

# DEAR UKRAINIAN FRIENDS

## Help us keep Belgium free from rabies.



Welcome to you and your pets! The Belgian veterinary professional associations and the Belgian veterinarians are **happy to welcome you and your pets**.

We will help you ensure that your pets (dogs, cats, ferrets, etc.) comply with European regulations.

The procedure to be followed:

- You must **go to a veterinarian** in the municipality where you are going to live (their names can be obtained from the municipal authorities at the time of your registration).
- If your pet animal **is identified by means of a chip and has a passport**, take this passport with you when you go to see the veterinarian so that its identity and vaccination status can be checked.
- If your pet **has not been identified**, the veterinarian will identify your animal and administer the **mandatory rabies vaccination**. You will also receive a European pet passport.
- If your pet has not been **vaccinated against rabies** at the time of its arrival in Belgium, the veterinarian will vaccinate the animal. **You must limit your pet's contacts** with other animals and people outside of the family circle.

**The FASFC** will pay part of the vaccination costs (**30 euros excluding VAT**). The remainder of the amount will have to be paid by the animal's owner.

Sciensano<sup>[1]</sup> offers rabies antibody **titration tests for free**, giving you and your animals more freedom of movement. The veterinarian will take a blood sample.

It is also important to **monitor your pet's health** during the 4 months following its arrival in Belgium.

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ALL THE BEST OF LUCK.

All Belgian veterinarians are at your service for further information.



[1]Belgian National Reference Laboratory for Animal Diseases



# WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a disease that can infect dogs, cats and ferrets (as well as other mammals) and which can be transmitted to humans **through contact with the saliva of an infected animal (through bites, scratches or licks to wounds)**. Worldwide, around 55,000 people die from rabies each year, many of whom are children. Belgium has been officially free from rabies since 2001. Considering that there are still cases of rabies in Ukraine, together we must ensure that dogs, cat or ferrets from Ukraine do not bring this disease into Belgium.

## WHAT ARE SUSPICIOUS SYMPTOMS YOU CAN OBSERVE IN AN ANIMAL?

The most important symptoms of rabies are:

- **aggression**
- **excitement**
- **abnormal behaviour** (fear of water)

Other, less common symptoms are:

- fever
- generalized illness
- **excessive salivation**
- refusal to eat
- sexual excitement
- hypersensitivity to light and loud noises
- muscle cramps
- paralysis

## WHAT SHOULD I DO?

It is possible that the symptoms of rabies **only appear after a few months**. Therefore, it is important to take the following precautions **during the 4 months following your pet's arrival in the European Union:**

- **Limit your pet's contacts** with people and animals outside of the family circle
- **Monitor** your pet's behaviour and health

**If your pet bites a person or another animal in this 4-month period, you should immediately contact a veterinarian to have your pet checked for rabies.** There is a treatment for rabies in humans, but this treatment must be administered as soon as possible after the infection took place. **If your pet has bitten a person, that person should immediately consult a doctor** and provide all necessary information regarding the circumstances and the animal's origin.



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