**Special Measures in Place for People Travelling to Northern Ireland (NI) with Pets (Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) from Ukraine, and for UK/EU Citizens Travelling from Russia**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) have put special arrangements in place to facilitate the non-commercial movement of pets with their owners from Ukraine and for UK/EU citizens currently in Russia wishing to return to NI with their pets in emergency circumstances.

This Department recognises the difficult and distressing situation that citizens fleeing Ukraine currently face and that individuals in these circumstances would not have had time to complete the correct health preparations to travel with their pets.

Refugees fleeing Ukraine can bring their pets with them when coming to NI.

Even if your pet is non-compliant with full EU Pet Travel Scheme rules they will be allowed to enter NI. This includes where there is incomplete or missing documentation, absence of blood testing or vaccinations / treatments.

Arrangements will be made by DAERA to collect the pet at point of entry into NI/ROI/GB and transport it to a DAERA approved isolation facility to further assess compliance with the entry requirements. Please bring as much documentation about your pets as you can, e.g. vaccination or vet records.

In most cases, pets from Ukraine will be required to spend a period of time in a NI approved quarantine facility in order to become compliant. In the first instance pets will be taken to these facilities for assessment.

While non-compliant pets in these circumstances will be permitted to travel to NI it is very likely that pets will be quarantined.

The period of quarantine is usually for a period of three months following a successful blood test (from an EU approved laboratory) demonstrating that the animal has an effective immune response to a rabies vaccination.

These will be assessed on a case by case basis with the outcome dependant on the level of health preparation and documentation accompanying each pet**.**

Please note the Department is requiring that the quarantine period is served in an approved quarantine facilities at this juncture.

DAERA will cover the costs of any necessary health preparations, quarantine stay and approved transportation to quarantine destination for the pets of those fleeing Ukraine.

It is imperative that if you are travelling with pets to NI please contact DAERA Trade Imports either by email at daeratradeimports@daera-ni.gov.uk or phone on **0044 2890 524412** as soon as possible.

Staff will then issue you with instructions.