

IMPORTANT VETERINARY HEALTH INFORMATIONS AND DISEASE RISKS FOR THE TRAVELLING PET IN ITALY

Many thousands of dogs and cats are travelling into Italy for a short tourist trip or for a longer professional or business stay of their owners. These animals travel with the EU Passport or with Import certificates issued by the local veterinary authorities of the countries they come from. They are vaccinated against rabies and some are vaccinated against the most common viral diseases and treated before traveling for endoparasites like the tapeworm and against fleas and ticks.

Formally no other health related requests are needed to be addressed and often the pet owners in our long lasting clinical experience here in Rome are not aware about health and disease risks for their pets in Italy itself.

With this article we aim to provide some practical advice on the most important among the potentially fatal diseases which may be transmitted to your cat or dog. And you have to be aware that some of this diseases are also zoonotic and can be transmitted to man once your pet is infected. The tricky thing is, that most of this diseases show no sign for months after infection and the animal is a long time in a carrier state without showing any signs of the disease which could you make aware about the problem. The way of disease transmission is generally by live vectors like fleas, sand flies, mosquitoes or ticks.

The table here aims to inform you about specific disease risks in Italy and the Mediterranean area generally and gives some basic indications on specific diseases prevention to be adopted as soon you arrive to Italy.

Contact a local veterinarian as soon as possible after arriving to Italy, to have all your vaccination schedules adapted to the local disease situation and adopt a number of preventative measures to reduce infection by vector born diseases, like Leishmaniosis, Ehrlichiosis and Filariosis, you should absolutely be informed about, as your dog or cat can catch up and most foreign pet owners are not aware about. Official Health Requirements generally focus on public health issues in order to reduce risk of importation of rabies, however this precautions do not prevent pets from contracting other exotic diseases to you, but present in Italy.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFO CONTACT US AT: PHONE ++39/339/3627765

Name of disease	Way of transmission	Incubation period	Mode of prevention
Leishmaniasis	Blood feeding sandflies	Months or years	Spot On Repellant drugs & Vaccination
Ehrlichiosis	Blood feeding ticks	8-20 days	Spot On Repellant drugs& oral tetracycline
Dirofilariasis or Heartworm disease	Blood feeding mosquitoes	Months to years	Spot On Repellant drugs & monthly pills or 12 months lasting antiparasite injection
Babesiosis	Blood feeding ticks	10-21 days	Spot On Repellant drugs