

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
BY DEPUTY C.S. ALVES OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st MAY 2019**

Question

Given that the current advice (available on www.gov.je) regarding pet travel after Brexit states that cats or dogs should have a “*blood test after the rabies vaccination to confirm that the pet is adequately protected*”, will the Minister provide the percentage of cats and dogs which have failed the blood test but which were vaccinated with the rabies vaccine prior to 2019 and were still within the 3 years vaccination validity period?

Answer

The Deputy’s question relates to the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) and the advice published on the Government of Jersey website if there is ‘no deal’ Brexit. In the event of a ‘no deal’ Brexit, Jersey would be seen by the EU as a third country with no listed or preferential status.

The PETS allows owners to travel to EU countries with their pets (cats, dogs and ferrets only). Animals coming to the EU from third countries are required by the EU to have a blood test at least 30 days after rabies vaccination. Animals’ antibodies will be at their highest around this time and then slowly decline over time. Some animals may have up to date rabies vaccination but if not recently vaccinated they may fail the blood test. In this situation the vet would probably advise the owner to revaccinate the animal to boost antibody levels and then retest the animal. Many vets may advise an owner to revaccinate if not recently vaccinated for this purpose before doing a blood test in the first place to reduce the chance of failing the blood test. Obviously additional vaccination and testing incurs greater costs for owners. Owners are advised to seek advice on this matter from their private vet.

The PETS is administered by authorised vets and they carry out the required blood tests. There is no requirement for authorised vets to notify the Government of Jersey of the blood tests carried out or the results of any tests.

The Government of Jersey do not hold the information requested by the Deputy.