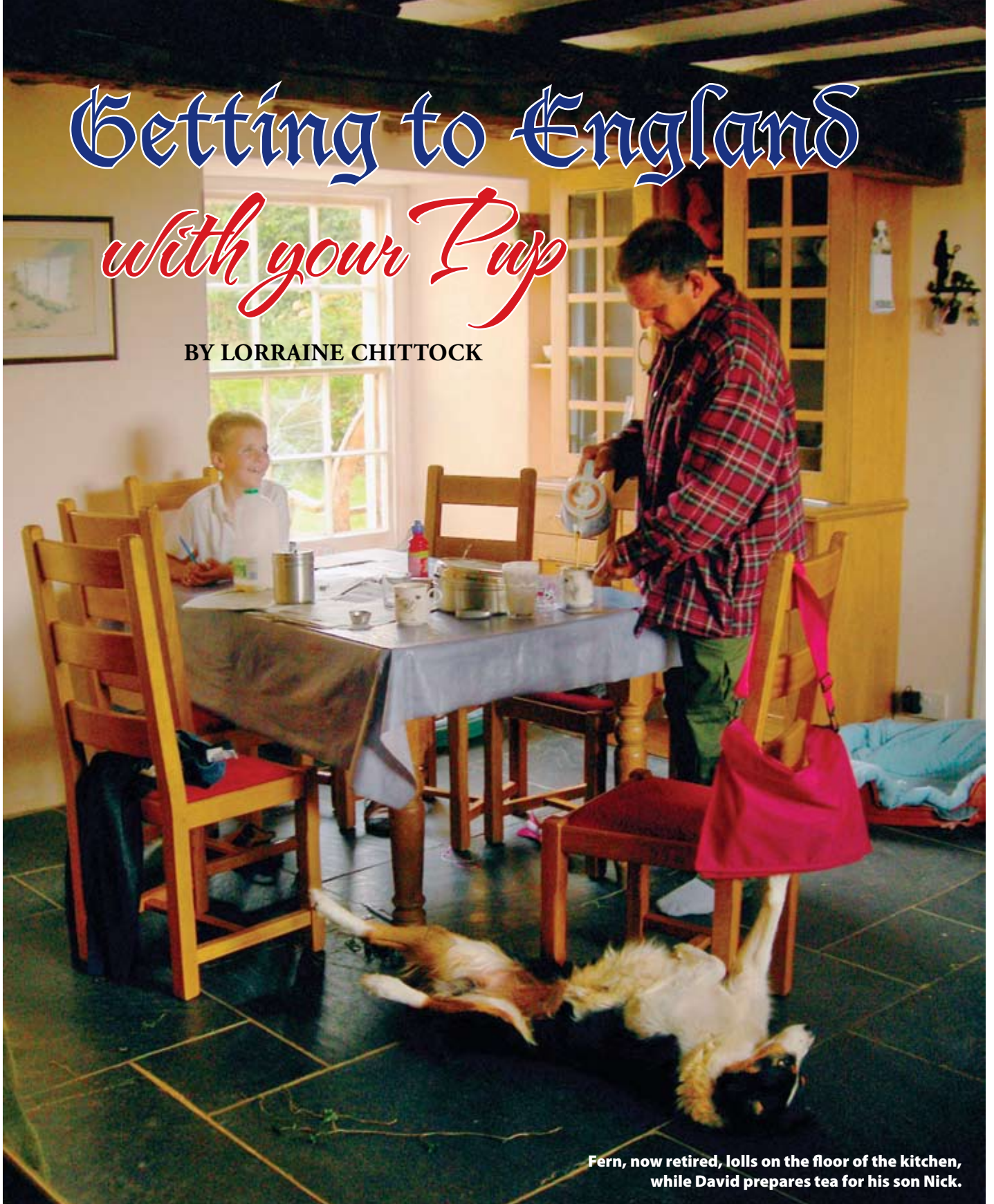


# Getting to England with your Pup

BY LORRAINE CHITTOCK



**Fern, now retired, lolls on the floor of the kitchen, while David prepares tea for his son Nick.**

**W**ith one aging English parent living in the United Kingdom, and the other possibly returning, I sensed the need to prepare myself and my dogs for a potential trip to my country of heritage. I knew ways now existed for Dog and Bruiser to enter without being subjected to six months of quarantine—a grueling experience my

first dog underwent on two separate occasions when my parent couldn't decide where to live. But perusing the new regulations on the Defra website gave me vertigo. Even the acronym for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs sent my head spinning.

Strength came in knowing I would not be the first to take advantage



**In Somerset, the prehistoric Tarr Steps on the River Barle draws people and their pets from all over England. Here's Chuck and Berry resting with their person after playing in the water.**



**Nick, David Kennard's son practices his herding skills.**

## Shepherding Dogs in Devon

*"That'll do, Swift. Swift, that'll do," David Kennard says, repeating the sheep herding command to make a dog stop working. But the retired Border Collie who's snuck out from the farmhouse kitchen clearly doesn't want to quit. David tries the whistle. With a different set of whistles paired with each dog, the tones are designed to communicate at tremendous distances through Devon's thick winter fog.*

*"Swift! No! Oh Swift..." David cries in exasperation. Her eagerness to be part of the roundup is clearly causing chaos. David resorts to holding her collar while the other two Border Collies resume work.*

*While David Kennard always knew he wanted to be a shepherd, the fame he's received from his best-selling books, *The Shepherds Watch**

*and *The Dogs of Windcutter Down* has been a surprise—and a welcome one. Faced with similar financial dilemmas as many farmers in America, David began sheepherding demonstrations for local residents and tourists, and then produced a film in a successful attempt to save his ailing farm.*

*If you can't make it to Devon during the summer months to see the Borough Farm sheepdogs in action, Kennard's film, *The Year of the Working Sheepdog* depicts his collies' lives throughout the course of a year. The video makes use of Devon's varied scenery as a backdrop, with dramatically sheer cliffs dropping to where seals swim in turbulent seas below, while showing the dogs engaging in work that dates back to Neolithic times.*

of England's new Pet Travel Scheme (PETS), which began late in 2002. The year before, only 23,000 dogs entered the U.K. This year more than 70,000 dogs will romp directly from a variety of countries into England's open fields. Not wanting my Kenyan dogs to miss a new travel opportunity, I steadied myself for another look at the Defra website.

My heart sank. Instruction manuals for DVD players bear an uncanny resemblance for guidance on taking your precious pooch to the land of pubs, pickled onions and Pims. But rest assured. Though the language may be confusing, taking an animal to the United Kingdom is far easier than it first appears. It is the order and timing of the steps that are crucial.

***Get a microchip inserted by your vet...  
Once the chip is inserted, have the  
traveling dog get a rabies shot.  
It's crucial the rabies inoculation  
comes after the microchip is inserted.***

If you live in a major metropolitan area such as Houston, which regularly accommodates rotating expatriates in-between stretches of time working overseas, you are in luck. These are the places where you can more easily find vets familiar with the procedures. If you live in a small town, it would be best to print "What vets need to do" from the Defra website, so your vet has time to review the technicalities.

Like making a new recipe, here are the key ingredients and steps:

Get a microchip inserted by your vet. The microchip needs to use ISO Standards in order to be read by the U.K. microchip readers. Home Again is one of those brands.

Once the chip is inserted, have the traveling dog get a rabies shot.

It's crucial the rabies inoculation comes after the microchip is inserted.

Ask your vet to send a blood sample to the FAVN Rabies Laboratory in Kansas, or send it yourself by carefully following proper ice packing guidelines and using an overnight delivery service. This is currently the only valid institution in the U.S. providing the service. Their website is: [www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies](http://www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies)

If you are a U.S. government employee or a military service member being assigned overseas on official orders, you can also use Veterinary Command Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory, or VETCOM, in Texas.

Get the results of the blood test from your vet. Confirm the rabies titer is equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/ml. For our purposes, the term titer refers to the strength of the dog's immunological reaction to rabies in the blood. If the level is satisfactory, the dog is considered sufficiently immune. But if your dog fails the blood test, there needs to be another vaccination and subsequent blood test.

Wait six months. During this period, your pet cannot leave America. It is assumed a rabid animal will show signs of being infected, so the wait is to ensure your dog was not already infected with rabies before the vaccine.

After the six months, your dog can be issued an official PETS Certificate. Ask your vet if they are authorized to issue one—not all vets can. On the certificate, there will be two dates—one that specifies “valid from” and the other “valid until.” Your dog can only enter the U.K. between those two dates. If you decide not to travel to the U.K. during this time period, make sure to ask your vet for a rabies booster and renewal certificate before the “valid until” date in order to keep your PETS Certificate current and valid.

24 to 48 hours before boarding the plane, your dog needs to be treated for tick and tapeworm. For tapeworm, vets must use a parasite treatment including praziquantel. For ticks, any product with a marketing organization within the United States and Canada is acceptable. An official U.S. government certificate is required for this step, therefore you are not allowed to do this treatment yourself. Also not acceptable is a private veterinary certificate or letterhead. The certificate must show your dog's microchip number, the date and time of treatment, and the treatment products used. The vet must sign, stamp and date the certificate.


Here's the bad news. You will not be permitted to fly with your pet under your seat. The animal must be in cargo, so make sure your pet carrier follows the IATA (International Air Transport Association) standards. Your dog will only be allowed to fly specific airlines and routes detailed on the Defra website under “routes.” Dogs cannot arrive via private plane or boat.

An official seal will be placed by customs on the door of the pet carrier. To the authorities in England, a broken seal means your dog has gotten out and potentially been exposed to rabies while in transit.

When you and your dog arrive at either Heathrow, Gatwick or Manchester airport, you will need to sign a document agreeing your pet has not left American soil since the blood tests were done. This is the Declaration of Residence or PETS 3 Form.

There is some minor customs paperwork required upon entry into England. Ask the airline if they can make arrangements for you in advance at your arrival point.

Now Fido is successfully in England, he can travel freely within England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man without any extra documentation. But to be on the safe side, bring your PETS documents with you.

If you have a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dog Argentino or a Filo Brasileiro, your dog will not be allowed to visit. 

*For more detailed information, go to the Pet Travel Scheme at [www.defra.co.uk](http://www.defra.co.uk) or call the Defra PETS Help-line at 011-44-870-241-1710*

*Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. U.K. time.*



Art Bark Fest

Animal Art • Wine • Music • Pets

Sept 15th & 16th ~ 11am-5pm

Lake Tahoe, Ca

Animal Art ~ Music

Events ~ Raffle ~ Benefit

Wine Tasting 1-5pm

Info: [TheBarkFestival.com](http://TheBarkFestival.com)

Brought to you by: **FIDO FRIENDLY** 

The Travel Association for You & Your Dog