



**EASY ITALIA: 1st Quarter 2011 BEST PRACTICES –
VISA APPLICATIONS, PERMITS, AUTHORIZATIONS**

1)

A CANADIAN TOURIST ASKS: Hello, my Canadian passport expires on July 25th, 2011: will it still be valid until next April? I am in fact planning a two-week trip to Venice.

ANSWER: As a result of the checks carried out on the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we inform the customer that, in the case of entry into Italy for tourism reasons, for a stay not exceeding 90 days, he will not need an entry visa and will be allowed to enter Italy provided with his national passport valid for the entire period of the stay in Italy.

2)

AN AMERICAN TOURIST ASKS: I already own a passport and the International Driving License: are other documents required in order to enter and travel in Italy? Do I need to register with the U.S. Embassy in Italy? Thank you.

ANSWER: We examine the new Highway Code (Legislative Decree No. 285 of 30/04/1992), whose art. No. 135 specifies that, in order to be allowed to drive in Italy, it is sufficient to own an International Driving Permit or an International Driving License.

With regard to entry into our country, after checking the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we inform the client that, in the case of entry into Italy for tourism reasons, for a stay not exceeding 90 days, there is no entry visa required.

3)

AN ENGLISH TOURIST ASKS: I am planning to come soon to Italy with my dog. I am in possession of Form No. 998, required by the European Commission: are other specific modules required? Can I bring food for my dog?

ANSWER: We forward to the customer the information provided by the Ministry of Health about health issues of responsibility of the Ministry (Department of Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety) with regard to dogs arriving in Italy with their owners.

- Vaccinations

In order to be allowed to travel abroad it is required to make the animal get vaccinated against rabies at least one month before departure.

It is advisable, however, to always carry around the health card issued by your personal vet, on which all previous vaccinations had by the dog are recorded.

Regardless of the destination (Italy or abroad), where vaccinations are not explicitly required, it is still very important to protect your pet from potential aggression of pathogens living in different geographical areas.

You can, in this case, carry out a vaccination, give the pet specific drugs that prevent the germination of the infection and observe strict hygiene rules as well.

For example, in Sardinia, echinococcus, a particular type of tapeworm, is generally widespread. You can protect your dog by giving it only cooked meat and, after returning from vacation, it would be better for the dog to make a complete check and a stool test.

Please note that dogs and cats moving within the country do not require vaccination against rabies, however the shipping companies or airlines may require it.

Around the Mediterranean basin (for Italy – in areas such as Sardinia, Argentario, Elba, Sicily and other

southern regions) the danger is represented by sand flies, an insect that can transmit leishmaniasis. In those areas, it is better not to let the pet sleep outside at night and constantly distribute pesticides on the dog hair. In Northern Italy or in any other humid and flat areas as the Po Valley, it is necessary to protect your pet from heartworm disease, a widespread and dangerous disease that can be prevented by giving the dog specific tablets. It is always advisable, however, to proceed with vaccination against rabies.

- Passport

From October 1st 2004, the new EU health regulations governing the movement of pets among Member Countries came into force.

The new regulations concern the movement, for non-commercial purposes, of pets travelling with their owners or an individual who takes responsibility on behalf of the owner.

Entry from EU Countries. Pets travelling with their owners or other responsible individuals must have the EU passport, as established by the Commission Decision 2003\803\EC of November 26th 2003, and must be identified by a microchip or a clearly readable tattoo.

The passport, issued by a veterinarian authorized by the competent authority in the country of origin, must certify the fulfilment of vaccination against rabies and, where appropriate, a new valid vaccination against rabies. For passport issue process you should contact the Veterinary Services of the EU country of origin.

For pets' entry in Italy you do not need a preventive treatment against ticks and echinococcosis.

However it is advisable to contact the Italian Consulate in your country (of which we provide the contact details) in order to get updated information on health requirements.

In short, when you move to a different region or country, you must:

- Keep in mind the different regulations of the various airlines, shipping and railway companies;
- Contact the Italian Consulate for updated information on health requirements;
- Comply with the regulations established by the European Union since October 1st 2004.

According to what reported on the Italian official website "Turisti a 4 zampe" (*Travelling in Italy with your pets*) it is possible to carry around food for your own pet:

<http://www.turistia4zampe.it/index.php/en/packing-a-four-legged-suitcase>