise the non-commercial movement into their territory of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets accompanied by an identification document in the format of a passport when the passport has been issued in a third country or territory which applies rules, the content and effect of which are the same as those applied in the Union. It should also allow Member States to authorise the return to the Union, after a non-commercial movement to a third country or territory of those pet animals accompanied by a pet passport issued in a Member State, provided that it can be established from that pet passport that the conditions required to return from those third countries or territories were met before the pet animal left the Union.
- (47) Third countries or territories listed in Article 1(2), point (b), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933 apply rules, the content and effect of which are the same as those applied in the Union for the non-commercial movement of pet birds. The derogation provided for these third countries or territories in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933 should be maintained in this Regulation.
- (48) In accordance with Article 252(4), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, this Regulation should give the competent authority of the Member States the possibility to authorise, on an exceptional basis, the entry directly into or through their territory of pet animals which do not comply with certain conditions laid down in this Regulation and thereby address situations of genuine and urgent need, provided that a permit is applied for and granted by the Member State of destination, and where applicable, with the agreement of any other involved Member State. This permit should detail the specific arrangements, including a time-limited period of isolation under official supervision, necessary to fulfil the conditions laid in this Regulation. Even in cases of urgency, permits should be indispensable to mitigate any animal health risks arising from the introduction into the Union of a pet animal that does not comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation.
- (49) While the final decision granting derogation should remain with the competent authority, specified circumstances for granting derogations should include but not be limited to the urgent departure of the pet owner, on an individual or collective basis, in the event of a sudden natural disaster, political unrest or other force majeure affecting the owner.
- (50) In relation to the animal health risk involved, all non-commercial movements through the Union of pet animals from a third country and intended for a destination outside the Union should be considered as a non-commercial movement into a Member State from a third country or territory as they imply the same level of risk. Such transit movements should, therefore, comply with all the relevant requirements for a non-commercial movement into a Member State from a third country or territory. However, no specific requirements should apply to the transit of the pet animals where they do not enter the Union territory and remain within the perimeter of the international zone of a port or airport of transit.
- (51) Rules should be adopted under Article 252(4), point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 to allow the return of pet animals originating in the Union when they are refused entry by the competent authorities of a third country or territory following controls carried

out at their border, where the conditions of return from those third countries or territories were met before the pet animal left the Union.

- (52) With a view to the consistent application of Union legislation on non-commercial movements of pet animals into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory, and to ensure that the legislation is clear and transparent, this Regulation should repeal Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772<sup>9</sup> and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933.
- (53) To avoid any unnecessary disruptions in the non-commercial movements of pet animals, this Regulation should lay down transitional measures providing for a smooth transition from the requirements laid down in pre-existing Union acts.
- (54) Such provisions should be made available to address legitimate expectations of pet owners keeping pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, transponder manufacturers, veterinarians and Member State competent authorities and give them appropriate time to adapt to the new requirements. They should be designed to prevent duly identified pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets from undergoing any new identification process and duly issued passports from being revoked and reissued. They do not prevent transponder manufacturers, veterinarians and Member State competent authorities from applying the new rules before the end of the transition period.
- (55) Additional transitional measures should be provided through implementing acts to ensure that stocks of identification documents complying with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 could be used for an appropriate time period.
- (56) Regulation (EU) No 576/2013, which lays down the rules for non-commercial movement of pet animals was repealed by Article 270(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as from 21 April 2021. However, Article 277 of that Regulation provides that notwithstanding that repeal, Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 is to continue to apply until 21 April 2026 in respect of non-commercial movements of pet animals, in place of Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. This Regulation should, therefore, enter into force as a matter of urgency and apply from 22 April 2026,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

## **PART I**

### **GENERAL RULES**

#### **Chapter 1**

##### **Subject matter, scope and definitions**

###### *Article 1*

###### **Subject matter and scope**

1. This Regulation supplements the rules laid down in Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, as regards non-commercial movements of pet animals of the species listed

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<sup>9</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 of 21 November 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 (OJ L 130, 28.5.2018, p. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2018/772/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2018/772/oj)).

in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory.

2. This Regulation lays down:

- (a) in Part II, the requirements for non-commercial movements of kept animals listed in Part A of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('pet dogs', 'pet cat' and 'pet ferrets') into a Member State from another Member State or from a third country or territory, including:
  - (i) the means of identification of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, including the application and use of those means of identification;
  - (ii) the specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures applicable to pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets when being moved during non-commercial movements;
  - (iii) the identification documents which must accompany pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets during non-commercial movements, including the content and the conditions for issue and completion;
- (b) in Part III, the requirements for non-commercial movements of kept birds as listed in Part B of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('pet birds') into a Member State from a third country or territory, including:
  - (i) the maximum number of pet birds which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement;
  - (ii) the means of identification of pet birds, including the application and use of those means of identification;
  - (iii) the specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures applicable to pet birds when being moved during non-commercial movements;
  - (iv) the identification document which must accompany pet birds during non-commercial movements, including the content and the conditions for issue and completion;
- (c) in Part IV, the special rules for non-commercial movements of pet animals within and into Member States under certain specified circumstances, as referred to in Article 252(4), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

## *Article 2* **Definitions**

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- 1. 'authorised veterinarian' means:
  - (a) a veterinarian other than official veterinarians who has been authorised, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 31(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, by the competent authority of a Member State or of a third country to carry out certain specific tasks in its territory; or
  - (b) a delegated body as defined in Article 3, point (5), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, where it is authorised by the competent authority of a Member State to carry out certain specific tasks in the territory of that Member State in accordance with Article 31(1) of that Regulation;

2. ‘travellers’ point of entry’ means any area located at a point of entry into the Union and designated by Member States for the purpose of performing documentary and identity checks, as defined in Article 3, points (41) and (42), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, concerning non-commercial movements of pet animals from a third country or territory.

## **Chapter 2**

### **General provisions for non-commercial movements of pet animals within and into the Union**

#### *Article 3*

##### **Single non-commercial movements**

A non-commercial movement of pet animals shall be limited to the maximum number of animals laid down in Article 246(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and in Article 21 of this Regulation, and is carried out in a single means of transport unless the means of transport is a public means of transport.

#### *Article 4*

##### **Requirements for authorising persons to carry out non-commercial movements of pet animals on behalf of pet owners**

Where a non-commercial movement is carried out by an authorised person, a written authorisation signed by the pet owner shall be attached to the identification document referred to in Articles 11(1), 18(1) and 20(a) for pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, and referred to in Article 26(1) for pet birds.

#### *Article 5*

##### **Requirements for transit of pet animals through the Union**

1. Pet animals not originating from any Member State and intended for a destination outside the Union shall only be permitted to transit through the Union if they comply with all the relevant requirements for the entry of pet animals of the respective species into a Member State from a third country or territory laid down in this Regulation.
2. No specific requirements shall apply to the transit of pet animals which do not enter the territory of a Member State and remain within the perimeter of the international zone of a port or airport of transit.

#### *Article 6*

##### **Special requirements for the entry into the Union of pet animals originating from, and returning to the Union following a refusal of entry by a third country or territory**

Pet animals originating from, and returning to the Union following a refusal of entry by the competent authority of a third country or territory of the animals or of the pet owner or authorised person shall only be permitted to re-enter the Union if the following requirements are fulfilled:

- (a) the pet animals are returned into the Union through a travellers’ point of entry;
- (b) the pet animals are accompanied by the following documents:

- (i) the passport referred to in Article 11(1) or any other valid document, including the animal health certificate issued by the competent authority of the Member State of origin, that accompanied the pet animals for the non-commercial movement to the third country or territory;
- (ii) where available, the official document of the competent authority or other public authority of the third country or territory, indicating the reasons for refusal.

## **PART II**

# **NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS OF PET DOGS, PET CATS OR PET FERRETS**

### **Chapter 1**

## **Non-commercial movement of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into a Member State from another Member State**

#### *Article 7*

#### **Requirements for the individual identification of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets moving into a Member State from another Member State**

1. For the purposes of the non-commercial movements from one Member State into another Member State, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall be individually identified, as required by Article 247, point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, as follows:
  - (a) by an injectable transponder implanted in accordance with Article 70 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 and complying with the requirements laid down in Article 70a of that Delegated Regulation; or
  - (b) where an injectable transponder does not comply with the technical requirements referred to in Article 70a, point (a), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, the pet owner or the authorised person shall provide the reading device which enables the verification of the individual identification of the animal upon request.
2. A pet dog, a pet cat or a pet ferret shall be deemed to comply with the requirements for individual identification referred to in paragraph 1, where it has been individually identified with:
  - (a) a transponder implanted before 1 January 2028, which does not contain the code of the country where the animal was initially identified;
  - (b) a clearly readable tattoo applied before 3 July 2011.

#### *Article 8*

#### **Specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures regarding pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets moving into a Member State from another Member State**

For the purposes of non-commercial movements from one Member State into another Member State, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall fulfil the following prevention and risk-mitigation measures, as required by Article 247, point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429:

- (a) they have received a complete primary course of anti-rabies vaccination at least 21 days prior to the date of movement, or have been re-vaccinated against rabies, in accordance with the validity requirements set out in Part 1 of Annex VII to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688<sup>10</sup>;
- (b) in the case of pet dogs moved to a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*, they have undergone a treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with Part 2(1) of Annex VII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 within a period of not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours prior to time of entering that Member State or zone.

#### *Article 9*

#### **Special requirements regarding anti-rabies vaccination for young pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets**

Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets less than 12 weeks old and which have not yet received an anti-rabies vaccination, or between 12 and 16 weeks old and which have received an anti-rabies vaccination, but for which the period of at least 21 days since the completion of the primary vaccination has not elapsed, may exceptionally be moved into a Member State from another Member State provided that:

- (a) the Member State of destination has authorised such movements in general and has informed the public on a dedicated website that such movements are authorised; and
- (b) one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
  - (i) the pet owner or an authorised person provides a signed declaration which states that from birth until the time of the non-commercial movement the pet animals have had no contact with kept terrestrial animals under suspicion of infection with rabies virus or wild animals of listed species susceptible to infection with rabies virus; or
  - (ii) the pet animals are accompanied by their mother, on whom they still depend, and it can be established from the individual identification document that, before their birth, the mother received an anti-rabies vaccination which complied with the validity requirements set out in Part 1 of Annex VII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688.

#### *Article 10*

#### **Special requirements regarding treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* for certain non-commercial movements of pet dogs**

1. Pet dogs may only be moved into the territory of a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis* without being treated against infestation with that disease, provided that they are moved directly from a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

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<sup>10</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 140, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2020/688/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/688/oj)).

2. Pet dogs may exceptionally be moved from a Member State or zone thereof without disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis* into the territory of a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from that disease, provided that:
  - (a) that Member State has authorised such movements in general and has informed the public on a dedicated website that such movements are authorised; and
  - (b) it can be established from the identification document referred to in Article 11(1) of this Regulation that such pet dogs have undergone a treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with Part 2(1) of Annex VII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 at least twice at an interval of a minimum period of 24 hours and of a maximum period of 28 days, and the treatment is repeated thereafter at regular intervals not exceeding 28 days; the regular treatment may end within 28 days of a previous treatment when the latter has been carried out in a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

#### *Article 11*

#### **Conditions for the identification document accompanying pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets moving into a Member State from another Member State**

1. For the purposes of non-commercial movements from one Member State into another Member State, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall be accompanied, as required by Article 247, point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, by an identification document in the form of the passport referred to in Article 71 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035.

Such passport shall comply with the following conditions:

- (a) it must be signed by the pet owner; and
  - (b) it must have been duly completed and issued in a Member State where the pet owner resides habitually, in accordance with Article 71a of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, thus certifying compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 8, points (a) and (b), and in Article 20, point (b)(ii), of this Regulation, where applicable.
2. Where necessary to demonstrate compliance with the conditions referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), a pet dog, a pet cat or a pet ferret may be accompanied by more than one passport.

#### *Article 12*

#### **Special requirements regarding the identification document for certain non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets**

1. Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets coming from a third country or territory where their pet owner resides habitually and that entered a Member State accompanied by the animal health certificate issued in accordance with Article 19, may be moved to another Member State, provided that:
  - (a) their entry into the Union has been properly documented in that animal health certificate by the competent authority carrying out the checks at the travellers' point of entry into the Union; and
  - (b) they continue to be accompanied by that animal health certificate for the period of validity provided in the second subparagraph of Article 18(1).

2. In the case of pet dogs moved to another Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*, compliance with the requirements in Article 8, point (b), shall be documented by the administering veterinarian in the animal health certificate referred to in paragraph 1.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into a Member State from a third country or territory**

#### *Article 13*

##### **Requirements for the individual identification of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets moving into a Member State from a third country or territory**

1. For the purposes of non-commercial movements into the Union, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall be individually identified, as required by Article 249(1), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, as follows:
  - (a) by an injectable transponder implanted by a veterinarian as referred to in Article 70, point (b)(i), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, and complying with Article 70, point (a) and Article 70a, point (a) and point (b)(i), of that Regulation; or
  - (b) where an injectable transponder does not comply with the technical requirements referred to in Article 70a, point (a), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, the pet owner or the authorised person shall provide the reading device which enables the verification of the individual identification of the animal upon request.
2. Where a pet dog, a pet cat or a pet ferret has been individually identified with a clearly readable tattoo applied before 3 July 2011, it shall be deemed to comply with the requirements for individual identification referred to in paragraph 1.

#### *Article 14*

##### **Specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures regarding pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets moving into a Member State from a third country or territory**

For the purposes of the non-commercial movements into the Union, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall fulfil, as required by Article 249(1), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, the following prevention and risk-mitigation measures:

- (a) they show no obvious signs of disease and are fit for the non-commercial movement;
- (b) they have received a complete primary course of anti-rabies vaccination at least 21 days prior to the date of movement, or have been re-vaccinated against rabies, in accordance with the validity requirements set out in Part 1 of Annex VII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688;
- (c) they have undergone a valid rabies antibody titration test in accordance with point 1 of Annex XXI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692;
- (d) in the case of pet dogs moved from a third country or territory to a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*, they have undergone a treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with point 2 of Annex XXI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

within a period of not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours prior to the time of entering that Member State or zone.

#### *Article 15*

##### **Entry into the Union of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets**

Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall only be moved into a Member State from a third country or territory through a travellers' point of entry designated by the Member State, except where:

- (a) such pet animals are moved from third countries or territories listed in Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25]<sup>11</sup>; or
- (b) where pet dogs are moved by military personnel, law enforcement personnel, or search-and-rescue teams from any third country or territory, provided that:
  - (i) the pet owner, the responsible person or the responsible unit has applied for a permit and the competent authority of the Member State where the animal enters into the Union has granted such a permit; and
  - (ii) the dog undergoes documentary and identity checks at a place designated by the competent authority in accordance with the arrangements set out in the permit referred to in point (i).

#### *Article 16*

##### **Special requirements regarding treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* for certain non-commercial movements of pet dogs into the Union**

Pet dogs may be moved into a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis* from a third country or territory listed in Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25] provided that:

- (a) that Member State has authorised such movements in general and has informed the public on a dedicated website that such movements are authorised;
- (b) it can be established from the identification document referred to in Article 20, point (a) of this Regulation, that such dogs have undergone a treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with Part 2(1) of Annex VII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 at least twice at an interval of a minimum period of 24 hours and of a maximum period of 28 days, and the treatment is repeated thereafter at regular intervals not exceeding 28 days; the regular treatment may end within 28 days of a previous treatment when the latter has been carried out in a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

#### *Article 17*

##### **Special requirements regarding the antibody titration test for certain non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into the Union**

1. Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets may be moved into the Union from a third country or territory without having undergone an antibody titration test referred to in Article 14, point (c) provided that the animals are moved from a third country or territory meeting the conditions set out in either the following point (a) or (b):

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<sup>11</sup> Publication Office to insert title, OJ and ELI references in due course.

- (a) the third country or territory has been included in the list set out in Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25] after it made an application to the Commission in which the third country or territory demonstrates that it applies rules for pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, the content and effect of which are equivalent to those laid down in Part II, Chapters 1 and 2 of this Regulation; or
  - (b) the third country or territory has been included in the list set out in Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25] after it made an application to the Commission in which the third country or territory demonstrates that it fulfils at least the following criteria:
    - (i) the notification to the competent authorities of rabies infection cases in kept and wild animals is compulsory in the respective country or territory;
    - (ii) an effective surveillance system for rabies in kept and wild animals has been in place for a period of at least two years prior to the date of the application, a minimum requirement of which is an on-going early detection programme to ensure the investigation and reporting of rabies suspect animals and an appropriate follow-up of any trend in infected animals, which includes for wild carnivores the collection and testing of a sufficient number of such animals found dead;
    - (iii) rules on the prevention and control of rabies are in force and implemented effectively in the event of the suspicion or confirmation of rabies infection and to prevent the risk of the spread of rabies infection in pet animals or by their movements, including rules on imports of pet animals from other countries or territories, and where appropriate, on the control of the stray dog and cat population, the vaccination of kept animals against rabies and the control and eradication of rabies in wildlife;
    - (iv) the structure and organisation of the competent authorities to whom the responsibility to organise or perform official control activities has been conferred, the powers of such competent authorities, the supervision to which they are subject and the means at their disposal, including staff and laboratory capacity, are sufficient to apply and enforce national legislation on the non-commercial movement of pet animals effectively;
    - (v) effective procedures and arrangements have been set up by the competent authorities to guarantee the validity and reliability of the identification documents used for non-commercial movements of pet animals, including measures to prevent the issuance of false or misleading identification documents or the abuse of such documents;
    - (vi) rules are in force on the licensing and marketing of anti-rabies vaccines.
2. Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall only be moved into the Union without having undergone an antibody titration test from a third country referred to in paragraph (1), point (a) or (b) where they comply with the conditions laid down in the following points (a), (b) or (c):
- (a) the animals are moved directly from a third country or territory appearing on a list referred to in point(1)(a) or (b), where their pet owner resides habitually; or

- (b) following a stay exclusively in one or more of the third countries or territories appearing on a list referred to in point(1)(a) or (b); or
- (c) after passing through a third country or territory other than those appearing on a list referred to in point(1)(a) or (b), provided that the pet owner or authorised person provides a signed declaration that during such movement the pet animals have had no contact with animals of listed species susceptible to infection with rabies virus and remained secured within a means of transport or within the perimeter of the international zone of a port or an airport.

#### *Article 18*

### **Conditions regarding the identification document for non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets into a Member State from a third country or territory**

1. For the purposes of the non-commercial movements into the Union, pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall be accompanied, as required by Article 249(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, by an identification document in the form of the animal health certificate set out in Annex III to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 26]<sup>12</sup>.

The animal health certificate shall be valid for a total period of six months from the date of the documentary and identity checks carried out at the travellers' point of entry into the Union or until the date of expiry of the validity of the anti-rabies vaccination, whichever date is earlier.

2. The animal health certificate referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain entries for the insertion of the following information:
  - (a) the location of the transponder or the tattoo and either the date of identification or the date of reading of the transponder or the tattoo, as well as the unique individual identification code displayed by the transponder or the tattoo;
  - (b) the date of birth as stated by the pet owner, the species, breed, sex and colour of the pet animal;
  - (c) a unique certificate reference number;
  - (d) the name and contact information of the pet owner;
  - (e) the name, contact information and signature of the official or authorised veterinarian of the third country or territory of dispatch issuing the animal health certificate and the date of issuing;
  - (f) details of the anti-rabies vaccination;
  - (g) the date of blood sampling for the rabies antibody titration test;
  - (h) details of the treatment against infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*;
  - (i) details of compliance with other specific animal health requirements for diseases or infections of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets;
  - (j) the name and the signature of the official veterinarian of the endorsing competent authority of the third country or territory of dispatch and the date of endorsement;

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<sup>12</sup> Publication Office to insert title, OJ and ELI references in due course.

- (k) information allowing for the identification of the competent authority carrying out the documentary and identity checks at the travellers' point of entry and the date of these checks.
3. A written declaration, signed by the pet owner or the authorised person, confirming that the movement of the pet animal into the Union is a non-commercial movement shall be attached to the animal health certificate referred to in paragraph 1.

#### *Article 19*

#### **Issuing and completion of the identification document**

Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall only be authorised to enter the Union if accompanied by an animal health certificate as referred to in Article 18(1) and where it can be established from that certificate that:

- (a) it has been issued either by an official veterinarian of the third country or territory of dispatch on the basis of supporting documentation, or by an authorised veterinarian and subsequently endorsed by the competent authority of the third country or territory of dispatch, after the issuing veterinarian:
  - (i) has verified that the pet animal is individually identified as referred to in Article 13;
  - (ii) has duly completed the relevant entries of the animal health certificate with the information listed in Article 18(2), points (a) to (j), thus certifying compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 13 and in Article 14, where applicable;
  - (iii) has verified that certified copies of the vaccination details and the official report from the laboratory, or a certified copy of that report, on the results of the rabies antibody titration test are attached to the animal health certificate; and
  - (iv) has verified that the declaration referred to in Article 18(3) confirming that the movement of the pet animal into the Union is a non-commercial movement is attached to the animal health certificate; and
- (b) it has been issued or endorsed in accordance with point (a) not more than 10 days prior to the date of entry into the Union. In the case of transport by sea, that period of 10 days shall be extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea.

#### *Article 20*

#### **Special requirements regarding the identification document for certain non-commercial movements of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets from a third country or territory into a Member State**

Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets may only be moved into the Union without being accompanied by the animal health certificate referred to in Article 18(1), provided that the pet animals:

- (a) are accompanied by a passport as set out in Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 26] which:
  - (i) has been signed by the pet owner;
  - (ii) has been issued in one of the third countries or territories listed in Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25] by an official veterinarian or an authorised veterinarian, as decided by the competent authority; and

- (iii) fulfils the conditions laid down in Article 71a of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, thus certifying compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 8, points (a) and (b), of this Regulation, where applicable; or
- (b) enter a Member State, after movement to or passing through a third country or territory from a Member State, and it can be established from the passport referred to in Article 11(1) that, before leaving the Union, the pet animals:
  - (i) were duly vaccinated against rabies as provided for in Article 8, point (a), and this vaccination is still valid at the time of return to the Union; and
  - (ii) have undergone, except in the cases provided for in Article 17(1) of this Regulation, the rabies antibody titration test provided for in Article 14, point (c), of this Regulation with a favourable result. The 90-day period required for the validity of the titration test as provided for in point 1 of Annex XXI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 shall not apply in this case.

In the case of pet dogs moved to a Member State or zone thereof with disease-free status from *Echinococcus multilocularis*, compliance with the requirements in Article 8, point (b), of this Regulation shall be documented by the administering veterinarian in the passport referred to in the first subparagraph.

## **PART III**

### **NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS OF PET BIRDS**

#### *Article 21*

#### **Maximum number of pet birds during a single non-commercial movement into a Member State from a third country or territory**

The number of pet birds which may be moved during a single non-commercial movement into a Member State from a third country or territory, shall not exceed five.

#### *Article 22*

#### **Requirements for the identification of pet birds for non-commercial movements into a Member State from a third country or territory**

1. For the purposes of non-commercial movements into the Union, pet birds shall be identified, as required by Article 250(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, by an individual, permanent, non-removable and legible identification means displaying a unique alphanumeric code.
2. The individual identification of pet birds moved into the Union as referred to in paragraph 1 shall have been applied to the animals prior to their entry or, where applicable, prior to their isolation, testing or vaccination against avian influenza of the H5 and H7 subtypes as provided for in Article 23.
3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, pet birds may be moved into the Union with a written description of either an individual pet bird or of a group of pet birds provided by the pet owner, where:
  - (a) the pet birds are moved in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 25; and
  - (b) the pet birds were placed in a container enabling the visual inspection of space where the animals are kept and sealed by the competent authority of the third

country or territory of dispatch prior to the non-commercial movement from that third country or territory.

### *Article 23*

#### **Specific prevention and risk-mitigation measures regarding pet birds moving into a Member State from a third country or territory**

1. For the purposes of the non-commercial movements into the Union, pet birds shall comply, as required by Article 250(2), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, with the following prevention and risk-mitigation measures:
  - (a) they come from a third country or territory which is a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH); and
  - (b) it can be established from the animal health certificate referred to in Article 26(1) of this Regulation that they fulfil one of the following sets of conditions:
    - (i) they originate from a third country or territory listed in the first column of the table set out in Part 1 of Annexes V, XIV or XIX to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, and they have undergone isolation under official supervision for a period of at least 30 days prior to the date of the non-commercial movement from the third country or territory; or
    - (ii) within the period of six months prior to the date of dispatch to the Union and not later than 60 days prior to the date of dispatch to the Union, they received a complete primary course of vaccination, and where applicable were revaccinated, in accordance with manufacturers' instructions with a licensed vaccine against avian influenza of the H5 and H7 subtypes, which must not have been a live-attenuated vaccine, and it must have been administered by an authorised veterinarian or an official veterinarian of the third country or territory of dispatch; or
    - (iii) in the third country or territory of dispatch, they were:
      - kept in isolation under the supervision of an authorised veterinarian or an official veterinarian for a period of at least 14 days prior to the date of the non-commercial movement from that third country or territory,
      - and
      - subjected to an avian influenza H5 and H7 antigen or genome detection test carried out with negative results on a sample taken by an authorised veterinarian or an official veterinarian not earlier than the seventh day of isolation; and
  - (c) it can be established from the animal health certificate referred to in Article 26(1) of this Regulation that:
    - (i) they have been subjected within a period of 48 hours of or on the last working day prior to the date of the non-commercial movement from the third country or territory to a clinical inspection by an authorised veterinarian or an official veterinarian of the third country or territory of dispatch and were found to be free of any obvious signs of disease and are fit for the non-commercial movement; and

- (ii) during the period between the clinical inspection referred to in point (i) and the departure from the third country or territory of dispatch, they have not been in contact with any other birds.
- 2. The documentation accompanying the pet birds demonstrates that the tests performed and the vaccines administered referred to in paragraph 1, points (b)(ii) and (iii), shall meet the requirements of the relevant parts of the chapter concerning avian influenza in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

#### *Article 24*

#### **Entry of pet birds into the Union**

- 1. Pet birds shall only be moved into a Member State from a third country or territory through a travellers' point of entry designated by the Member State, except where such pet animals come from third countries or territories listed in Annex III to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25].
- 2. Pet owners or authorised persons shall only move pet birds which have entered a Member State from a third country or territory directly from the travellers' point of entry to a household or another place of residence within the Union, where the pet birds shall be kept in isolation from other birds for a period of at least 30 days following the date of their entry into the Union.
- 3. Where the pet birds are not destined to stay in isolation in the Member State of entry, the pet owner or authorised person shall inform the Member State of final destination of the household or other place of residence where the pet birds shall be kept in isolation in accordance with paragraph 2.

#### *Article 25*

#### **Special requirements regarding pet birds moving into a Member State from a third country or territory**

- 1. Pet birds which do not comply with the conditions laid down in Article 23(1), point (b) may only be moved into a Member State from a third country or territory if they comply with the following conditions:
  - (a) they are destined for a quarantine establishment approved in accordance with Article 14 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 in the Member State of destination, where they shall undergo quarantine for a period of at least 30 days immediately after their arrival in the Union;
  - (b) the pet owner or authorised person shall move the pet birds directly from the travellers point of entry into the Union to the approved quarantine establishment referred to in point (a);
  - (c) the birds are released from quarantine only on the written authorisation of an official veterinarian.
- 2. The competent authority of the Member State of destination shall:
  - (a) monitor the arrival of the pet birds to the approved quarantine establishment referred to in paragraph (1), point (a);

- (b) inspect the conditions of quarantine, including an examination of the mortality records and a clinical inspection of the birds, at least at the beginning and the end of the quarantine period.

#### *Article 26*

### **Conditions regarding the identification document for non-commercial movements of pet birds into a Member State from a third country or territory**

1. For the purposes of non-commercial movements into the Union, pet birds shall be accompanied, as required by Article 250 (2), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, by an identification document in the form of an animal health certificate set out in Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 26].
2. The animal health certificate referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain entries for the insertion of the following information:
  - (a) the type of identification means, as well as the alphanumeric code displayed by the identification means;
  - (b) the species of the pet bird;
  - (c) a unique certificate reference number;
  - (d) the seal number of the container where the pet birds are not individually identified in the third country or territory of dispatch;
  - (e) the name and contact information of the pet owner;
  - (f) the name, contact information and signature of the official or authorised veterinarian of the third country or territory of dispatch issuing the animal health certificate and the date of issuing;
  - (g) details of compliance with the specific animal health requirements for diseases or infections of pet birds;
  - (h) arrangements for the handling of the pet birds after their arrival in the Union;
  - (i) the name and the signature of the official veterinarian of the endorsing competent authority of the third country or territory of dispatch and the date of endorsement;
  - (j) information allowing for the identification of the competent authority carrying out the checks at the travellers' point of entry and the date of these checks;
3. A written declaration, signed by the pet owner or the authorised person, confirming that the movement of the pet bird into the Union is a non-commercial movement and indicating the pre- and post-movement arrangements made, shall be attached to the animal health certificate referred to in paragraph 1.

#### *Article 27*

### **Issuing and completion of the identification document for non-commercial movements of pet birds into a Member State from a third country or territory**

1. Pet birds shall only be authorised to enter the Union if accompanied by the animal health certificate as referred to in Article 26(1) and where it can be established from that certificate that it has been issued either by an official veterinarian of the third country or territory of dispatch on the basis of supporting documentation, or by an

authorised veterinarian and subsequently endorsed by the competent authority of the third country or territory of dispatch, after the issuing veterinarian:

- (a) has verified that the pet birds were identified as referred to in Article 22; and
  - (b) has duly completed the relevant entries of the animal health certificate:
    - (i) with the information referred to in Article 26(2), points (a) to (i), thus certifying compliance with the conditions laid down in Articles 22 and in Article 23(1), points (a), (b) and (c), where applicable;
    - (ii) on the basis of a written declaration by the pet owner or the authorised person as referred to in Article 26(3), attached to that animal health certificate;
    - (iii) on the basis of evidence provided by the pet owner or the authorised person that arrangements have been made for quarantine of the pet birds in a quarantine establishment approved in accordance with Article 14 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, in the case of pet birds that are to undergo quarantine in accordance with Article 25 of this Regulation.
2. Pet birds shall only be authorised to enter the Union where it can also be established from the animal health certificate referred to in paragraph 1 that it has been issued or endorsed not more than 10 days prior to the date of entry into the Union. In the case of transport by sea, that period of 10 days shall be extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea.

#### *Article 28*

#### **Derogation from the requirements for the non-commercial movement of pet birds into a Member State from certain third countries**

By way of derogation from Articles 22, 23 and 25 to 27 of this Regulation, Member States shall authorise the non-commercial movement into a Member State of pet birds from a third country or territory listed in Annex III to Implementing Regulation (EU) [C(2026) 25].

## **PART IV SPECIAL RULES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS OF PET ANIMALS WITHIN AND INTO MEMBER STATES**

#### *Article 29*

#### **Derogation for non-commercial movements of pet animals under certain specified circumstances**

1. By way of derogation from the conditions provided for in Articles 7 to 20 for pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets, and in Articles 22 to 27 for pet birds, Member States may, in exceptional situations, authorise the non-commercial movement into their territory of pet animals which do not comply with the conditions laid down in those Articles provided that:
  - (a) a prior application for a permit has been made by the owner to the competent authority of the Member State of destination and that competent authority has granted the permit;

- (b) the competent authority has carried out a risk assessment concluding that the non-commercial movement poses low risk or no specific risk if carried out under the arrangements set out in the permit;
- (c) the pet animals comply with the arrangements set out by the competent authority in the permit, which may include isolation under official supervision for the time necessary for them to fulfil those conditions which must not exceed a period of six months and be:
  - (i) at a place designated by the competent authority; and
  - (ii) in accordance with the arrangements set out in the permit.

This permit may also include an authorisation for passing through another Member State if that Member State has given its prior agreement to the Member State of destination.

2. The permit referred to in paragraph 1 may be granted, by way of derogation from paragraph 1, point (a), upon arrival into the territory of the Member State of destination.

## **PART V**

### **TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### *Article 30*

##### **Transitional measures regarding identification means of pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets**

Pet dogs, pet cats or pet ferrets shall be deemed to comply with the requirements for their individual identification set out in Article 7(1), where those pet animals were individually identified in accordance with Article 17 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 before 22 April 2026.

#### *Article 31*

##### **Transitional measures regarding the identification documents used for the purposes of non-commercial movements referred to in Articles 249(1) and 250(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429**

Identification documents shall be deemed to comply with this Regulation where they were:

- (a) drawn up in accordance with the model animal health certificate set out in Annex IV, Part 1 to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013<sup>13</sup> and issued before 22 April 2026; or
- (b) drawn up in accordance with:
  - (i) the model passport established by Commission Decision 2003/803/EC<sup>14</sup> and issued before 29 December 2014; or

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<sup>13</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 109, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2013/577/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2013/577/oj)).

- (ii) the model passport set out in Annex III, Part 3 to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 and issued before 22 April 2026.
- (c) drawn up in accordance with the model animal health certificate set out in Part 1 of the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1938<sup>15</sup>; and issued before 22 April 2026.

#### *Article 32*

##### **Repeals**

The following Delegated Regulations are repealed as from 22 April 2026:

- (a) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772;
- (b) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1933.

#### *Article 33*

##### **Entry into force and application**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 22 April 2026.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20.1.2026

*For the Commission*

*The President*

*Ursula VON DER LEYEN*

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<sup>14</sup> Commission Decision 2003/803/EC of 26 November 2003 establishing a model passport for the intra-Community movements of dogs, cats and ferrets (OJ L 312, 27.11.2003, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2003/803/oj>).

<sup>15</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1938 of 9 November 2021 establishing the model identification document for non-commercial movements of pet birds into a Member State from a territory or a third country and repealing Decision 2007/25/EC (OJ L 396, 10.11.2021 P. 47, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2021/1938/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/1938/oj)).