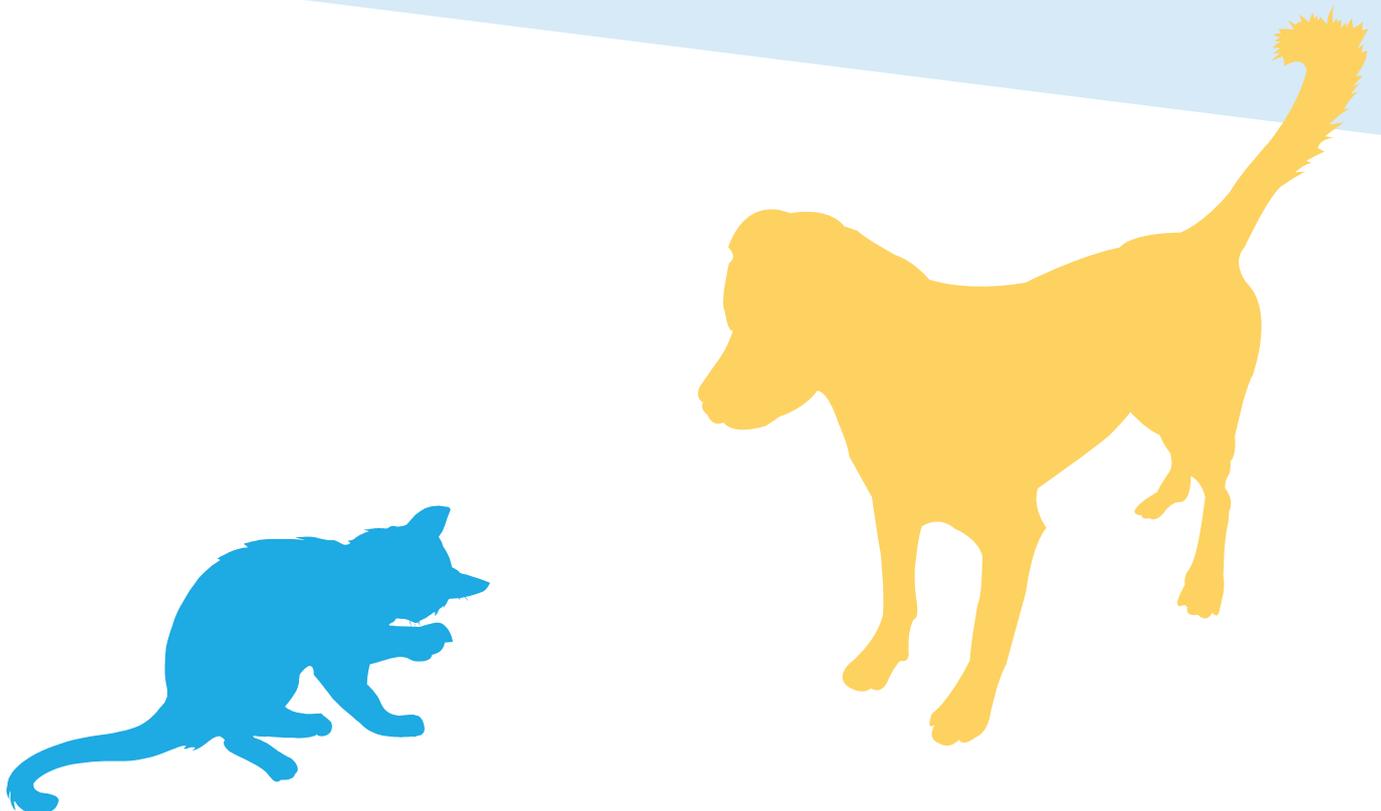




EU DOG & CAT  
ALLIANCE

# The welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices:

a review of the legislation across EU countries



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# Executive Summary

**The EU Dog & Cat Alliance was established in 2014 and brings together dog and cat welfare organisations from across the EU. The Alliance is calling for EU action to build a better Europe for dogs and cats.**

Currently there is no EU legislation protecting cats and dogs in the context of commercial practices, other than rules on transport and health requirements when moved over borders. Legislation to protect the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices is therefore left to EU Member States. National legislation can vary greatly across the EU, with strict legislation in some countries, and little at all in others. This situation can have serious consequences for animal welfare, but also for animal health, human health, consumer protection and the functioning of the internal market.

To assess the national legislation relating to dogs and cats involved in commercial practices in the EU, the EU Dog & Cat Alliance gathered information on identification and registration, breeding, trade and surgical mutilations from each of the EU's 27 Member States on the basis of a list of questions. The results are summarised in this report.

'National legislation can vary greatly across the EU, with strict legislation in some countries, and little at all in others.'

'This situation can have serious consequences for animal welfare, but also for animal health, human health, consumer protection and the functioning of the internal market.'

## Results

**The identification and registration of dogs** is currently compulsory in 22 Member States. Although most Member States have a national database of registered dogs, the majority of these databases are not linked to an EU database, preventing full traceability when dogs are moved over EU borders. For cats, only seven Member States impose compulsory identification and registration at national level, while in a further five countries, only some regions have rules in place to impose it.

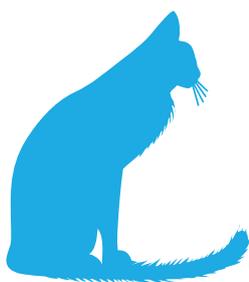
**Commercial breeders** need to be registered and/or licensed in most Member States but licensing requirements vary widely and the definition of commercial breeders is not at all harmonised across countries. The requirements breeders have to comply with also vary widely between countries for example around:

- Whether breeding establishments must be inspected by the competent authority before they may start breeding
- Licensing and registration of breeders, as not all countries have a national database
- Provisions on the socialisation of puppies and kittens
- Provisions to prevent selective breeding of dogs and cats with genetic problems

**Traders** of dogs and cats must be licensed in the majority of Member States. The sale of dogs and cats is allowed in pet shops in 20 Member States, and the sale of cats in pet shops in 1 additional Member State; the sale of dogs and cats at markets is allowed in 15 Member States; there is no legal minimum age at which a puppy or kitten can be sold in 10 Member States; where there is a legal minimum age for sale this varies between seven to eight weeks for puppies and seven and twelve weeks for kittens. In some Member States, cat and dog trade is not regulated at all.

**Surgical mutilations** such as tail docking, ear cropping, declawing and devocalisation are prohibited in most Member States as a rule. However, the tail docking of dogs is still permitted in 5 Member States and exemptions under specific circumstances are also given in an additional 8 Member States.

'The lack of a system for identification and registration of dogs and cats, which is accessible across the EU, means there is currently little traceability when animals are moved.'

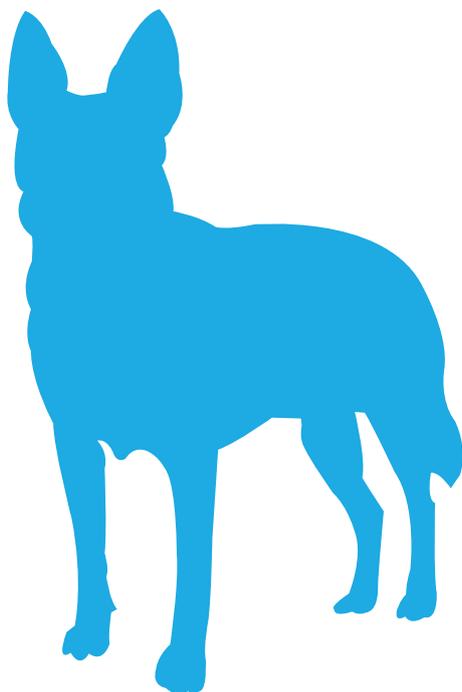


## Conclusions

These results confirm the wide variation across countries and highlight substantial gaps in the national legislation protecting cats and dogs involved in commercial practices. Without EU legislation to harmonise the legislation across EU Member States, this is likely to have serious implications not only on dog and cat welfare, but also on key areas in which the EU has competence to legislate: public health, consumer protection and on the functioning of the internal market. The key findings are summarised below and where these relate to an area of EU competence, this is highlighted in bold.

- The lack of a system for identification and registration of dogs and cats, which is accessible across the EU, means there is currently little traceability when animals are moved across borders. This poses a risk to animal and **public health** in the case of a disease outbreak, and to **consumer protection** when purchasers are unable to trace where their new pet has come from.
- Poor standards during breeding can result in serious welfare problems and increased health risks. This poses a risk to **consumer protection** when purchasers are faced with unexpectedly high veterinary bills for their new pet. Poor socialisation of puppies and kittens can also lead to behaviour problems. Behaviour problems are one of the top reasons for animals being handed over to a rehoming organisation by owners. The variation in breeding standards also has an impact on the cost of breeding, resulting in distortion of competition between Member States, undermining the **functioning of the internal market** and presenting a clear incentive for illegal trade.
- The large variations in national legislation on the trade of dogs and cats can result in serious problems. Where puppies and kittens are sold from pet shops, markets, over the internet or through a trader other than the breeder, owners may be unaware of where and how their new pet has been bred and the experiences they have had. This **poses a consumer protection** risk where owners are unknowingly purchasing pets which are likely to have, or to develop, health or behaviour problems. This also impacts the **functioning of the internal market** where traders in some countries are at a competitive disadvantage compared to other countries.

'Where puppies and kittens are sold from pet shops, markets, over the internet or through a trader other than the breeder, owners may be unaware of where and how their new pet has been bred and the experiences they have had.'



The full report, and an overview of key points for each EU country, are available at: [www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/national-legislation](http://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/national-legislation)

## Recommendations

The EU Dog & Cat Alliance recommends the adoption of EU legislation which includes the following:

- **Compulsory permanent identification and registration of dogs and cats on an appropriate database, which is linked to an EU database.**
- **Compulsory licensing of dog and cat breeders and harmonised EU standards for dog and cat breeders,** covering the conditions in which dogs and cats are kept, training of breeders, socialisation of puppies and kittens and the prevention of selective breeding of dogs and cats with genetic problems as a minimum.
- **A ban on the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops, at markets, shows and exhibitions as well as in the street.** Dogs and cats should only be sold from their breeder's premises, allowing new owners to see the conditions in which their pet has been raised.
- **Appropriate controls on the internet trade of dogs and cats.**
- **Specific requirements for the transport of cats and dogs in the context of an economic activity** to protect their welfare, as provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
- **A full ban on all surgical mutilations other than for health reasons.**

# Introduction

**The EU Dog & Cat Alliance was established in 2014 and brings together dog and cat welfare organisations from across the EU. The Alliance is calling for EU action to build a better Europe for dogs and cats.**

In the EU and the UK, there are more than 77 million owned cats and 68 million owned dogs. There is however very little EU legislation protecting their welfare. The EU Dog and Cat Alliance therefore commissioned this report to assess the relevant legislation relating to dogs and cats at the national level in each of the EU's 27 Member States. The aim is to get an overview of how variable national legislation is and evaluate the risk of distortion of competition in the internal market, as well as the potential negative impact on animal and human health and on consumer protection.

Currently, the transport of dogs and cats in the EU in connection with an economic activity is governed by Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. It requires that the animals are fit to travel - cats and dogs of less than eight weeks cannot be transported unless they are accompanied by their mother - and must not be transported in a way likely to cause them injury or undue suffering. In this context, cats and dogs must be fed at intervals of not more than 24 hours and given water at intervals of not more than eight hours. There must also be clear written instructions about feeding and watering. Cats and dogs transported less than 50 km are not covered by these rules.

The European Commission had committed to adopting detailed rules for the transport of dogs and cats after the adoption of an opinion on this topic by the European Food Safety Authority<sup>1</sup>. Despite this opinion being published in May 2004<sup>2</sup>, the European Commission has never proposed any additional rules to cover species missing from the 2005 Regulation (cats, dogs, poultry and fish, among others).

'In the EU and the UK, there are more than 77 million owned cats and 68 million owned dogs. There is however very little EU legislation protecting their welfare.'

<sup>1</sup> Preamble 9: "Specific provisions for poultry, cats and dogs will be set out in appropriate proposals when the relevant opinions of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are available".

<sup>2</sup> Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare on a request from the Commission related to the welfare of animals during transport (Question N° EFSA-Q-2003-094), Adopted on 30th March 2004: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/44.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/comm\\_intra\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/comm_intra_en.htm)

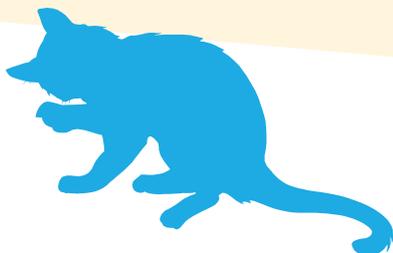
Cats and dogs are also covered by the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals<sup>3</sup>. For health reasons, dogs, cats and ferrets which are moving across EU borders for non-commercial purposes are required to be identified, vaccinated against rabies and accompanied by a pet passport. Prior to entering Finland, Ireland, Malta or the United Kingdom, dogs must also be treated against the parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

When more than five animals are being moved or the movement is for commercial purposes (including rehoming) the additional rules of Council Directive 92/65/EEC apply. This requires a clinical examination to be carried out by a veterinarian showing the animals to be in good health. This examination must take place a maximum of 48 hours before travel. The animals must also be accompanied by a health certificate.

In addition to EU legislation, in 1987 the Council of Europe adopted a convention on the protection of pet animals (ETS 125)<sup>4</sup>, which entered into force in 1992. The Convention covers general aspects of pet welfare such as keeping, breeding and surgical mutilations, and is complemented with two resolutions, one on surgical operations and one on breeding, which were adopted in 1995. Despite this Convention being adopted many years ago, one quarter of EU Member States have not ratified it (7 Member States). As the Convention is not EU legislation, and it is left to individual countries to implement the provisions into their national legislation, there is no enforcement mechanism which would allow uniform implementation and proper enforcement of its provisions across EU countries.

Other than the EU legislation outlined above, there is no further legislation to protect the welfare of dogs and cats at EU level. This lack of EU legislation leads to national standards varying widely across the EU, with welfare issues arising as a result. Pet animals, and more specifically cats and dogs, are moved between EU Member States for various reasons, such as accompanying their owners on holiday, participation in shows or exhibitions or relocating with their owner to another country. They may also be moved for trade or rehoming purposes. Without EU legislation to harmonise the national legislation across EU Member States, such cross-border activities involving dogs and cats can have a huge impact on human and animal health (where diseases can be transferred between Member States), consumer protection (where purchasers are unaware of where and how their new pet was bred and raised) and the functioning of the internal market (where national legislation makes it more expensive to breed dogs and cats in some countries compared to others).

'This lack of EU legislation leads to national standards varying widely across the EU, with welfare issues arising as a result.'



<sup>4</sup> <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=125&CM=1&DF=02/02/2015&CL=ENG>  
 Countries who did not sign it: Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, (7 MS);  
 Signed but did not ratify: Netherlands

In the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015, the European Commission committed to funding a one-year study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices. This study started in early 2014, and the results were published in early 2016. Part of the study involved looking at national legislation on dog and cat breeding and sale. The study identified five main areas of concern which could potentially place at risk the welfare and health of dogs and cats: breeding, transport, lack of knowledge and information for the keeping of pets, discrepancies in market data of pets, consumer protection. However, only 12 Member States out of 28 (the UK was a Member State at the time) were included in the study.

The present report therefore aims to assess the relevant legislation at the national level in each of the EU's 27 Member States concerning the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices.

Due to limitations in available information, this report does not intend to assess how well the legal provisions have been implemented and enforced by national authorities. Equally it does not evaluate whether the resources allocated are sufficient, be it concerning the number of officials, infrastructure or financial resources. It should therefore be taken into account that although this report documents the legal requirements in each EU Member State, there will also be variations in the implementation and enforcement of this national legislation.

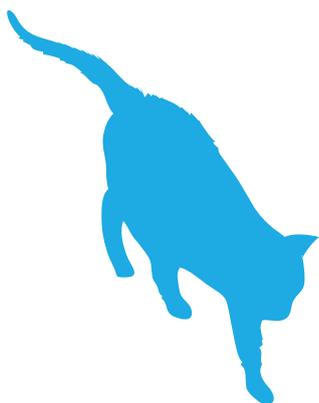
## Methodology

On the basis of a list of questions (Annex 1), the EU Dog & Cat Alliance gathered information on four main areas relating to the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices: identification and registration, breeding, trade and surgical mutilations.

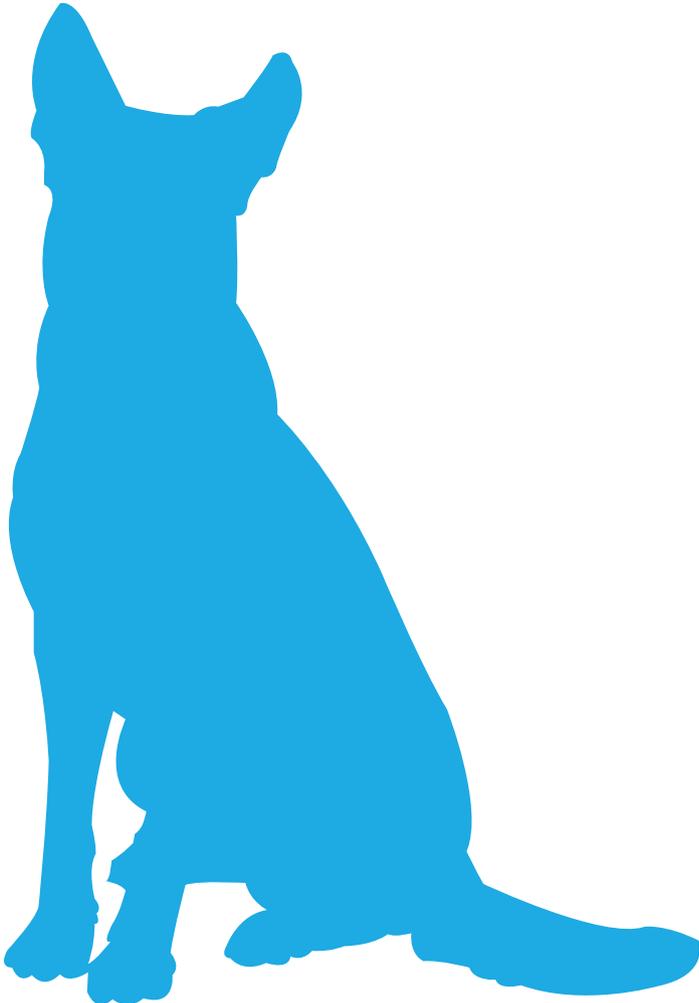
The methodology was as follows:

- Identification of relevant legislation in each Member State, mainly through an internet search or through direct contact with NGOs or national competent authorities;
- Assessment of the legislation and drafting of a summary of information for each Member State, using the list of questions outlined in Annex 1;
- Verification of the information presented in the summary with the national competent authorities to identify any gaps and ensure correct interpretation. When not possible to contact the competent authorities, this verification was done with a national NGO with recognised competence in this area.

This research was originally carried out from November 2014 to February 2015, and was updated in February 2020.



'This report aims to assess the relevant legislation at the national level in each of the EU's 27 Member States concerning the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices.'



# National legislation in EU Member States

This section contains a summary of the national legislation in each of the EU's 27 Member States. To allow comparison between countries, each summary follows the same structure and is split into four key areas relating to the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices. These are:

- identification and registration
- breeding
- trade
- surgical mutilations

Individual country summaries can be downloaded at:  
[www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/national-legislation](http://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/national-legislation)

# Austria



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

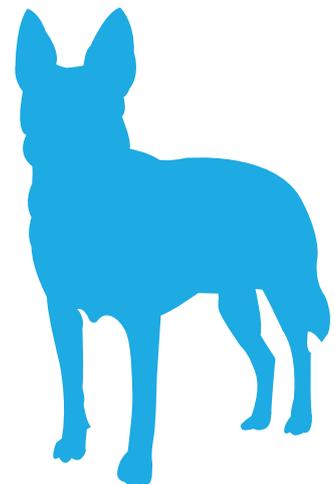
Since 30 June 2008, all dogs must be identified with a microchip before they reach the age of three months or before the first time they are transferred to a new owner. Dogs must then be electronically registered, either by the owner or by a vet, no more than one month after the chip has been inserted, on the national database created by the Ministry of Health. The national database is linked to Europetnet.

The database is available at  
<https://heimtierdatenbank.ehealth.gv.at/>

Three pre-existing databases for companion animals (IFTA, petcard and Datenbank animal data) are compatible with the central one. They are bound by contract with the Ministry of Health to transfer their data to the National Database. The National Database is planned to be linked to the Europetnet database.

### Cats

It is not compulsory for all cats to be permanently identified and registered, unless they are kept for breeding, in which case this must be done at the expense of the owner. Owners of cats not used for breeding can choose to register them in one of the private databases referred to above, but not in the national database of the Ministry.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Keeping animals within the scope of a business activity requires an approval. The keeping of animals for the purpose of breeding and sale must be authorised by the authority before the activity can start. The registration application must contain the name and address of the keeper, the species and maximum number of animals kept and the place where they are kept.

An inspection is conducted at the breeding establishment within six months of registration.

The Animal Protection Act provides for inspections to be carried out in order to check compliance with its provisions. A 2004 Regulation concerning the inspection of registered establishments keeping animals requires inspections to take place once a year.

To get the approval, the keeping of animals must comply with the provisions of the Animal Protection Act, as well as Regulations based on it (the Regulation on keeping animals and the Regulation on animal welfare controls) and the state of scientific knowledge concerning the welfare of kept animals. The Regulation on keeping animals includes requirements covering all aspects of keeping such as:

- Size of housing
- Enrichment
- Food and water
- Care and inspection of the animals
- Obligations to keep records which must be available to the authority during inspections or upon request
- Obligation to advise customers on the adequate keeping conditions and the vaccinations required
- The Annexes of the Regulation on the protection of animals in the scope of business activities include specific requirements for dogs and for cats.

A sufficient number of persons knowledgeable in keeping the respective species of animals must be employed on a regular and permanent basis in any business location where animals are kept within the scope of a business activity. Proof of education and training of the persons engaged in keeping the animals must be available.

There is no central database of authorised breeders at ministry level. It is the responsibility of the provinces (Landers) to keep a list of authorised breeders and up to date records and to make these available when necessary.

Breeders have to register within the breeders union which keeps lists up to date and also issue guidelines for different breeds.

The law prohibits the breeding of animals where it can be foreseen that the animals or their descendants will suffer as a consequence of it, in particular in connection with genetic anomalies. Breeding animals of which the descendants exhibit one of the following symptoms is specifically prohibited: dyspnoea, movement anomalies, lameness, inflammation of the skin, hairlessness, inflammations of the eyelid, conjunctiva and/or cornea, blindness, exophthalmos, deafness, neurological symptoms, deformities of the teeth, deformities of the skullcap, body shapes where it must be assumed with high probability that natural births will not be possible.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Puppies must not be separated from their mother before the age of eight weeks. In some provinces (Landers), owners of a dog from a breed considered as dangerous must follow a course and get a certificate.

An annex to the Regulation on keeping animals includes specific requirements for dogs, which cover indoor and outdoor housing conditions (including air quality, temperature, lighting, resting and hiding places), socialisation needs, food and drink needs, exercise needs and health needs.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

Kittens must not be separated from their mother before the age of eight weeks.

An Annex to the Regulation on keeping animals includes specific requirements for cats, including space requirements, social needs, hiding places, the need to provide them with the possibility to sharpen their claws, feeding and drinking, care and health.

### Regulation of dog and cat traders

As for breeders, traders of cats and dogs must be registered. The process for getting approval is the same as those for breeding establishments. A Regulation on the protection of animals in the scope of business activities covers pet shops and includes specific provisions for dogs and cats, which cannot be sold before the weaning age of eight weeks. Dogs and cats cannot be exhibited in the windows of pet shops. Puppies for sale must be kept in a separate room. The conditions to get an approval to sell cats and dogs in pet shops include an agreement on care with a veterinarian for the pet shop.

The commercial animal husbandry regulation includes rules about the keeping of dogs and cats in pet shops, including provisions relating to the care of the animals, and the size and type of space to be provided.

It is not permissible to sell dogs and cats on the street. Offering and selling animals in publicly accessible areas, as well as the itinerant offering of animals for sale, is prohibited unless this is done in the context of an event, where an official vet has supervision.

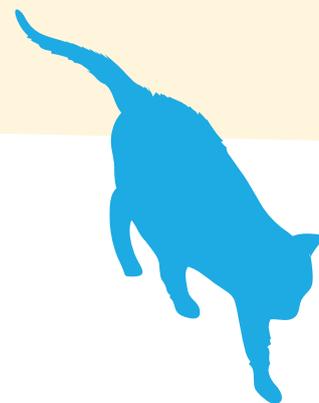
There are no controls on internet trade but offering animals for sale is only permitted in the context of keeping animals in the scope of business activities – by registered traders or breeders.

The transport of cats and dogs is covered only by EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

Minors of less than 14 years old cannot buy an animal without the consent of their legal guardian.

### Surgical mutilations

Under the Animal Protection Act, the cropping of ears, the docking of tails, devocalisation and declawing are specifically prohibited for dogs and cats. It is also prohibited to exhibit, import, buy, sell or transfer a dog born after 1st January 2008 on which surgical mutilations prohibited in Austria have been performed.



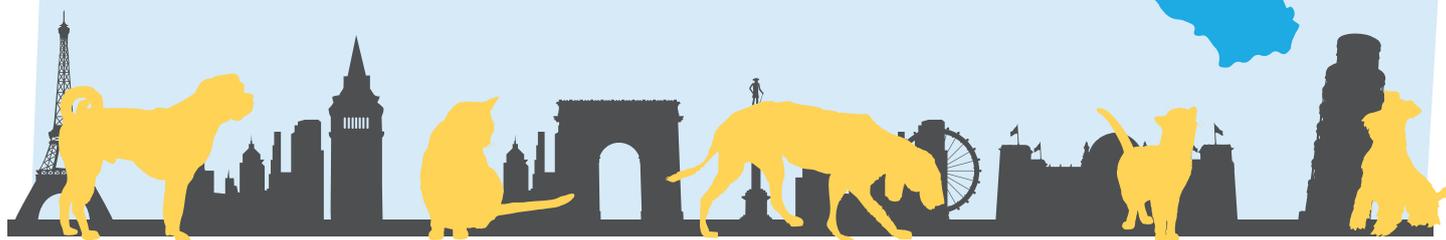
### Links to legislation

Consolidated version of the Federal Act on the Protection of Animals (Animal Protection Act – TSchG):  
<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003541>

Regulation on the keeping of animals (Tierhaltungsverordnung):  
<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003860>

Regulation on animal welfare inspections (Tierschutz-Kontrollverordnung – TSchKV):  
[https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA\\_2004\\_II\\_492/BGBLA\\_2004\\_II\\_492.html](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2004_II_492/BGBLA_2004_II_492.html)

# Belgium



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Belgium, all dogs must be permanently identified with a microchip before they are sold or exchanged for free and in any case before the age of eight weeks. Dogs must also be registered in a central database. The data to be recorded include the breed, the sex, the birth date and the colour. There is one central database for dogs, managed by a private company for the animal welfare services of the three Regions of Belgium (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels): [www.dogid.be](http://www.dogid.be). This database is a member of Europetnet.

### Cats

From 2017 all cats must be permanently identified before they are sold or exchanged for free and in any case before the age of 12 weeks. Cats must also be registered in a database by a vet using an e-ID. This applies to shelters and individuals as well. Owners can make changes (to update their address, to update details of who owns the cat or to register the death of the cat) on the database using their e-ID. Sterilisation also has to be indicated on the database within 24 hours. The database for cats ([www.catid.be](http://www.catid.be)) is also a member of Europetnet.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Belgium has adopted detailed regulations concerning animal breeding, which cover both cat and dog breeders.

In Flanders and Brussels, occasional breeders (breeding no more than 2 litters per year) need a licence for cats but not for dogs. In Wallonia, occasional breeders need a licence for both dogs and cats which they can apply for online for a fee of €20. Other breeders must be registered and licensed. Breeders can apply for licensing by providing detailed information about the breeding establishment, including a description of the facilities, the number and level of education of staff members as well as their tasks and the time allocated, a map of the facilities detailing the number of rooms, their use, their dimensions, the proof they have paid the fee which is compulsory before registration, a copy of the contract they have signed with a registered veterinarian who will monitor the health and welfare of the animals and vaccinate them. In 2014 the fee was €75 for breeders with less than 10 breeding females or for commercial establishments, and €250 for breeders with more than 10 breeding females.

When the file is considered to be complete by the Competent Authority, a provisional licence is given. An official inspection is then conducted and if satisfactory, the final licence is given.

Controls of breeding establishments by the Competent Authority are conducted according to a pre-established plan or when there have been complaints.

Breeders are divided into three categories and the criteria within these categories vary between regions.

In Flanders:

- Non-professional breeder: has no more than 5 litters with no more than 3 different breeds per year
- Professional breeder: has at least 5 litters with no more than 7 different breeds per year
- Commercial breeder: has more than 5 breeding females with no more than 7 different breeds and sells at least 10 litters from his own 'production' and sells animals from other licensed breeders (also from other countries)

In Brussels:

- Non-professional breeder: has at least 2 breeding females and sells less than 10 litters per year
- Professional breeder: has more than 5 breeding females and at least 10 litters per year
- Commercial breeder: sells at least 10 litters from his own 'production' and sells animals from other licensed breeders (also from other countries)

In Wallonia

- Non-professional breeder: has several breeding females and sells between 3 and 10 litters per year
- Professional breeder: has more than 5 breeding females and sells at least 10 litters per year
- Commercial breeder: has more than 5 breeding females and sells at least 10 litters from his own 'production' and sells animals from other licensed breeders (also from other countries)

There are also general requirements for establishments to be licensed, which apply to breeders, shelters, animal boarding establishments and commercial establishments, and include provisions covering the facilities, and animal care and management.

Specific requirements for establishments keeping cats and dogs include:

- minimum space requirements
- enrichment of the enclosures
- lighting and aeration
- feeding according to the age
- the need to take care of nails and coat of the animals
- when more than 50 animals are kept, a special room to conduct examinations, care and small surgery must be available

All breeders need to maintain an up-to-date register of the animals. They must also establish a file (standard form available in annex) for each litter, which a potential buyer can consult. The data must be kept for two years after the animal has left the breeding establishment and be available for controls by the authorities.

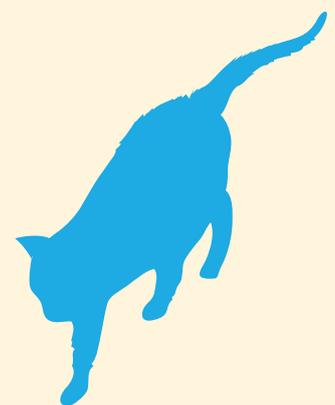
No animal can produce more than two litters per year, except in Flanders where, as of 1st October 2019, no animal can have more than three litters per 24 months. Keepers must be competent and available in sufficient numbers and there are fixed standards concerning the time they need to spend caring for the animals and ensuring their socialisation, depending on the number of animals kept.

Commercial breeders can also sell animals coming from other licensed establishments. They have to keep a register concerning these animals. They must also have a quarantine room, isolated from the other rooms of the establishment. They can sell animals coming from other countries as long as it is officially established that the country of origin applies rules equivalent to the Belgian rules.

A list of licenced establishments is published online and includes the registration number, the name of the establishment and the address. The inspection services keep the list up to date in a central database.

According to the 2007 Decree on the conditions for breeding and commercial establishments, the breeding of animals which have one of the inherited diseases listed by the Minister is prohibited. However no list has been established so far.

No code of practice has been adopted in Belgium on cat and dog breeding. However, there is an animal welfare council which adopts recommendations on various topics. These recommendations are presented to the Minister in charge of animal welfare for consideration and to support potential new legislation.



## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Breeders can sell dogs and cats directly from their premises. Commercial establishments which act as intermediaries to sell cats and dogs from registered breeders also need to apply for a licence, using the same procedure as for registered breeders. A commercial establishment cannot be a licenced breeder but they can make information about breeders available to their customers. However they cannot expose the cats and dogs in the commercial space or in the annexes of the establishment. The adverts for cats and dogs have to state the identification number of each animal.

Internet trade is bound by the same procedure as for the commercial establishments.

Sales of cats and dogs in pet shops, at markets and on the street, at fairs and at exhibitions are explicitly prohibited under article 12 of the 1986 law on the protection of animals.

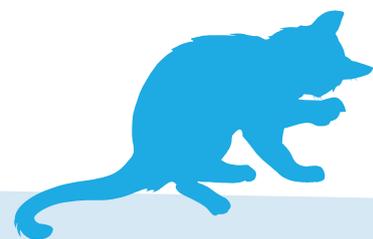
Cats and dogs cannot be sold before seven weeks of age, except for in Flanders, where, from 1st October 2019, dogs cannot be sold before eight weeks and cats cannot be sold before 12 weeks. People who buy a cat or a dog, or get it for free, must be at least 18 years old.

For every dog/cat sold, unless by an occasional breeder without a licence, a warranty must be given, which obliges the breeder-dealer to reimburse the price of the animal in case of mortality due to a number of contagious diseases within an incubation period or in case of some hereditary diseases.

There are no special rules on the commercial transport of cats and dogs besides those which implement EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

## Surgical mutilations

Article 17b is of the 1986 animal protection law prohibits performing mutilations on vertebrate animals on any sensitive part of its body except for a health/veterinary reason. Animals which have been mutilated cannot be traded, nor participate in exhibitions/shows or competitions. Cropping of ears is forbidden since 2001, tail docking since 2006.



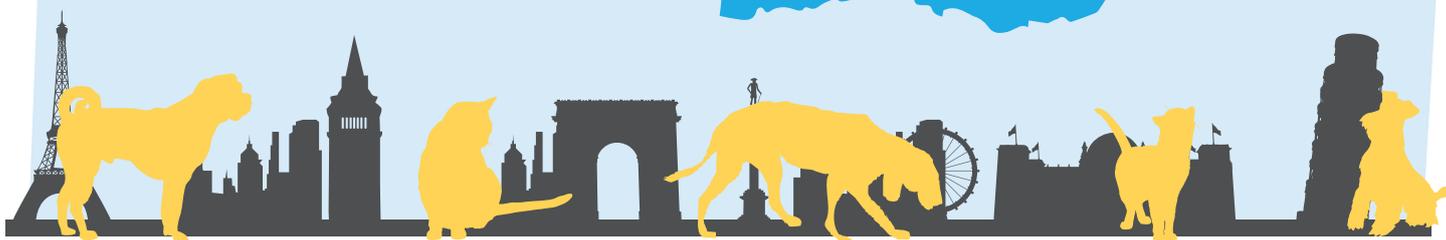
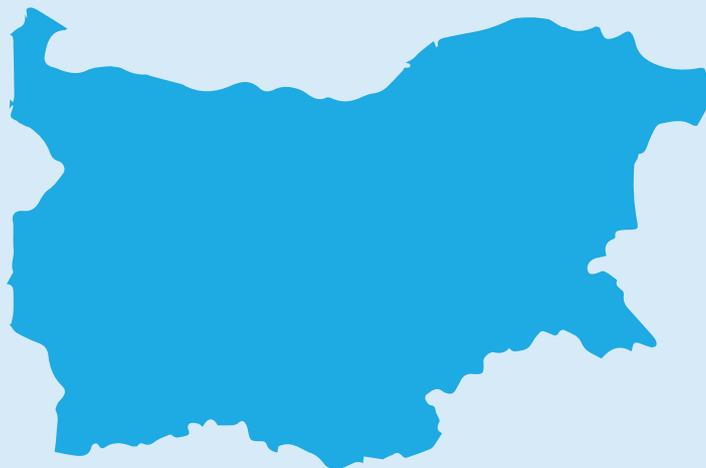
### **Links to legislation**

Legislation on dogs and cats in Flanders:  
<https://www.lne.be/wetgeving-dierenwelzijn>

Legislation on dogs and cats in Brussels:  
<http://www.leefmilieu.brussels/dierenwelzijn>

Legislation on dogs and cats in Wallonia::  
<http://bienetreanimal.wallonie.be/home.html>

# Bulgaria



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Bulgaria, dogs must be identified with a microchip at the age of four months at the earliest or within seven days of acquiring a dog older than four months. The dog must also be registered by a veterinarian who must issue a pet passport. The veterinarian sends the data contained in the passport of each registered dog to the competent authority on a monthly basis. The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency manages a national electronic database on all registered dogs. Licensed veterinarians must record in the database the data of the microchips they implant. Currently this database can only be used to register dogs.

### Cats

Before being sold, cats from breeding establishments need to be identified with a microchip and registered in a database. It is however currently not compulsory to permanently identify all cats. The database for cats is under development.

There is no Bulgarian member of Europetnet.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Breeding establishments must be registered in accordance with the national legislation and pay a fee to the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. The amount of the fee is fixed by the Bulgarian Council of Ministers in line with the provisions of the Law on veterinary activity.

The application must include, among other requirements, a copy of a contract with a veterinarian who will check, vaccinate and treat the animals to be bred on the site and proof of payment of the fee. Within seven days of receipt of the application, the Director of the Regional veterinary services (RFSD) appoints a Commission to check the compliance of the site with the legal requirements on animal breeding and welfare. The Commission has three days to present an opinion and propose to register the establishment or refuse the registration. A non-compliant establishment can be given a delay to remedy the non-compliant aspects. After correction of the problems, the applicant must inform the services, who have seven days to re-inspect the establishment and give a new opinion.

When the check is satisfactory, a registration certificate is given to the owner and the data is recorded in the register, including the species and use of the animals, the capacity of the establishment and the breeding methods used. Further inspections of animal breeders are also carried out in accordance with the annual inspection plan, based on the risk assessment.

The registration of breeding establishments is for an unlimited period of time, but in cases of non-compliance the registration certificate can be withdrawn.

Breeding establishments must comply with the rules of the Animal Protection Act, the Veterinary Practice Act and the Ordinance on the keeping of animals for commercial purposes. These acts require animals to be kept in a manner which is appropriate to their degree of development and which meets their physical and behavioural needs. Keepers of animals, as well as managers of animal holdings, must provide each animal depending on its species, age, and breed with housing and conditions which meet its needs and provide the necessary space and freedom to move,

sufficient quantity of food and water, free access to feeding and drinking facilities, a suitable microclimate, regular preventative veterinary care and immediate treatment in the case of disease or injury. Keepers of animals must inspect the animals at least once a day.

Owners of breeding establishments must ensure that a sufficient number of properly qualified and experienced keepers provide animal care to the extent required by the number of animals and their age and health condition. The owner must also organise initial and follow-up staff training.

The training must be a graduate course on the protection and welfare of pets and one or more courses covering the species of animals which are bred. The programme of the courses must be approved by the Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety. People holding a Bachelor's or Master's degree in biology, ecology or veterinary medicine, are not required to complete these courses.

The course on the protection and welfare of pets must teach basic knowledge on taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, ecology, behaviour, feeding and reproduction, diseases, current legislation (concerning the protection of animals, diseases, animal imports and hygiene rules), indoor climate control, food and how animals are affected by environmental change and stress. The specialised course must cover the most commonly traded species of animals including dogs and cats.

The courses must be completed with a knowledge test. When successfully passed, a certificate is granted. There are no provisions in the legislation preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations.

There are no national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice for registered breeders to adhere to.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

A dog owner, who raises a dog with the purpose of breeding, shall be registered as an animal holding. The requirements are laid out in a specific ordinance of 2008 last amended in 2013, which includes specifications concerning the facilities (available indoor and outdoor area, equipment, and enrichment), feeding and watering requirements, veterinary care, identification and registration.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

Cat breeders must also respect specific provisions set up in Ordinance 41 of 2008 which include specifications regarding feeding and drinking, veterinary care, identification of cats with a microchip before weaning or before leaving the breeding establishment, the need for exercise, and the equipment of the facilities.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops. Pet shop owners must be registered using the same procedure as described above for breeders. An inspection is thus also carried out before a pet shop is authorised.

Pet shops must provide veterinary care to the animals, ensure that employees have qualifications and experience in keeping the respective animal species, provide adequate conditions for keeping the animals until they are sold, and provide information materials on animal keeping and humane treatment to buyers.

Only a person who has passed a course in animal protection and humane treatment, is allowed to own or work in a pet shop. The rules for the training of pet shop owner or staff are the same as for breeders (see above). Pet shops can only keep and sell animals with a document of origin or acquisition.

Pets cannot be sold at markets or on the street. They can only be sold in approved and registered pet shops. There are no controls on internet trade.

Cats and dogs cannot be sold before eight weeks of age. Animals cannot be sold to people under 18 years without the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

For the transport of cats and dogs, the general rules for the transport of animals must be complied with. A national instruction concerning the transport of dogs and cats in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport has been issued and is available on the BFSA web page.

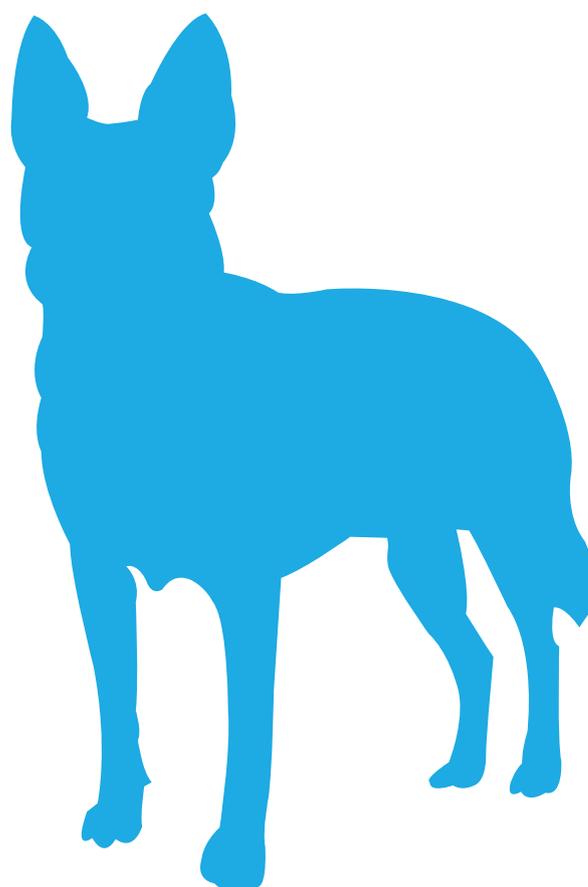
When transporting animals, the owner or the person transporting them must use vehicles ensuring the animal protection requirements are met and ensuring the safety of the other traffic participants and the animals, provide food, water, and rest to the animals at proper intervals in accordance with their species. No delay of animal transportation vehicles can be permitted, unless it is required to ensure their welfare. In cases of delays of animal shipments, the competent authorities must take all action necessary to minimise animal suffering.

### **Surgical mutilations**

In line with the Animal Protection Act, full or partial amputation of parts of the body or removing organs of animals, cutting the ears and tails in view to change the outer appearance of an animal and removing nails, teeth and vocal chords are considered as acts of cruelty towards animals and are prohibited.

This is confirmed under the Veterinary Practice Act, which prohibits the performance of the following surgical interventions in respect of pet animals: tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing and defanging.





### **Links to legislation**

Animal Protection Act:

<http://eea.government.bg/bg/legislation/biodiversity/zzjan.doc>

Veterinary Practice Act:

<https://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135512300>

Ordinance No. 41 of 10 December 2008 on the keeping of animals for commercial purpose:

[http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokument\\_i\\_naredbi/Nar%2041.pdf](http://babh.government.bg/uploads/File/Dokument_i_naredbi/Nar%2041.pdf)

Instruction on the transport of cats and dogs according to the provisions of Regulation 1/2005:

<http://www.babh.government.bg/bg/Page/242/index/242/>

# Croatia



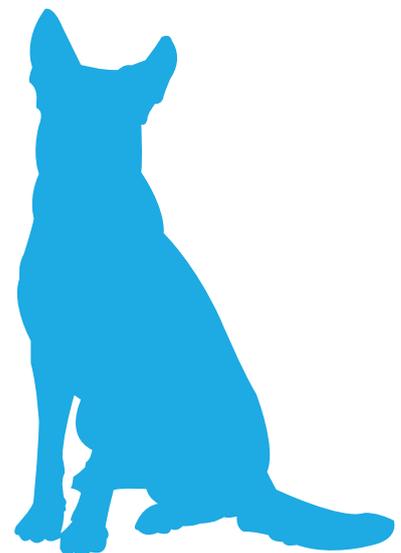
## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

All dogs in Croatia must be permanently identified with a microchip, at the latest 90 days after birth. They must also be registered on the national database for the registration of dogs (Lysacan database) managed by the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. This database is not a member of Europetnet, thus it is not linked to an EU database.

### Cats

There is no obligation for cats to be identified or registered. However owners who wish to do so may also identify their cats and register them on the Lysacan database.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

In Croatia, breeders of companion animals intended for sale must be licensed by the Competent Authority which is the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. To request the registration, breeders must fill an application form with contact details of the owner, of the responsible veterinarian and a list of animals and their data. The breeders also need to provide a map of the establishment with a description of the facilities and a certificate of competence of the person responsible for taking care of the animals.

A breeder may not commence the activity without having obtained a decision from the competent authority confirming the fulfilment of the requirements, which mainly cover the facilities and equipment. An inspection is conducted before the authorisation is given to the breeder.

Animals must be cared for by a sufficient number of trained staff or persons having equivalent experience or knowledge.

Pet keepers in a breeding establishment must be trained. The training must last at least six hours and cover the following topics: animal welfare legislation, care-behaviour-stress, practical experience, emergency situations, staff protection and animal transport. There is a system of approval for the training programme and every member of staff who has completed the course receives a certificate. Organisations which train people must keep a register of trained persons and send it to the competent authority every year. Staff must complete a new training course every five years.

Inspections are carried out on the basis of a risk assessment, random selection of inspection sites or when the competent authority has been informed about a contravention of the Animal Protection Act. The inspection covers the facilities, transport means and the documentation.

The Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the register of pet breeders.

According to the 2009 ordinance (Art 13), a guide of good practice for breeders must be prepared by the competent authority or by natural or legal persons who have adequate knowledge in the breeding area. However it has not been adopted yet.

There are no provisions preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Dog breeders must comply with specific requirements concerning the facilities such as available space, temperature, lighting and equipment.

Bitches must be at least 15 months of age to be mated and the maximum mating age is 8 years.

Puppies under eight weeks of age have to stay with their mother who must be separated from other dogs. Bitches are allowed to have only one litter per year.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

Cat breeders must comply with specific requirements concerning the facilities such as available space, temperature, lighting and equipment.

Female cats must be at least 10 months of age before mating. They can be mated until they are 10 years old and cannot have more than three litters every two years. Kittens under 12 weeks need to stay with their mother and female cats with kittens must be separated from other cats.



### Regulation of dog and cat traders

Cats and dogs can only be sold from registered breeders. Breeders can only sell animals which come from their own establishment. They cannot collect animals from other breeders.

Cats and dogs cannot be sold in pet shops, in the street or at markets. Breeders can advertise on the internet but buyers have to go to the breeding establishment to buy the pet. Advertisements must include both the dog and its mother's microchip numbers.

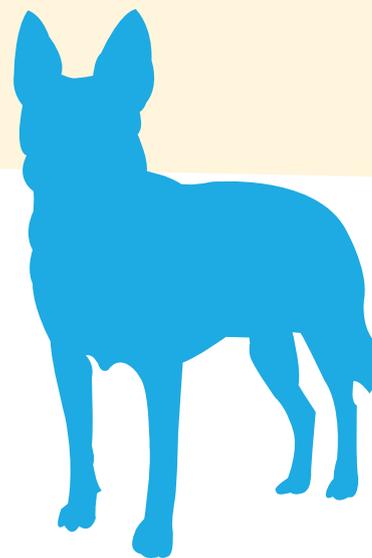
The legislation does not include a minimum age at which cats and dogs can be sold.

The sale of companion animals to people less than 18 years old is prohibited.

During transport, animals must be protected against adverse weather conditions and steps must be taken to ensure that they do not escape or fall from the means of transport. The animals must not be left without surveillance in a vehicle, except if adequate ventilation is provided.

### Surgical mutilations

The Animal Protection Act prohibits cutting off sensitive parts of the body of live animals, including ear cropping and tail docking in dogs, declawing of cats, devocalisation and other interventions that affect the integrity of the animal. However the partial or total removal of sensitive parts of the body in hunting dogs is allowed in compliance with specified kennel standards, with the use of analgesia.



### Links to legislation

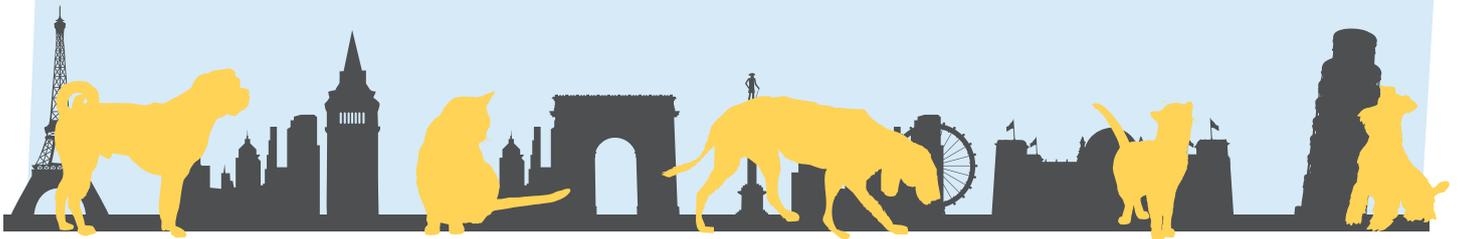
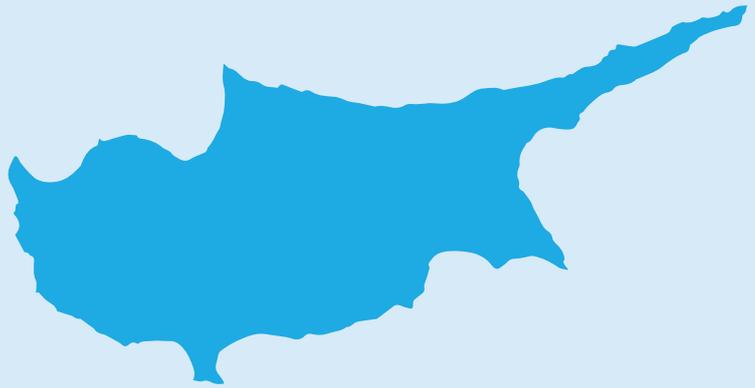
Animal Protection Act:

<http://prijatelj-zivotinja.hr/index.en.php?id=2058>

Page on the welfare of companion animals on the website of the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate:

<http://www.veterinarstvo.hr/default.aspx?id=54>

# Cyprus



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Cyprus, it is mandatory that dogs over the age of six months are permanently identified with a microchip and registered in the central Cyprus Government Veterinary Services database.

In addition, dog owners must get a health book following the initial vaccinations from an authorized vet and then pay the registration fee to the Competent Authority (the council or community board) in order to obtain a dog licence, which is valid for one calendar year.

There is a central database for registering dogs held by the Cyprus Government veterinary office however, they are not a member of Europetnet, thus not linked to any EU database. The competent authority (the council or community board) also keeps a register of dog owners through the dog licences they issue.

### Cats

Microchipping and registration is not an obligation for cats.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

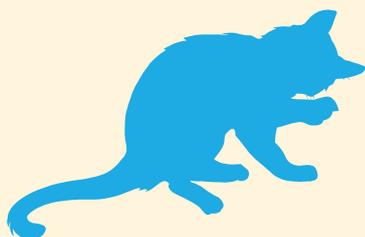
### *Requirements for breeding dogs*

There is no register or requirements currently for dog breeders other than any person who buys a bitch for breeding must declare her to the government vet services within ten days from the date of transferring the ownership or possession of the dog.

The owner of a bitch that has given birth to a new litter of pups must declare to the Competent Authority (the council or community board) the number of puppies born every time the bitch gives birth, and record the names and addresses of the persons to whom the puppies have been given, as well as the date on which they were given.

The competent authority (the council or community board) has the right to inspect at least once every three months the female dogs that are used for (breeding) reproduction and when a new litter of pups is born, the competent authority (the council or community board) has the right to charge €85 per litter when the reproduction is for commercial purposes and €34 per litter for non-commercial purposes.

Any areas and premises where a large number of dogs are kept, reared, bred, or trained/exercised, whether it be a shelter, dog hotel or breeding establishment it must obtain a town planning permit from the town planning authority. There is, however, no legislation covering breeding establishments whatsoever, nor is there any regulations other than guidelines that the government vet services have issued on their website, covering the minimum standards of the size and type of kennels that should be provided in such establishments. This however is not law and therefore is not mandatory.



### *Requirements for breeding cats*

There are no specific requirements for breeding cats.

### *Ethics*

There are no provisions preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations. There are no national welfare guidelines or Codes of Practice for registered breeders to adhere to.

Currently breeder information is not recorded in any database.

### *Education of animal carers*

The Animal Welfare Act provides for the adoption of specific requirements concerning the competences of animal carers and trainers for specific categories of animals. These requirements have been adopted in the Professional Animal Trainers/Carers Ordinance. It is now prohibited for any person to engage in professional caring of animals unless they hold a licence.

Any natural person may obtain a licence as a professional animal trainer/carer if the Veterinary Services are satisfied that he/she is at least 18 years old, has not been convicted at any time for any infringement of the legislation regarding the Protection and Welfare of Animals, and he/she possesses all the required theoretical and practical knowledge regarding animal care. An applicant is considered to possess the required theoretical and practical knowledge if he/she holds a diploma obtained by a local or foreign faculty or institution where the analytical transcript includes lessons regarding the training or caring of animals; or proves (with the attachment of a certificate or other document) that he/she has at least three years of experience which was gained by working full time in animal care (for animal carers). He/she must also have succeeded in an examination on knowledge and competency held at the Veterinary Services. Success in the examination is required to obtain a licence for the first time as well as for renewal in cases where more animal categories are to be added to the license. The applicant is informed regarding the licensing decision within 3 months from the date that the application form and supporting documents were duly submitted.

There is a fee of €34.17 to be paid to the Veterinary Services for the issuance and renewal of the licence, which is valid for five years.

The licence owner must comply with the provisions of the Professional Animal Trainers/ Carers Ordinance and the provisions of the Protection and Welfare of Animals Law, such as handling and treating the animals according to their natural and behavioural needs, providing suitable premises and ensuring that the equipment used does not have any adverse effect on their health and welfare.

### Regulation of dog and cat traders

There are no specific regulations on the sale of dogs and cats. The Animal Protection Act includes general provisions on the need to regulate the marketing of animals, but no specific provisions have been adopted.

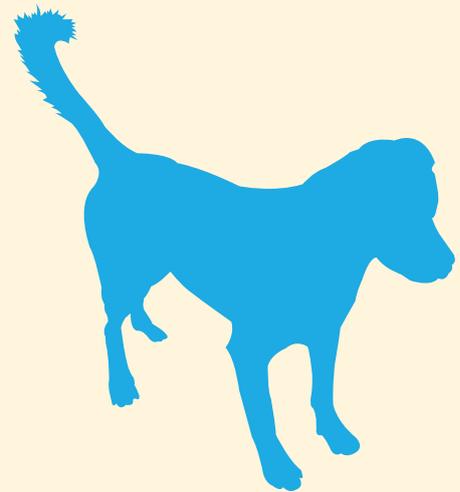
There is currently no minimum age at which puppies/ kittens may be sold.

There is no provision concerning the minimum age for people to purchase a dog or a cat. However, the Dogs Act states that the competent authority can deny the issue of a licence for ownership of a dog when the person who applied for a licence is under 16 years of age.

There are no specific provisions on the commercial transport of cats and dogs. The provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport apply.

### Surgical mutilations

The law for the protection, health and welfare of animals prohibits declawing, ear cropping and devocalization.



### Links to legislation

Animal Welfare Act (GR) (Unfortunately there is no official translation into English):  
[http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/indexes/1994\\_1\\_46.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/indexes/1994_1_46.html)

Dog Law (GR): (Unfortunately there is no official translation into English)  
[http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/indexes/2002\\_1\\_184.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/indexes/2002_1_184.html)

Professional licence for animal carer:  
<http://www.businessincyprus.gov.cy/mcit/psc/psc.nsf/All/1BCB064E339907C5C225786B002F6D6C?OpenDocument>

# Czech Republic



## Identification and Registration

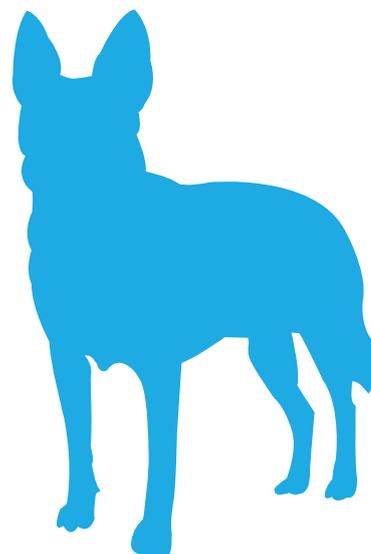
### Dogs

In the Czech Republic, from 1st January 2020 it is compulsory to identify dogs at 12 weeks of age or when changing owner for the first time and register them in a database. A central database is expected to be in operation from 2022.

There are several databases for the registration of pet animals but only Czech Pet Net (<https://czpetnet.cz>) is a member of the European database Europetnet.

### Cats

There is no obligation for cats to be identified nor registered in a database. As for dogs, cat owners may decide to identify and register them in the Czech Pet Net database.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

All breeders need to comply with the general requirements of the Animal Protection Act, such as providing the animals with appropriate conditions to maintain their physiological functions and satisfy their biological needs. The legislation prevents the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations (“No animal shall be kept as a companion animal if the keeper or a citizen created such breeding conditions that, due to genetic reasons, the future generations of animals will lack bodily parts or organs or the organs of these animals will malfunction or will be malformed.”)

Additional standards for breeding dogs and cats are set up in Decree 21/2013. This decree applies to breeders registered with pedigree breed clubs or those which are breeding dogs and cats commercially and which pay income tax.

Commercial dog and cat breeders do not need to be licensed, but they need to notify their activity to the regional financial administration for income tax purposes.

There are no specific provisions on inspections of cat and dog breeders, although inspections are carried out by the authorities in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Protection Act (§25). A multi-annual plan of inspections (MPI) lays down the minimum annual frequency of inspections or the minimum percentage of establishments to be inspected. For cat and dog establishments, the inspections are most frequently carried out after complaints of citizens (suspected cruelty to animals or other law violations), or as follow-up inspections after the detection of deficiencies. Every year the results of all animal welfare inspections are published in a report<sup>6</sup>.

No specific education or training of breeders is required.

## Requirements for breeding dogs

There is a minimum age at which dogs can be bred and a maximum age for female dogs.

This age depends on the size of the dog, with two categories defined:

- small dog breeds (under 50 cm height at the withers): from 14 months of age to 8 years of age (for female dogs)
- large dog breeds (more than 50 cm height at the withers): from the 17 months of age to 8 years of age (for female dogs)

A maximum of 3 litters every 24 months is allowed, and the number of puppies per litter allowed to be nursed by the female dog should be adapted to her health condition, the others being provided with substitute feed by the keeper.

Puppies may not be weaned before 50 days.

## Requirements for breeding cats

Cats may be bred when they reach 1 year of age until 9 years for females, with no limit for males.

A maximum of 3 litters every 24 months is allowed, and the number of kittens per litter allowed to be nursed by the female cat should be adapted to her health condition, the others being provided with substitute feed by the keeper.

Kittens must not be weaned before they reach 84 days.

There are no national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice for breeders to adhere to.

<sup>6</sup> <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/ochrana-zvirat/kontroly-ochrany-zvirat/vysledky-kontrol-ochrany-zvirat/>

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Traders need to notify their activities to the competent regional veterinary administration at least 30 days before starting. They must include information on the species and numbers of animals involved, as well as how they will take care of the animals to ensure their health and welfare.

No inspection is conducted before traders start their activities and no regular inspections are performed.

Sales on the internet are not regulated, and it is allowed to sell cats and dogs in pet shops, on markets and on the street.

Dogs cannot be sold before the age of 50 days and cats before 84 days. They cannot be sold to people under the age of 15.

There is no specific legislation on the transport of dogs and cats. The general decree on transport which implements EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport applies.

Cat and dog traders must keep records of purchased or sold animals including the documents of origin of the animal and keep them for a period of three years.

They must also provide the buyer with written information on how to care for the health and welfare of the purchased animal.

## Surgical mutilations

Ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing and removal of teeth of animals in general are specifically prohibited under the Animal Protection Act. It is in general prohibited to carry out surgical procedures in order to change the appearance of an animal, except for tail docking, which can be performed without anaesthesia in puppies younger than eight days.



## Links to legislation

Czech legislation on animal welfare:

<http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/legislativa/pravni-predpisy-mze/tematicky-prehled/?topic=protection>

Consolidated animal protection act No 246/1992:

<https://www.vetkom.cz/legislativa-pro-veterinare/komora-a-vnitri-predpisy/act-on-the-protection-of-animals-against-cruelty-act-no-246-1992-coll/>

Decree No 4/2009 on the protection of animals during transport:

[http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/10658/AV004\\_09\\_prep.pdf](http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/10658/AV004_09_prep.pdf)

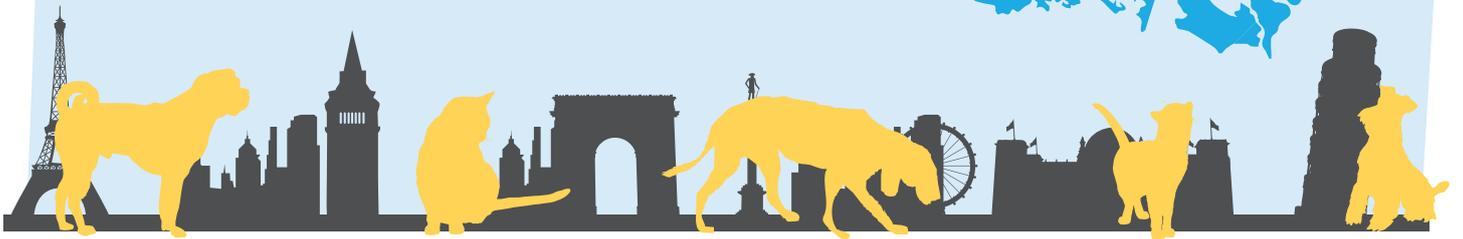
Decree No 21/2013 laying down the conditions for breeding dogs and cats:

[http://eagri.cz/public/web/ws\\_content?contentKind=regulation&section=1&id=79366&name=21/2013](http://eagri.cz/public/web/ws_content?contentKind=regulation&section=1&id=79366&name=21/2013)

Decree No 22/2013 on education and training in the field of protection of animals against cruelty:

[http://eagri.cz/public/web/ws\\_content?contentKind=regulation&section=1&id=79367&name=22/2013](http://eagri.cz/public/web/ws_content?contentKind=regulation&section=1&id=79367&name=22/2013)

# Denmark



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Denmark, it is compulsory to identify dogs, either with a microchip or tattoo, and register them in the national dog database: the Danish Dog Register [www.hunderegister.dk](http://www.hunderegister.dk), which is a member of Europetnet, the EU central database.

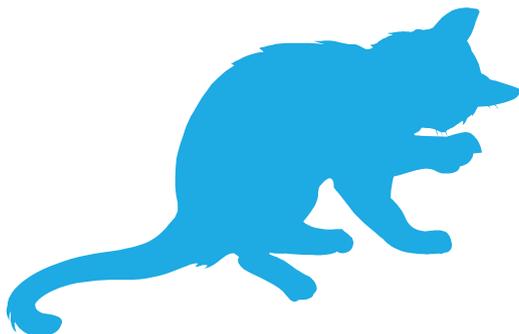
Dogs must be identified and registered before the age of 8 weeks. From 4 months of age, dogs must wear a collar with a label including the name and address of the keeper.

### Cats

It is not compulsory for cats to be identified and registered.

However owners may decide to identify their cats and register them in a database.

There are two national cat databases: [www.katteregister.dk](http://www.katteregister.dk) and <https://www.dansk-katteregister.dk/>, which are both linked to the EU database of Europetnet.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

According to the Order on commercial breeding and trading of dogs, commercial dog breeders with a minimum of three breeding female dogs, which have three or more litters per year, need to apply for authorisation by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

The application must include the maximum number of dogs that will be held in the establishment, a description of the facilities with a map indicating the location and use of the rooms. An inspection must be carried out by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration before the authorisation can be granted. Breeders must notify when there are changes to the information they provided when applying for the authorisation.

The requirements for commercial dog breeders cover:

- the biological, physiological and health needs of dogs
- vaccination needs and measures to be taken in case of disease
- minimum space requirements according to the dog size
- enrichment, play equipment and places to hide, as well as resting places
- the need to provide natural lighting and a secure and appropriate environment (temperature, ventilation)
- proper feed and water

When dogs are kept inside, they must have access to an outside run with proper play equipment and places to hide.

Concerning socialisation, every puppy and dog from the age of 4 weeks must have contact with humans for at least 15 minutes every day, in addition to the usual contacts for feeding and care.

Dogs must be checked at least once per day and the breeder must have assigned a veterinarian who must check the dogs at least two times a year.

In addition to the initial inspection, inspections are conducted regularly by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The results of these inspections are published on Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's website so anyone can check that the business is compliant.

The authorisation does not include a maximum validity date, but expansion or major refurbishment can only take place after approval by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. An authorisation can be withdrawn under certain circumstances.

It is mandatory for the breeder and staff that have daily responsibility for the puppies and dogs to have the right knowledge on a range of subjects, including legislation, behaviour and welfare, care and transport, hygiene, nutrition, disease and stress. This can be achieved by an education that is approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration or having previous experience that meets certain requirements. It is also a requirement that written guidelines on the care of dogs shall be given to a purchaser of a dog.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

There are no specific rules for cat breeders other than those included in the general legislation on animal keeping.

There is no central electronic database for breeders.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

### **Dogs**

The Order on commercial breeding and trading of dogs also includes a requirement for commercial dog traders to apply for an authorisation (see above for more details). Puppies cannot be sold, handed over or purchased before the age of 8 weeks.

### **Cats**

A general decree concerning the trade in connection with economic activity of companion animals covers cats, but not dogs, as they are covered by specific legislation. The general rules include the obligation for traders to apply for an authorisation. When applying for authorisation, traders must provide information on the maximum number of animals per species and the situation and description of the buildings as well as a map of the facilities.

An inspection by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration takes place before the authorisation is granted.

The minimum age at which a kitten can be sold, handed over or purchased is 12 weeks.

Extension, including with regard to species and major changes in the facilities must be re-approved by the Competent Authorities.

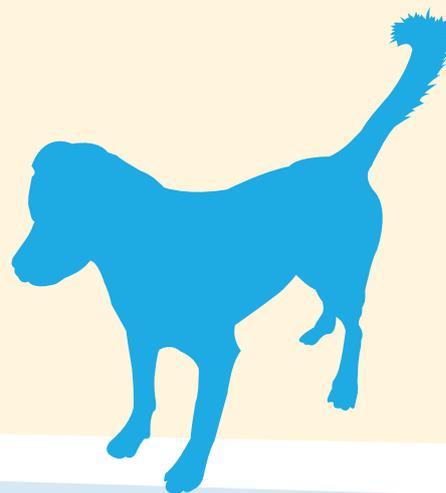
Staff which handle or give advice on the care of animals must be trained/educated in animal handling within 6 months of starting to work for the pet shop (§ 29). Those who have daily responsibility for the business must have followed a special training course in animal handling or a similar training.

The animals cannot be exposed in the window of the pet shop and according to the Animal Welfare Act animals cannot be sold/handed over to people less than 16 years old without the consent of a parent. There is no prohibition to sell cats and dogs in any place, as long as the legal requirements detailed above are complied with.

Transport in connection with economic activity is covered by the provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005. Other types of transport are covered by the general provisions in the Animal Welfare Act.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Surgical operations which aim at modifying the appearance of an animal are prohibited. Tail docking and ear cropping of dogs are prohibited. However, the Minister has adopted exemptions for five breeds of hunting dogs.



### **Links to legislation**

Animal Welfare Act

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/r0710.aspx?id=197059>

Dogs Act:

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/r0710.aspx?id=194694>

Commercial trade and breeding of dogs and kennels and dog shelters:

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=198459>

Marking and registration of dogs

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=202679>

Ordinance on commercial trade in animals (210/2014):

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=194887>

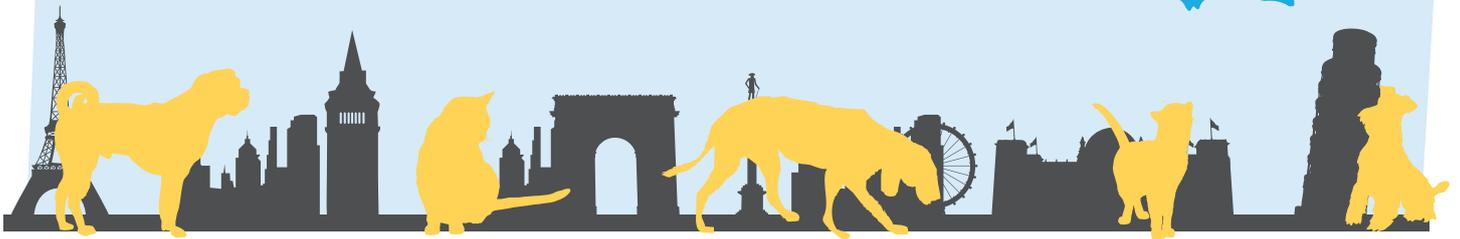
Trade, hand over etc. of puppies

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=1847>

Trade, hand over etc. of kittens

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=127877>

# Estonia



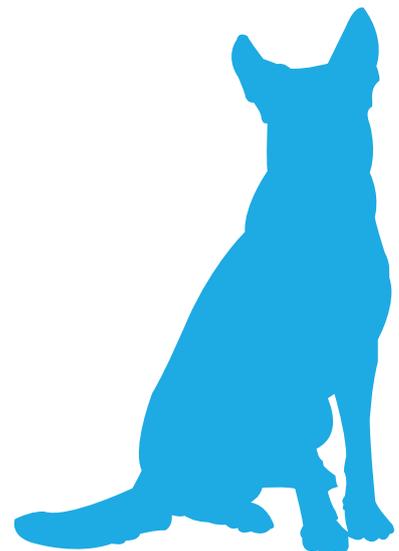
## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

There is no obligation in Estonia to have dogs permanently identified and registered unless the local government has made it compulsory at a regional level. There are two databases where owners can register their dogs: the Tallinn Environment Department and the Estonian Association of Veterinarians. There is also a database managed by the Estonian Kennel Club on which only data from pedigree dogs registered with the kennel club can be recorded.

### Cats

There is no obligation for owners to register, nor permanently identify their cats unless at a regional level the local government has made it compulsory. Currently it is only compulsory to microchip cats in Tallinn.



### **Regulation of dog and cat breeders**

Provisions for keeping pet animals are included in the Animal Protection Act but there are no registration requirements for cat and dog breeders.

A regulation on keeping companion animals includes specific requirements for dogs and cats, mainly concerning the space allocated, the facilities depending on the size and age of the animals, feeding and watering and special requirements for pregnant animals.

According to the Animal Protection Act animal keepers must have the required knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the animal, the behaviour characteristic of the animal species and the animal protection requirements. The Minister of Agriculture may impose an obligation of training for the keeping of certain species of animals, but so far this is not the case for cat and dog keepers.

The Animal Protection Act states that “breeding activities that cause suffering to an animal” are prohibited (§4).

#### ***Requirements for breeding dogs***

These requirements apply to any dog owner. Dog keepers must respect a series of rules concerning tying, space allowance according to the size of the dog, housing and shelter in case the dog is kept outside. Space allowances are also provided according to the number of dogs combined with their weight.

Specifications for breeding bitches and puppies are very general: the environment must be peaceful and the area unobstructed, bitches must not give birth too often; the frequency must take into account the health, age, and breed among others.

There is no minimum weaning age for puppies, but according to §8 of the Animal Protection Act, the weaning must be done at a suitable age, considering the welfare of the mother and in consultation with a veterinarian.

#### ***Requirements for breeding cats***

The regulations to keep cats are also quite general. The rooms must be equipped with nail sharpening equipment and a litter box. The main requirements concern the surface area, which is given according to the number of cats and the kind of housing system: room or cage.

The weaning age for kittens is the same as for puppies.

Inspections are mostly complaint-based, although some risk-based inspections are also conducted.

No regular inspection is required for breeders to continue breeding, but breeding and keeping of animals could be prohibited in criminal cases of cruel treatment of animals.

There is no provision in the legislation preventing specifically the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations, but the prohibition in the Animal Protection Act (§4) on “breeding activities that cause suffering to an animal” must be interpreted as covering these problems.

No national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice have been adopted for registered breeders to adhere to.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Traders do not need to be registered and there are no specific inspection requirements for traders other than those provided for in the Animal Protection Act.

Cats and dogs may be sold in pet shops, at markets and at events.

When sold in pet shops, cats and dogs (or any other pet species) are not allowed to be exposed in the window.

Cats and dogs can be sold over the internet. There are no rules concerning the minimum age at which puppies and kittens can be sold.

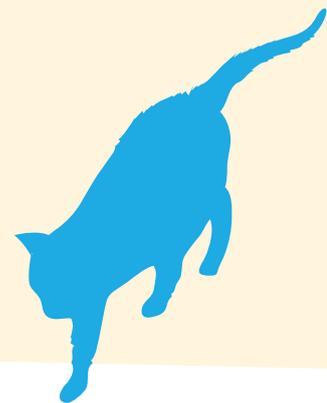
The sale of animals with or without a charge is not permitted to people of less than 16 years of age without the consent of their parent or legal representative.

There are no specific education/training requirements for traders other than the general requirements for all animal keepers to have the required knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the animal, the behaviour characteristic of the animal species and the animal protection requirements.

Provisions on the transport of animals are included in the animal protection act and implement EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. They also apply to commercial transport of cats and dogs.

### **Surgical mutilations**

According to the Animal Protection Act, surgeries and other veterinary procedures that alter the appearance of an animal and that are not performed for the purpose of medical treatment are prohibited. Ear cropping, tail docking, devocalisation and declawing are thus prohibited. Ear cropping and tail docking of dogs and cats is allowed only in the event of medical indications.



### **Links to legislation**

Animal Protection Act:

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/Riigikogu/act/505092014002/consolide>

Regulation on keeping companion animals:

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/13199887>

# Finland



## Identification and Registration

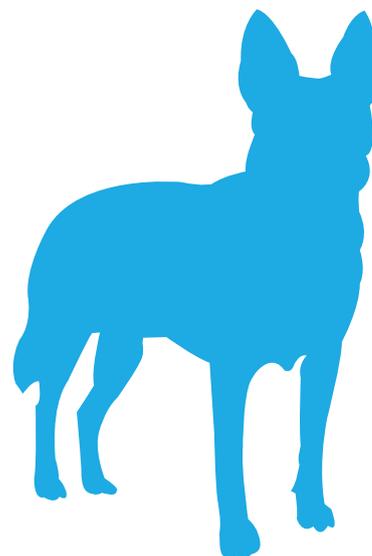
Identification and registration of animals is regulated in Finland through the Act on Animal Identification System. However this Act only covers farm animals and its main objective is to implement EU identification and registration requirements. There is one general database for all animals and specific databases for pure-bred dogs, but there is no Finnish member of Europetnet.

### Dogs

There is no obligation in Finland to have dogs permanently identified and registered. It is left to dog owners to decide if they wish to microchip and register their dog. If their dog is identified, they can register it in the turvasiru national database ([www.turvasiru.fi](http://www.turvasiru.fi)) which is the biggest Finnish database.

### Cats

There is no obligation in Finland to have cats identified and registered. It is left to cat owners to decide if they wish to microchip and register their cat. If their cat is microchipped, they can register it in the turvasiru national database ([www.turvasiru.fi](http://www.turvasiru.fi)) too.



### Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Under the Animal Welfare Act, professional or large-scale dog and cat breeders must notify the State Provincial Office at least 30 days before they start their activity or 14 days before they change it or stop it. To be considered as professional or large-scale, breeders need to rear at least six breeding females which have given birth at least once.

The notification must contain the full contact details of the operator, a description of the competence of the person taking care of the animals (proof of training, experience), a description of the kind of activities, where and when it will start, information on the animal species and the numbers of animals, a description of the facilities, the equipment and how the care of the animals will be organised.

Operators must keep up-to-date records on the animal species and animals which they breed and/or sell. Upon request the records must be presented to the control authorities.

There is no requirement in the legislation to inspect cat and dog breeders before they start their activities.

Inspections can be performed if there is a reason to suspect that animals are treated in violation of the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, but also when there is no suspicion of violation, through sampling. There is a national goal to inspect professional or large-scale dog and cat breeders regularly. In 2013, 3200 inspections based on suspicions covered pet animals, out of a total of 6400 inspections. The Animal Welfare Act includes several provisions concerning inspections.

The Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) has a database (Elite) in which Regional State Administrative Agencies register the data of breeders, which have made a notification.

The Animal Welfare Act includes provisions concerning animal protection and health in breeding. The use of breeding methods which may cause distress or significant damage to the health or welfare of animals is prohibited. In addition, an animal may not be kept for production purposes unless it can be reasonably assumed on the basis of its phenotype or genotype that it can be kept in a way that keeping the animal does not cause damage to its health or welfare.

This is a very general statement which may be subject to interpretation. However, the problem of inherited disorders seems to be taken seriously by the Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA). The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is currently preparing a new Animal Welfare Act, in which this provision should be clarified.

### Regulation of dog and cat traders

Under the Animal Welfare Act, professional or large-scale dog and cat traders must notify the State Provincial Office before they start their activity or when they change or terminate their activity. The rules are the same as for professional breeders.

To be considered as professional or large-scale traders, they must place dogs and/or cats on the market or sell on a regular basis.

The legislation does not state a minimum age at which cats/dogs may be sold, a general provision is included that puppies/kittens must not be separated from their mother too early and that it should happen at the point of time which is best for both puppies/kittens and their mothers.

Inspection requirements are the same as for professional and large scale dog and cat breeders (see above).

There are no specific education/training requirements, although in the notification, a description of the competence of the person taking care of the animals must be included.

In Finland it is forbidden to sell puppies or kittens in pet shops. Itinerant trading is also forbidden. Cats and dogs must be bought directly from the breeders or from registered traders. It is permissible to advertise dogs and cats for sale on the internet.

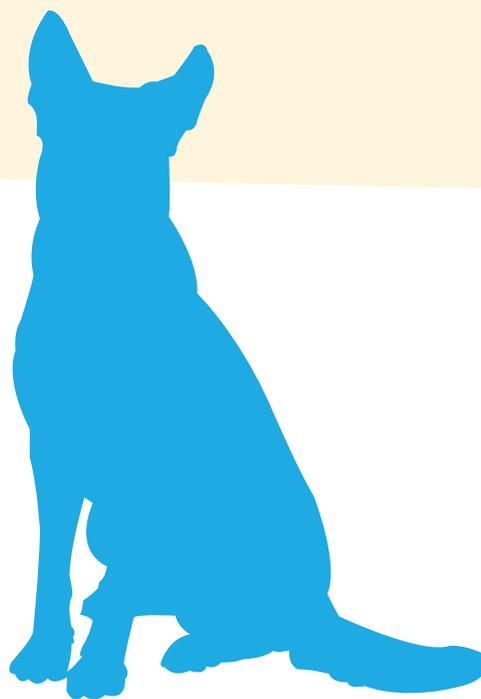
There is no minimum age for people to be allowed to buy a cat or a dog.

The transport of cats and dogs is regulated through the general animal transport act, which implements EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. No specific provisions on cats and dogs are included.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Surgical operations or similar procedures which cause pain may be performed on an animal only if it is necessary due to the illness of the animal or other similar reason.

In practice, tail docking, ear cropping and devocalisation are prohibited. Declawing is still allowed in hunting dog puppies to prevent potential injuries during hunting in the woods.



### **Links to legislation**

Animal Welfare Act:

<http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1996/en19960247.pdf>

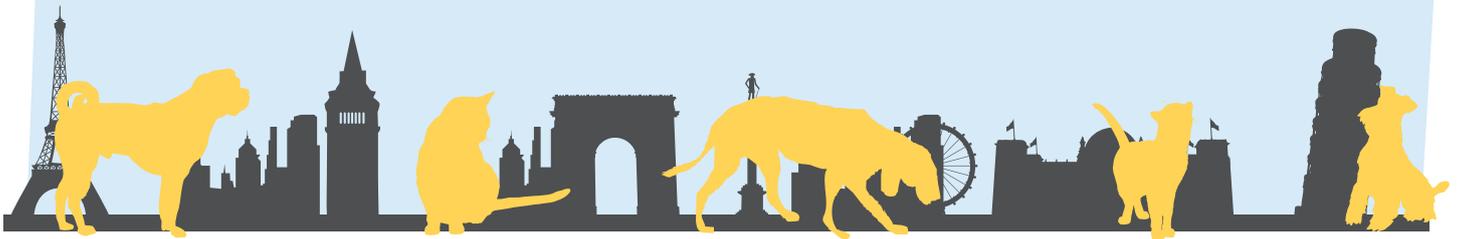
Animal Welfare Decree

<http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1996/en19960396.pdf>

Animal Transport Act:

<http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2006/en20061429.pdf>

# France



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

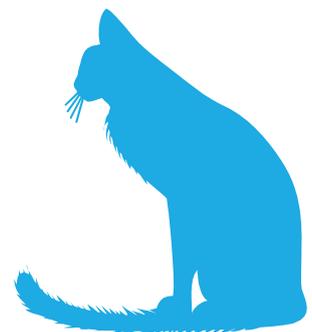
Since 1999, all dogs older than 4 months old must be permanently identified with a microchip or a tattoo. Any dog being sold or exchanged must be permanently identified, regardless of its age, but the minimum age at which a dog can be sold or exchanged is 8 weeks.

Dogs must be registered in a national database designated by the Ministry of Agriculture which is the central file for the identification of domestic carnivores managed by I-CAD SAS ([www.i-cad.fr](http://www.i-cad.fr)).

### Cats

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, all cats older than seven months must also be identified and registered in the I-CAD database. Any cat being sold or exchanged must be permanently identified, regardless of its age, but the minimum age at which a cat can be sold or exchanged is 8 weeks.

I-CAD is a member of Europetnet, thus linked to an EU database.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

In France, people are considered as breeders when they own a breeding female which gives birth to one or more litters a year. Breeders must declare this activity to the Competent Authority (the Direction for the Protection of the Population or the Direction of Social Cohesion and Protection of the Population (DD(SC)PP) of the Department where they are based).

In addition, a certificate of competence (ACACED) is needed for the following animal-related activities: the management of a pound or shelter, breeding, commercial exercise of sales, transit and care, education, training and presentation of dogs and cats to the public. These activities can only be exercised if at least one person, in direct contact with animals, has a certificate of ability attesting to his or her knowledge of biological, physiological, behavioural and maintenance needs.

Breeders and charities must respect sanitary and animal protection rules which cover the equipment and the functioning of the establishment, the conditions in which animals are kept (air quality, lighting, space), social needs, feeding and watering. They must keep a register of entries and exits and a sanitary and health register. They must adopt a set of sanitary rules with objectives for the care of the animals and compulsory self-checks, in cooperation with a designated veterinarian who must pay two visits per year to the establishment.

If breeders buy and sell animals besides their breeding activity, this activity must be separated. Breeders cannot pretend that they have bred animals they have bought and are selling.

It is prohibited to select companion animals based on criteria which could compromise their health and welfare as well as those of their descendants. The breeder must aim at producing animals in good health, with a good temperament, with no defect or traits which can compromise their welfare. These provisions aim to prevent the selection of dogs and cats with exaggerated conformations, which have a negative impact on the animals' health and welfare.

Only animals in good health and fully grown can be used for reproduction and for females, from their second sexual cycle, taking into account the age according to the breed. Females cannot have more than 3 litters over 2 years. During the first months, puppies and kittens must have daily social contact with other puppies/kittens from the same litter, adult dogs/cats, and humans. Puppies and kittens must be separated progressively from their mother, and not fully separated before the age of 6 weeks.

Guides of good practice to help breeders reach the obligations required by the legislation can be found at: <https://www.centrale-canine.fr/articles/guide-juridique-de-la-saillie>

### Requirements for breeding dogs

Establishments keeping more than nine dogs in total of more than 4 months of age must comply with the regulations on classified establishments (those with activities that could present risks or cause pollution or nuisance, for the security and health of residents). They must be declared as such if the total number of dogs older than 4 months is between 10 and 50. If the total number of dogs older than 4 months is more than 50, they must get an authorisation of exploitation in addition. The Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy manages a database of authorised classified establishments.

Two types of inspections are conducted in classified breeding establishments: inspections concerning the protection of the environment and animal welfare inspections. Other establishments (not classified) are only inspected against animal protection rules.

**Requirements for breeding cats**

For cats the rules are the same as for dogs.

Dog and cat breeding establishments are not inspected before they start their activities. Once they have started, they are inspected regularly, on the basis of risk analysis. More information can be found at <https://www.centrale-canine.fr/articles/guide-juridique-de-la-vente-du-chiot-et-du-chien>

**Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Traders must comply with the same rules as breeders (see above) to declare their activity.

Cats and dogs must be at least 8 weeks old to be sold. Any person selling a dog or cat must be registered. Traders must provide the buyer with a certificate of sale and a document containing information on the needs of the animal and advice on training the animal. Traders must also provide a veterinary certificate.

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops. It is prohibited to sell or exchange companion animals on the street or at markets. There are exemptions for exhibitions specifically organised on animals if an authorisation has been granted beforehand.

Any person publishing an advert to sell cats and/or dogs must include their professional registration number (SIREN number), the identification number for the animal being sold (from the microchip or the tattoo) and the identification number of the animal's mother. The advert must also include the age of the animals and if they are registered in a stud book recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture. "Purebred" can only be mentioned for cats and dogs registered in a stud book recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture. In other cases, the advert must mention "does not belong to a breed".

Any person looking to give away their animals for free does not need to be registered but the advertisement must state that the animals are free, the animals must not be given away before they are 8 weeks old and when they are given away they must be permanently identified.

Internet sales are allowed and adverts must include the information described above.

The law includes specific provisions for commercial establishments. Stray, lost and abandoned animals, or animals weaned too early, cannot be sold. Animals must have social contact with humans and other animals according to their needs. Special attention must be given to the socialisation of puppies and kittens. Staff with adequate competence must be available to advise the buyers. People under 16 years old need the consent of their parent or legal representative to buy a dog or a cat.

The provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport apply to the transport of cats and dogs.

The Competent Authority where a breeder/trader is based is responsible for inspecting the establishments. They specifically check the state of the animals, the care they receive, the keeping conditions.

**Surgical mutilations**

With the exception of tail docking, surgical operations on companion animals which are not performed with a curative objective are prohibited. Devocalisation, declawing and ear cropping are thus prohibited. Ear tipping is prohibited unless this is done to mark feral cats as neutered when viewing from a distance.

The sale or presentation at events of animals which have had a surgical operation against these provisions is prohibited. The presentation at events of animals with cropped ears coming from the United States, where this operation is allowed legally, is authorised.





### Links to legislation

Decree of 3 April 2014 fixing sanitary and animal protection rules which apply to activities involving companion animals of domestic species:

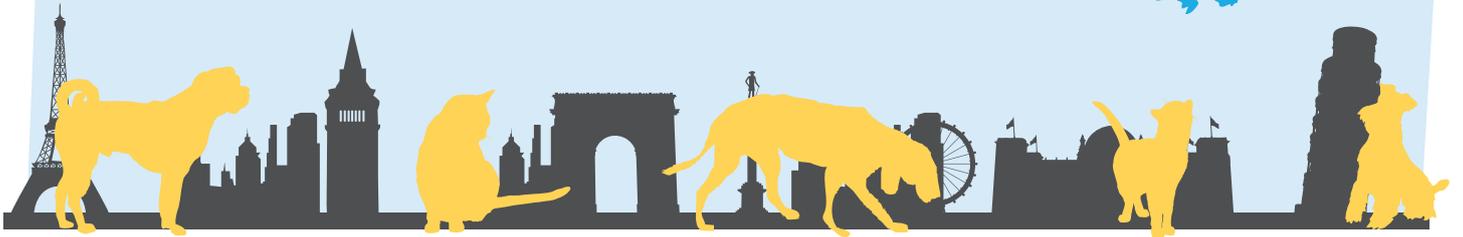
<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/dgccrf/Publications/Vie-pratique/Fiches-pratiques/Animal-de-compagnie>

Rural Code – animal protection – companion animals breeding establishments:

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode>

[do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006152208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071367&dateTexte=20080531](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006152208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071367&dateTexte=20080531)

# Germany



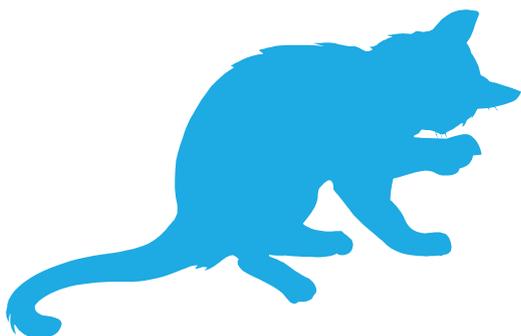
## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Germany, there is no national obligation to permanently identify and register dogs. Dog owners can identify and register their animals if they wish to do so. However, Germany is made up of 16 Federal States and the identification and registration of dogs is compulsory in some of these.

### Cats

According to the Animal Welfare Law it is generally not compulsory to identify and register cats. However, Article 13b of the Animal Welfare Law empowers the Federal States to order the castration of cats if there are animal welfare problems in populations of stray cats. In this context the Federal States can order the identification and registration of those cats as well. The main databases for pet animals in Germany are TASSO ([www.tasso.net](http://www.tasso.net)) and the German Pet Register (Deutschen Haustierregister [www.registrier-dein-tier.de](http://www.registrier-dein-tier.de)), run by a German animal welfare organisation. TASSO is linked to a worldwide database search engine, petmaxx.com, and to the EU central database Europetnet. Another database is also active in Germany, as well as in other countries: IFTA (<http://www.tierregistrierung.de>).



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

An authorisation is required from the Competent Authorities for any person intending to breed or trade in cats and/or dogs commercially. There are national requirements that breeders need to comply with to be authorised, but the Federal States are responsible to grant the authorisation.

Breeders are generally considered as commercial when:

- they have 3 or more reproductive female dogs or produce 3 or more litters per year,
- they have 5 or more female cats or produce 5 or more litters per year

The application must indicate the species of animals concerned, the person responsible for the activity and information on the premises and facilities.

The applicant must also provide evidence that he/she has acquired the requisite specialist knowledge and skills through training or previous professional or other experience with animals. Before granting the authorisation, the Competent Authorities must be satisfied that the premises and equipment to be used for the activity allow the animals to receive the appropriate feeding, care and accommodation. The authorisation may be granted with time limits, conditions and requirements as required for animal welfare, such as, for example, an obligation to identify the animals as well as to keep a register, regular training or further training.

The competent authorities of the Federal States are responsible for granting the permits and may interview the applicants to check their competence, especially if it is based on previous experience rather than training. The competent authorities must inspect the premises before granting the authorisation.

In Germany, it is prohibited to breed vertebrates if it is expected that the offspring, due to hereditary factors, will be lacking parts of the body or organs, or will be unfit or deformed thereby causing pain, suffering or harm. It is also prohibited to breed vertebrates if behavioural problems are expected to occur in the offspring due to hereditary factors, which could result in suffering or increased aggressiveness.

There is no central database to record breeder information. There are no Codes of Good Practice for breeders of dogs and cats published by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

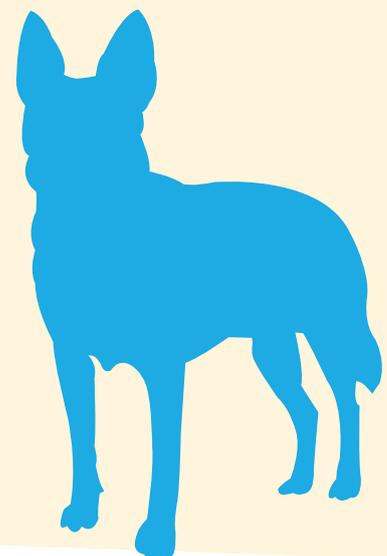
A specific Regulation includes provisions on the protection of dogs. Dogs must be kept in groups as much as possible and they need to have access to outdoor facilities. Their needs regarding social contacts must be respected. Puppies are not allowed to be separated from their mother before the age of 8 weeks. Should an earlier separation be necessary (e.g. due to death or health problems of the bitch) the puppies are to be kept together until 8 weeks old. Commercial breeders must ensure that for every ten breeding dogs and their puppies there is at least one person taking care of them, with demonstrated knowledge and skills.

The legislation includes requirements for indoor and outdoor keeping of dogs, such as the space, temperature, material for the shelter, lighting, feed and care.

The dogs must be checked at least once per day.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

There are no specific provisions concerning the breeding of cats. The general provisions of the Animal Welfare Law apply.



### Regulation of dog and cat traders

Commercial traders must apply for authorisation to the Competent Authorities. The application procedure is the same as for breeders.

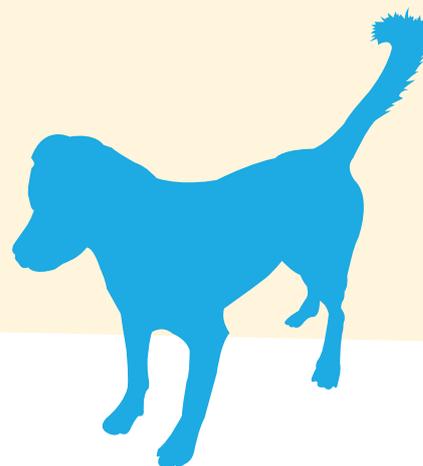
Commercial traders must ensure that their salespersons (with the exception of trainees) have provided to them proof of their expertise based on their training, previous professional experience or other handling of animals or relevant education. It is prohibited to sell cats and/or dogs to children or adolescents under 16 years of age without the consent of the parent or guardian.

In addition to the provisions of the EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, requirements regarding the transport of animals including dogs and cats are defined in the national regulation on the protection of animals during transport. An annex gives specific space requirements for dogs and cats according to their height at the withers.

Dogs and cats can be sold over the internet, in pet shops and at markets but an authorisation by the competent authority is necessary if done commercially.

### Surgical mutilations

In Germany, the amputation of parts of the body of a vertebrate animal is prohibited, with an exemption for veterinary reasons or for certain breeds of hunting dogs when there are no objections by the veterinarian. In practice this means that ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing are prohibited and tail docking is prohibited except in certain defined circumstances.



### Links to legislation

Animal Welfare Act (in English):

<https://hirnforschung.kyb.mpg.de/en/the-law/the-german-animal-welfare-act.html>

Regulation on dogs (in German):

<http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/tierschhuv/index.html>

Regulation on professional pet keepers (in German):

[http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/tierpflausbv\\_2003/gesamt.pdf](http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/tierpflausbv_2003/gesamt.pdf)

The rules for breeders authorisation (Allgemeine Verwaltungsvorschrift zur Durchführung des Tierschutzgesetzes):

[http://www.verwaltungsvorschriften-im-internet.de/bsvwvbund\\_09022000\\_32135220006.htm](http://www.verwaltungsvorschriften-im-internet.de/bsvwvbund_09022000_32135220006.htm)

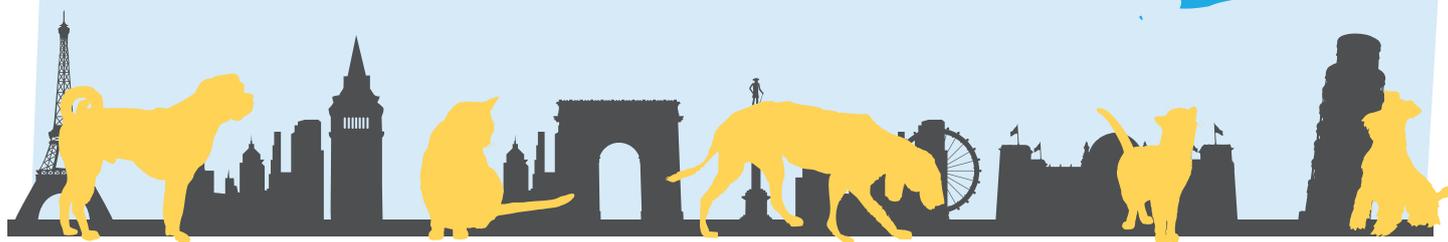
Regulation on the Protection of Animals during Transport (in German):

[http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/tierschtrv\\_2009/gesamt.pdf](http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/tierschtrv_2009/gesamt.pdf)

General Administrative Regulation on the implementation of the Animal Protection Act (in German):

[http://www.verwaltungsvorschriften-im-internet.de/bsvwvbund\\_09022000\\_32135220006.htm](http://www.verwaltungsvorschriften-im-internet.de/bsvwvbund_09022000_32135220006.htm)

# Greece



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

Since 1st June 2004 it is compulsory for dogs to be identified with a microchip as soon as possible after birth.

Dogs must also be registered in the central database. The Ministry of Agriculture manages the database and all registered vets (members of the Hellenic Vet Association) have access to the database, meaning they can edit data on existing entries or create new entries. It's the responsibility of municipalities to register stray dogs. However, they don't often do this or if they do it takes a long time.

There is no Greek member of Europetnet, so the database is not linked to an EU database.

### Cats

Under Law 4039/2012 it is now also compulsory for cats to be permanently identified with a microchip and to register them in the central database.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Dog and cat breeders must have a licence issued by the competent authority (the Directorate General of Agriculture and Veterinary Practice) of the region in which they are located. The breeding establishment must be subject to the surveillance of this authority.

A licence is needed when more than two females are bred, or more than two litters per year are produced in the breeding establishment. For every breeding female, records must be kept.

Breeding establishments must comply with the rules on animal welfare, safety rules and rules on providing adequate veterinary care. Breeding dogs and cats must have a health passport, be microchipped and registered on the central registration database mentioned above. Breeders should be inspected before the licence is granted.

Inspections must be carried out regularly. However, at the time of writing no competent authority had been assigned the task of inspecting breeding establishments.

Animals whose anatomical and physiological characteristics or behavioural attributes may, depending on the species and breed, prove to be harmful for the health and well-being of the breeding female and her offspring are not allowed to be selected for breeding purposes. According to the legislation, the determination of harmful characteristics is done by decision of the Minister of Rural Development and Food. However, this determination has not yet been done.

The competent authorities must organize training seminars and informative and educational media programmes for individuals who possess a companion animal and people engaged in breeding, education, trade and keeping of those animals as well as informing local communities and groups about the provisions concerning the protection of animals.

There is no database to record licensed breeders.

## Requirements for breeding dogs

Female dogs cannot be used for breeding before their second reproductive cycle. A minimum period of 9 months must be allowed between giving birth and the next pregnancy. Reproduction is also prohibited after animals are 9 years old.

## Requirements for breeding cats

There are no specific requirements for cats. Cat breeders must comply with the general rules for breeding establishments.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Commercial traders need a licence to sell companion animals. The conditions to get the licence are the same as for commercial breeders (see above). However no controlling authority had been designated at the time of writing.

Cats and dogs can be sold on the internet. When advertised on the internet, the advert must provide the animals' microchip numbers.

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops, but the law specifically prohibits the sale of pets at outdoor markets and in the street and outdoor public places.

The sale of puppies and kittens of less than 8 weeks of age is not allowed.

The minimum age at which a person can buy a cat or a dog is 18 years old.

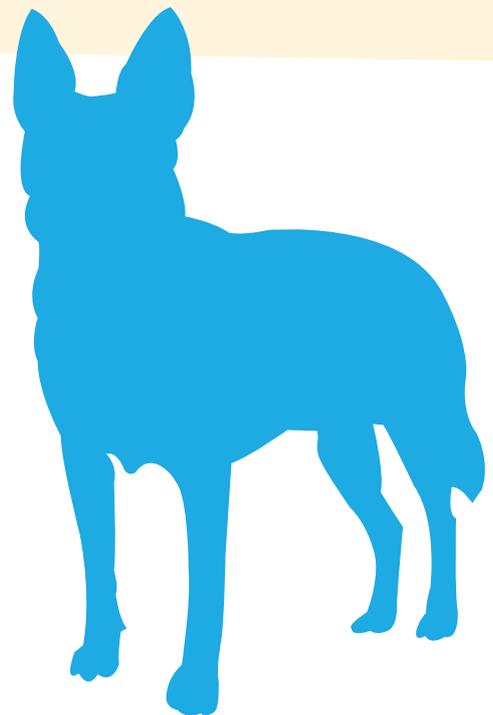
Law 4039/2012 includes some provisions concerning the transport of companion animals with their owners: animals must be placed in secure transport cages and accompanied by the owner. Guide dogs can be transported without a transport cage and regardless of their size as long as they bear a muzzle and leash. Passenger ships must have clean cages, protected from adverse weather conditions, for the transport of large pets.

Commercial transport must comply with the rule of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and the EU rules on pet movements.

Concerning education and training of commercial traders, as for breeders the competent authorities must organise training sessions. However it is not an obligation for traders to attend or to have a certain level of education to get a licence. In addition, no inspection is conducted before traders get their authorisation.

### **Surgical mutilations**

The Greek law specifically prohibits surgical mutilations in general, making tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing illegal.



### **Links to legislation**

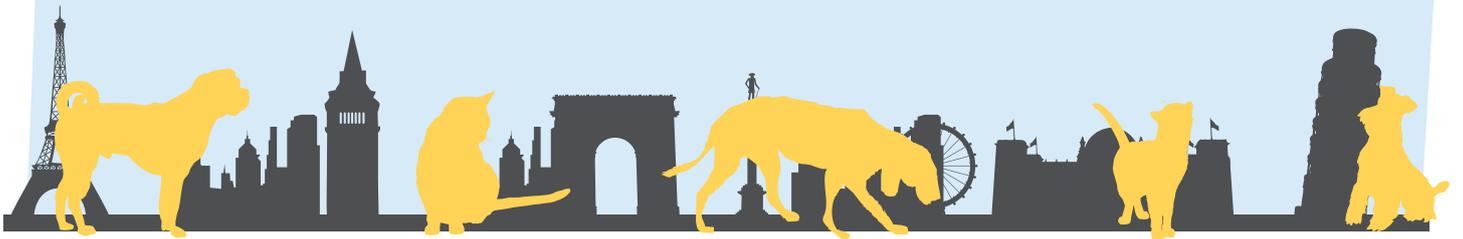
Law 4039/2012::

<https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-zoa-suntrophias-prostasia-zoon/n-4039-2012.html>

Amendment 2014 to law 4039/2012 (law 4235/2014)::

<https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-agrotike-anaptukse/ktenotrophia/n-4235-2014.html>

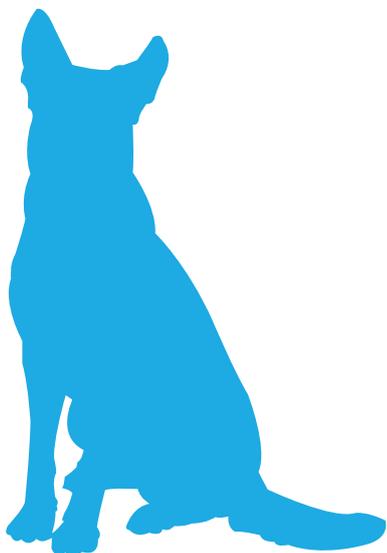
# Hungary



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Hungary, all dogs must be microchipped and registered by a veterinarian in one of the national pet databases within three months of age.



### Cats

Cats do not have to be identified with a microchip. If a cat is identified with a microchip, it is not compulsory for it to be registered in a database.

There is a “pet database”, [www.petvetdata.hu](http://www.petvetdata.hu), which is accessible only to veterinarians. This database is operated by the Hungarian Veterinary Chamber. It is a member of Europetnet, thus linked to an EU database. There is also a “national dog database”, which is operated by the National Food Chain Safety Office and is accessible to official veterinarians and municipalities. This national dog database synchronizes with the data of petvetdata, so the data of all microchipped dogs must only be registered once.

Owners can register their cats in the petvetdata database through a private veterinarian.

### Regulation of dog and cat breeders

In Hungary, there are regulations for the keeping of and trade in companion animals which also apply to breeders.

Dog and cat breeders must respect the provisions of Act XXVIII of 1998 on the protection of animals, last amended in 2014, which applies to all animal keepers, as well as to animals bred and used for economic purposes, and includes the following obligations:

- Regular inspection of the animals, at least daily
- Provide the essential conditions of accommodation adapted to the species and satisfying the physiological needs of the animals, while considering their age, gender and physiological state.
- Provide sufficient space to animals which are tied up, to be able to move and rest.
- Provide shelter from adverse weather and predators, and sufficient space to satisfy their need for movement to animals kept outside.
- Provide proper care to the animal.

The breeding of any animal that suffers from a hereditary disease is considered as cruelty to animals and is prohibited. A person holding pets for sale must also prevent the reproduction of animals with abnormal conformations or behaviour that would cause the offspring to suffer or would have detrimental effects on their health.

Cats and dogs cannot be separated from their mother before the age of eight weeks.

Act XXVIII also provides for a general obligation to educate people to behave properly with animals and care for them, as part of the general school curriculum.

There are no specific provisions for the control of dog and cat breeders.

### Regulation of dog and cat traders

In Hungary, cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops. They must be older than 8 weeks and be microchipped. The establishment and operation of pet shops requires a licence to be issued by the district animal health and food control office of the place where the pet shop is located.

To apply, the pet shop operator must provide:

- a copy of the contract agreed with a veterinarian to monitor the animals' health,
- the rules of operation of the shop, including provisions for feeding and taking care of the animals, their veterinary health supervision, the management of waste, the storage and disposal of carcasses, cleaning, disinfection, compliance with public health, veterinary and animal welfare provisions and provisions for informing customers.

The competent authority processes the application within 21 days, with the possibility to extend this period for another 21 days<sup>7</sup>. If the application, the applicant, the shop and its rules of operation are in line with statutory conditions, the authority issues the licence for the activity and registers the pet shop.

The following requirements apply to pet shops, among others:

- The accommodation must provide a quiet environment, even in the sales area.
- Animals must be kept in a way which allows them to perform their natural behaviour and exercise needs. Dogs can be moved outside of the pet shop to exercise, but their enclosure in the pet shop must allow them to move as much as possible.
- Adequate food must be provided, at intervals suited to the needs of the species
- Pet animals and the place where they are housed shall be checked at least once a day.
- The animal keeper shall ensure that the environmental conditions of the place where the animals are kept satisfy the needs of the animals.
- Animals cannot be kept in permanent light, permanent darkness or permanent noise.
- Pet animals shall be treated with care and may not be caused unnecessary pain, suffering or fear. Their social needs must be taken into account.

<sup>7</sup> according to Act CXL of 2004

Pet shop holders must keep records of animals acquired, sold and which are in stock. Records must also be kept of animals which have died and the reason for death.

The legislation provides for pet shops to be inspected regularly, and at least once per year.

Pet animals cannot be traded through mail orders, in mobile shops or on public places. Advertising is not forbidden on the internet. Pet animals can be sold at animal markets – fulfilling the requirements relevant to pet shops.

Animals incapable of staying alive without parental care cannot be traded as pets. Cats and dogs cannot be sold before the age of eight weeks.

Dogs must be identified with a microchip before being traded in pet shops. If mandatory immunisation of an animal species is stipulated by legislation, animals belonging to that species can only be traded if they have a certificate of immunisation according to their age.

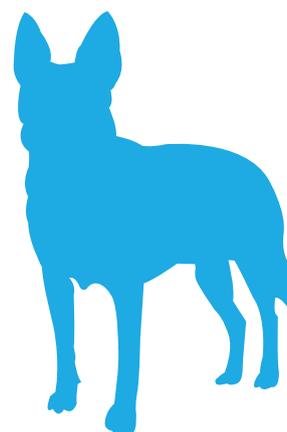
There is no minimum age at which someone can buy a cat or a dog in Hungary.

There are no specific rules for the commercial transport of cats and dogs. The provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport apply. The Act on the protection of animals includes general provisions which apply to any animal transport, including:

- the need to avoid unnecessary suffering or injury when transporting, loading and unloading live animals, and to unload animals without delay once at destination.
- The need to ensure transport conditions which allow the satisfaction of the animals physiological and behavioural needs.
- The vehicle must ensure the protection of animals against adverse weather conditions.
- Experienced staff must accompany the animals and care for them if necessary.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Ear cropping, declawing and devocalisation are prohibited in Hungary. Tail docking can still be performed until the age of 7 days.



### **Links to legislation**

ACT XXVIII of 1998 on the protection of animals (in Hungarian):  
[http://njt.hu/cgi\\_bin/njt\\_doc.cgi?docid=34584.235020](http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=34584.235020)

Gov Regulations 41/2010 on the keeping and trading of pet animals:  
[http://njt.hu/cgi\\_bin/njt\\_doc.cgi?docid=131539.255331](http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=131539.255331)

# Ireland



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Ireland, permanent identification of dogs is compulsory since April 2016. Dogs must also wear a collar with the name and address of the owner inscribed on it or on a plate, badge or disc attached to it.

If you own a dog you must get a dog licence and your dog must be microchipped. It is compulsory for dogs to be registered on a Government approved microchipping database, and people who own a dog need a licence, which is valid for a period of 12 months. Dog owners also have the option to purchase a 'life time licence'.

Since 1st April 2016 it is a legal requirement to have all dogs in Ireland microchipped. To be fully compliant with the legislation you must:

1. Have your dog microchipped by a registered implanter.
2. Have your details registered on a Government approved database (the microchip implanter is responsible for this).
3. Be in possession of a Microchipping Certificate.

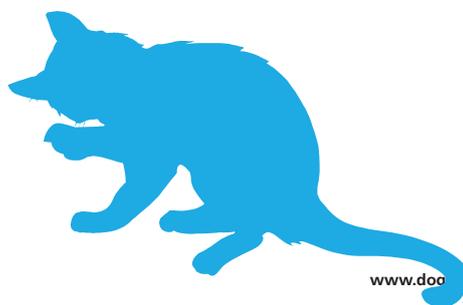
At present there are four Government approved microchipping database providers:

- Animark
- Fido
- Irish Kennel Club
- Microdog ID Ltd (Irish Coursing Club)

### Cats

Cats do not need to be permanently identified nor registered in a database. Cat owners do not need a licence.

There is no single central Irish database to record cat and dog data but there are four Irish databases which are members of the EU central database Europetnet: Animark.ie, Fido.ie, IKC-PetData database (only available to Irish Kennel Club registered dogs) and Micro Dog ID.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Anyone keeping six or more female dogs older than six months old and capable of breeding must apply to the local authority for registration as a dog breeding establishment and pay a fee, which varies from €400 for establishments with less than 18 bitches to €3000 for establishments with 100 to 201 bitches, and an additional €1600 for every 100 bitches in excess of that number. The local authority can visit the premises before granting registration. It is not a precondition for the granting of the certificate but physical inspections are the norm. A registered establishment is issued a certificate of registration which includes details of the applicant, the address of the dog breeding establishment, the maximum number of bitches over six months that may be kept and any conditions attached to the registration.

Local authorities keep a register of dog breeding establishments and must make it available to the public for inspection. Dog breeding establishments must pay an annual charge equivalent to the registration fee, upon each anniversary of the registration of that establishment. The operator of a dog breeding establishment must keep records and make them available for inspection by the competent authority.

Bitches must not give birth to more than 6 litters of pups each, and not more than 3 litters of pups are allowed to be born to a bitch for every period of 3 years.

Updated Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines were issued by the Government and came into effect in January 2019. The updates saw additions to the guidelines around socialisation, exercise, husbandry and record keeping.

Dog breeders must provide accommodation and equipments which are suitable to the physical, behavioural and social needs of the dogs, such as sufficient space to exercise, places to rest, appropriate food and water, proper ventilation and cleanliness. Dogs must be inspected at suitable intervals, once per day being the minimum recommended. Proper veterinary care should be provided through the services of a veterinarian of whom the establishment is a client. The protection from injury, fear and pain is

also among the requirements, as well as an adequate number of competent staff, according to the size of the establishment and the number of dogs being kept. Staff must comply with dog welfare legislation and must have experience in handling dogs. Formal training in animal care is encouraged. Staff should be competent and aware of their responsibilities.

Inspections of dog breeding establishments are organised by local authorities. Inspections may be carried out at any time. Routine inspections are conducted with prior notice.

Dog breeding establishments can sell dogs directly to individual people.

Apart from the general provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 on the age of animals to be sold, there are no detailed provisions concerning the age at which dogs and cats can be sold.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

No specific rules have been adopted concerning the breeding of cats. The general rules of the Animal Health and Welfare Act concerning the duty to protect animal welfare, prohibition of cruelty, feeding and inspection of protected animals and equipment apply.

Breeders do not need to prove proper education and training. It is prohibited to sell a cat or a dog to someone who is less than 16 years old.

There are no provisions prohibiting the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Establishments doing commercial trade in animals must be licensed. A person who plans to start a commercial establishment must apply for a licence, providing a description of the activities planned and the facilities. The Minister may impose specific conditions and grant the licence for a specific duration.

People who sell animals must ensure that they are kept in a suitable accommodation with regard to size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness. They must provide the animals with suitable food and drink. It is prohibited to sell animals which are not at a suitable age according to the species, breed, degree

of development, adaptation and domestication, physiological and behavioural needs.

The animals must be protected against fire, environmental or other hazards.

The sale of cats and dogs in pet shops and at markets is allowed. Sale on the street would be subject to having a 'casual trader permit'. Online advertising for sale is permitted.

Apart from the general provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare Act on the age of animals to be sold, there are no detailed provisions concerning the age at which dogs and cats can be sold.

It is prohibited to sell a cat or a dog to someone who is less than 16 years old.

The Department of Agriculture has issued guidelines for the transport of 'other' animals, which cover cats and dogs and complement the provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. The guidelines summarise the EU rules and give details on aspects such as:

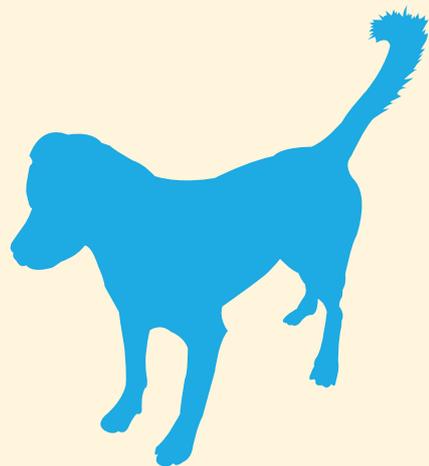
- Fitness to transport: dogs or cats of less than eight weeks of age must not be transported other than with their mother.
- Water and feeding intervals: Dogs and cats being transported must be fed at intervals of no more than 24 hours and given water at intervals of no more than eight hours.
- Transport in hot weather: the guidelines explain how to recognise signs of heat stress in dogs and how to treat heat stress.

It is not an obligation for cats and dogs traders to have a certain level of education or to have followed a training course.

No physical inspection needs to be performed on establishments intending to sell animals before the licence is granted.

## Surgical mutilations

The Animal Health and Welfare Act prohibits the removal of the sensitive tissue or the bone structure of animals for cosmetic reasons. However, the removal of the tail or part of the tail or of dew claws of spaniel, pointer or terrier breeds that have not attained the age of 8 days is allowed under very strict conditions for dogs used for pest control or hunting. Otherwise tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing are prohibited. Although the legislation only provides for dogs and not cats, this type of mutilation in cats would be extremely rare.





### **Links to legislation**

Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013:  
[www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2013/en.act.2013.0015.pdf](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2013/en.act.2013.0015.pdf)

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010:  
[www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2010/en.act.2010.0029.pdf](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2010/en.act.2010.0029.pdf)

Prohibition on Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal (Dogs) Regulations 2014:  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2014/en.si.2014.0128.pdf>

Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7d9fcf-dog-breeding-establishment-guidelines-2018/>

Transport of live animals:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/>

Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015:  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/si/63/made/en/pdf>

Control of Dogs Act 1986  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/enacted/en/html>

Control of Dogs Regulations 1998  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1998/si/442/made/en/print>

# Italy



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Italy it is compulsory to permanently identify dogs with a microchip during the second month after birth and to register them with the regional authorities. Each of the 20 Italian Regions has established a regional canine database, which is connected to the national registry of companion animals established by the Ministry of Health in March 2013.

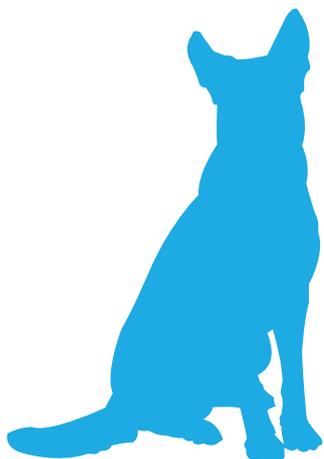
### Cats

Cats which are sold, and unowned cats which are part of a free roaming colony (once they have been neutered), must be identified with a microchip and registered in the national companion animal registry.

It is not an obligation for other cats to be identified and registered but owners may choose to voluntarily identify and register their cats in the companion animal registry. From January 2020 cities such as Rome and Milan are making it compulsory for owned cats to be registered in order to better control the population, and it's likely that many other cities will follow.

Beside the national companion animal registry, there is a private database which belongs to the National Vet Organization, exclusive for cats, called the Feline Registry.

The national companion animal registry is currently not a member of Europetnet.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

A 2003 Agreement on the welfare of companion animals between the Italian State and the Regions includes rules for commercial activities with companion animals which need to be implemented by the 20 Italian Regions. Due to this regional implementation, the national rules are quite general and the levels of implementation of the standard national framework are different in each region.

Breeders must be authorised. To apply for authorisation, breeders need to provide information on the person responsible for the activity and on the species they intend to breed. They also need to comply with specific requirements concerning the premises and equipment and competence of the staff, and be inspected by the local health authorities who have to be satisfied with the facilities.

The 2003 agreement includes provisions for the Ministry of Health and the Regions to organise training courses and educational programmes for breeders. However, the training courses are not compulsory in all Regions and each one has different requirements.

There are no national guidelines or Codes of Practice for breeders to adhere to but if they belong to the ENCI (Ente Nazionale Cinofilia Italiana, the only organization issuing pedigrees in Italy), they must respect minimum standards to be members.

There is no legislation preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations.

The local vet services are responsible for inspecting premises used for breeding activities, however, there are not strict rules on this or compulsory intervals for inspections.

Unlicensed individuals who occasionally sell dogs will do so via the internet or through word of mouth and this activity is unregulated.

## Requirements for breeding dogs

Dog breeders also need to comply with specific indoor and outdoor space requirements provided for in the annex to the 2003 Agreement on the welfare of companion animals. The space required depends on the size (weight) of the dogs.

## Requirements for breeding cats

There are no specific requirements for breeding cats, other than the general requirements outlined above.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Animal traders must be authorized by the Regional Authorities. The procedure and requirements are the same as for the authorization of breeders, including for education and training and must be implemented at Regional level.

The sale of dogs and cats under two months old is prohibited. Before being sold, dogs must be identified and registered in the regional dog register.

The sale of dogs and cats in pet shops is permitted. The sale of dogs and cats at markets and on the street is also permitted, with regional rules.

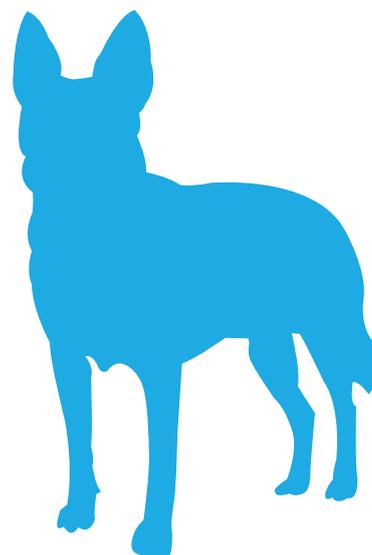
There are no controls on the sale of dogs and cats over the internet and no minimum age at which a person can buy a dog or cat.

There are no further welfare rules for dogs and cats during transport, other than EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

## Surgical mutilations

Surgical interventions intended to modify the morphology of dogs and cats, which are not aimed at a curative purpose, are prohibited. This includes ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing. However, a position paper from the Consiglio Superiore di Sanità (High Council of Health) lists certain dog breeds for which tail docking is permitted with a veterinary certification due to their sporting or hunting activity.





### Links to legislation

National registry of companion animals (Banca dati dell'Anagrafe Animali d'Affezione):

[http://www.salute.gov.it/anagcaninapublic\\_new/home.jsp](http://www.salute.gov.it/anagcaninapublic_new/home.jsp)

Ordinanza 6 agosto 2008 contingibile ed urgente concernente misure per l'identificazione e la registrazione della popolazione canina: (G.U. Serie Generale, n. 194 del 20/08/2008):

<http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=26145&completo=true>

Accordo 6 february 2003 tra il Ministro della salute, le regioni e le province autonome di Trento e di Bolzano in materia di benessere degli animali da compagnia e pet-therapy (G.U. Serie Generale, n. 51 del 03 marzo 2003):

<http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=21760&completo=true>

Legge 04 novembre 2010, n. 201. Ratifica ed esecuzione della Convenzione europea per la protezione degli animali da compagnia, fatta a Strasburgo il 13 novembre 1987, nonché norme di adeguamento dell'ordinamento interno:

<http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=45366>

Accordo 24 gennaio 2013. Accordo, ai sensi dell'articolo 9, comma 2, lettera c), del decreto legislativo 28 agosto 1997, n. 281, tra il Governo, le regioni e le province autonome di Trento e Bolzano, le province, i comuni e le comunità montane in materia di identificazione e registrazione degli animali da affezione:

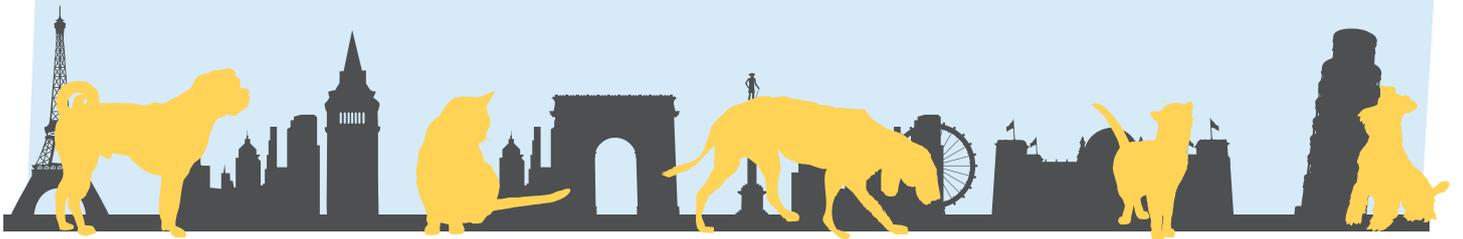
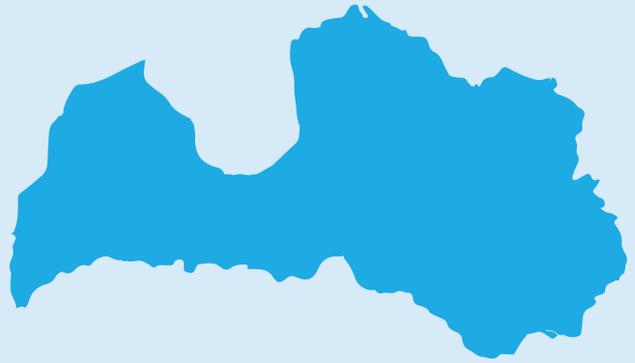
<http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=49421>

The Italian veterinary profession's Statutory Body Guidelines on Surgical mutilations:

Linee guida per l'applicazione dell'art. 10 della Convenzione europea per la protezione degli animali da compagnia, Elenco razze, Fac simile documenti:

<http://www.fnovi.it/index.php?pagina=dossier-fnovi>

# Latvia



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

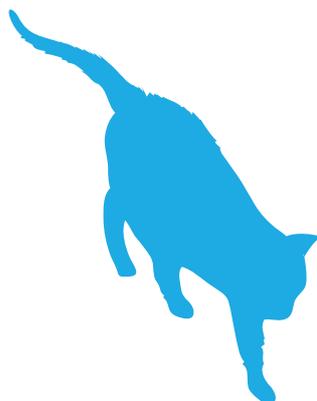
Dogs must be permanently identified with a microchip before the age of six months and registered on the database of the Latvian Agricultural Data Centre. To register a dog, a fee must be paid. Dog owners will have to notify the Agricultural Data Centre of any change in the dog's situation: change of housing place, death, if the dog has been lost or has been found, change of owners. The veterinary practitioner can register the information with the database on the change of owners, place of keeping, sterilization, euthanasia or death.

### Cats

For cats, identification with a microchip and registration is not compulsory. However, sterilised cats living in cities or near houses in rural areas need to be marked. Rules issued by local governments may permit sterilized, ownerless cat colonies in urban or rural residential areas if the welfare and identification of the cats are ensured. In order to distinguish sterilized ownerless cats from non-sterilized ones, a tip of one of their ears is clipped off.

Cat owners may also decide to microchip their animal and register them in the database by paying a fee.

There is one central Latvian database which is a State information system and is a member of Europetnet: the pet register under the Latvian Agricultural Data Centre [www ldc.gov.lv](http://www ldc.gov.lv).



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

There is no Latvian legislation specifically on dog and cat breeding, however there are regulations on the keeping of pet animals, on sales and on transport which also apply to breeding establishments.

Breeder organisations and their kennel members must be registered with the Agricultural Data Center.

Breeders with several animals must ensure that they have been recorded in the studbook for Latvian registered breeds of companion animals managed by breeding organisations. Animals must be identified and registered and records must be kept up to date.

The owner of a breeding establishment must have received formal training or appropriate education in veterinary medicine, biology or dog handling. If the owner is a legal entity, at least one member of the staff must be trained or educated.

The Food and Veterinary Service is in charge of the supervision of commercial breeder establishments. Its inspectors and local authorities have the right to inspect establishments to ensure that the animal welfare requirements are complied with, in case of suspicion of violation or complaint regarding these requirements.

The legislation prohibits trade in genetically defective dogs (having inherited diseases, pathologies or malformations).

### Requirements for breeding dogs

Regulation No 266 provides conditions for the keeping of dogs which apply to breeders too. They include requirements for keeping dogs inside and outside, such as:

- Dogs must be provided with suitable food and drink,
- the need to walk dogs for a minimum of 30 minutes at least twice a day for indoor kept dogs and once a day for permanently tethered dogs kept outside,
- proper shelter,
- bedding and other equipment.
- Dogs under 10 months old cannot be permanently tethered.

Bitches cannot give birth to more than one litter per year. The puppies must be kept in accordance with the animal welfare rules.

### Requirements for breeding cats

Regulation No 266 provides conditions for the keeping of cats which apply to breeders too:

- Cats must be provided with suitable food and drink,
- If kept inside, at least five square meters must be available per cat over six months of age, with separate areas for feeding and toileting,
- Cats must have contact with people at least once every two days.

Female cats cannot give birth to more than one litter per year. The kittens must be kept in accordance with the animal welfare rules.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Trade in cats and dogs is allowed from breeder/owner premises providing that the Food and Veterinary Service has been informed. Selling cats and dogs is also permitted at markets, specifically dedicated areas on the street and at exhibitions of pet animals.

Pet shops are not allowed to buy or sell dogs and cats. The legislation prohibits the trade in genetically defective dogs (having inherited diseases, pathologies or malformations).

Trade in dogs and cats is not allowed in the absence of the animal owner.

It is prohibited to sell female cats and dogs which have been pregnant for more than 30 days.

Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old to be sold. Kittens must be 10 weeks old.

People under 18 years of age cannot buy a cat or a dog.

Markets, specific dedicated areas of the street and pet exhibitions must have suitable premises, which provide for the physical and behavioural needs of the animals. Housing facilities must allow animals to hide from visitors if it is necessary according to the animal's behavioural needs.

The regulation also includes provisions concerning cleanliness and environmental requirements for animals (ventilation, temperature, humidity, enrichment).

Dogs and cats can be kept in wire cages as long as the cages do not restrict their physiological needs, and only if it causes no stress, suffering or injury.

The needs for physical activity in cats and dogs must be ensured. If they are kept continuously in a cage, they must have enough space to move according to their physiological needs.



### Surgical mutilations

Under the Animal Protection law, cruel treatment of animals is prohibited, which includes mutilating an animal. Modifying the external appearance of an animal or other non-curative procedures are also covered by the definition of cruelty, if the health necessity is not prescribed and they are not performed by a practising veterinarian.

These provisions make tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing of cats and dogs unlawful. However, there is an exemption to tail docking in dogs, which is permitted for the following breeds if it is performed by a veterinarian: Wire Fox Terrier, Smooth Fox Terrier, Russian Spaniel, German Wire-haired Pointing Dog, German Short-haired Pointing Dog, German Hunt Terrier; and Welsh Terrier.

### Links to legislation

Law on Animal Protection:

[http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Animal\\_Protection.doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Animal_Protection.doc)

Regulation No 266 on Welfare requirements of domestic (pet) animal keeping, marketing and demonstration at public exhibitions, as well as dog training:

<http://m.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=132534>

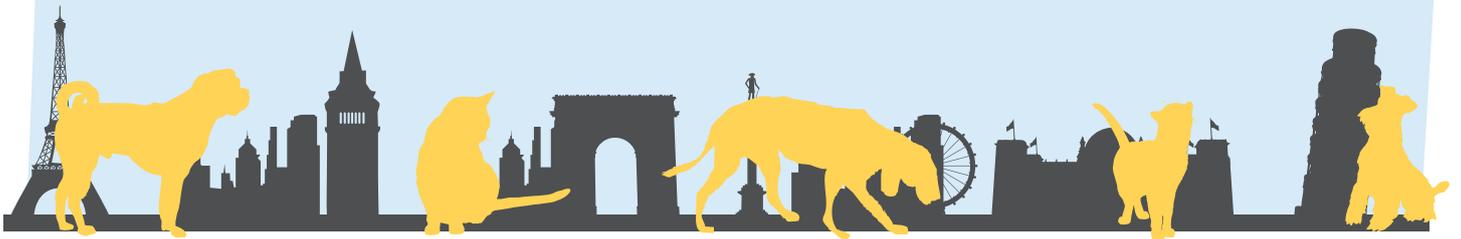
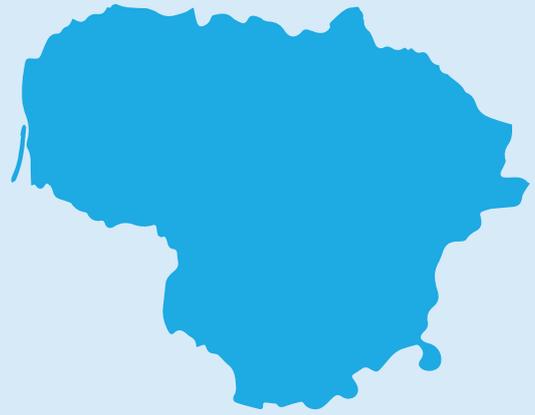
Procedure for the Registration of Pet Animals (Regulation No 491):

<https://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=232354>

Regulation No 322 on the transport of animals:

<https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/cabinet-regulation-no-322-of-2013-on-animal-transport-regulations-lex-faoc174590/>

# Lithuania



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Lithuania microchipping of dogs is not compulsory except in cases where they are being moved across borders or if there is any change of ownership (monetary or otherwise).

### Cats

Microchipping of cats is not compulsory except in cases where they are being moved across borders or if there is any change of ownership (monetary or otherwise).

April 2016, microchipped dogs and cats must be registered on the national pet register which is a member of Europetnet: <https://www.vic.lt/>.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

In Lithuania, pet breeders must have a permit issued by the State Food and Veterinary Service. As soon as cats and/or dogs are bred commercially, an authorisation is required.

To get the permit, breeders must apply for registration of the establishment by providing the pet species and breeds, the number of animals intended to be kept at the same time, the number of litters produced per year, the address where the activities will take place. The breeding place and conditions must be approved by an official veterinarian following an inspection.

The State Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for controlling the implementation of these rules. They manage a database of breeders which is publicly available. Inspections are conducted on the basis of risk analysis: high risk breeders: once per year; middle risk: once every other year; minimal risk: once every four years (this is the case for breeders who keep one female which has one litter per year and is kept in living premises).

The order on veterinary requirements for pet breeder approval includes detailed requirements that breeders must comply with concerning the facilities, and concerning the keeping and breeding of pets, as follows:

- Breeders must hire sufficient competent staff and plan the breeding activities over time, ensuring that the mating does not have negative impacts on the animals' health and welfare. They must also provide sufficient time for breeding females to recover between two litters,
- They must ensure that only animals with no genetic diseases, birth defects or pathologies reproduce,
- They must keep detailed records concerning the breeding activities and the sale of pets, including information on the purchaser,
- For the breeding facilities, detailed requirements cover the buildings and the equipment, including space and maintenance, microclimate (temperature, humidity etc.) security and disinfection among other aspects,

- Animals must have sufficient space to be able to move freely and to hide if necessary. A specific place must be available to rest. Suitable equipment to allow animals to satisfy their behavioural and physical needs must be available too. Animals must be inspected twice a day,
- Sick or injured animals must be kept separated from other animals,
- Females who have given birth must be separated from the other animals, in the same room or a different room,
- Particular attention must be given to meet the pet's environmental behaviour needs and to ensure their socialization through daily contacts with people from birth until their transfer to another pet keeper. Standard operating procedures for breeders include tests to check whether dogs and cats are socialised (show no fear and aggression).

The general law on the protection of animals specifically prohibits the breeding of genetically inferior pets with evident genetic diseases, malformations or pathologies. Art 7 (5) of the pet breeder regulations also mentions the prohibition to reproduce animals with genetic diseases.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Dogs must not be kept permanently indoors, except if specific space requirements are met and dogs are taken for walks regularly. In this case dogs must be taken for a walk at least once per day for at least one hour, or twice per day for at least 30 minutes. Dogs must be kept in suitable groups. Puppies cannot be separated from their mother before the age of two months.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

Cats should be kept in groups. Cats housing must be equipped so that they are able to sharpen claws and to climb. Kittens cannot be separated from their mother before the age of three months.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

There are specific regulations for pet traders. Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops, for which there are detailed rules. Cat and dog traders and their premises must be licensed to be allowed to trade in animals. The licence is issued by the State Food and Veterinary Service.

To apply, traders must provide the information on: the species which they plan to trade, the procedures for the intake, keeping and care of the animals, record keeping, pest control programme, programme of cleaning and disinfection of the premises.

The rules include:

- Detailed requirements concerning the pet shop facilities, equipment and maintenance.
- Requirements concerning the conditions for keeping animals, which must correspond to the animals' physical and behavioural needs, such as temperature, lighting, enrichment.
- An annex includes minimum space requirements and temperature ranges for different species, including cats and dogs.
- An annex includes minimum space requirements and temperature ranges for different species, including cats and dogs.
- Sufficient competent staff must be available.
- The animals must be inspected at least twice a day. Records of these inspections must be kept. Traders must keep detailed electronic records of the species and breed of animals sold, the number, sex, pet provider, contact details of buyer, date of sale, veterinary treatments, among others.
- From 1st January 2016, before being sold, cats and dogs will have to be identified with a microchip and registered.

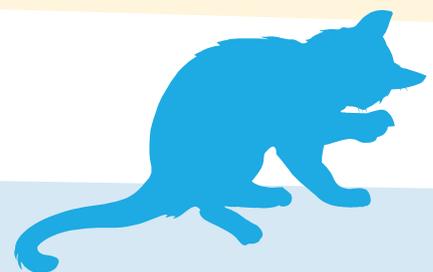
The sale of cats and dogs is allowed at approved markets but not in the street. The sale of cats and dogs over the internet is not regulated.

Neither cats nor dogs can be sold before the age of eight weeks. They cannot be sold to people less than 16 years old without the consent of parents. There are no specific rules concerning the commercial transport of cats and dogs other than the provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and a general provision in the animal protection law. Commercial transporters must be authorised and are controlled by official veterinarians. There are no specific provisions concerning education and training, nor concerning inspections of traders, although they need the approval of an official veterinarian.

Standard operating procedures are approved for pet breeders as well as pet traders.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Veterinary procedures aimed at altering the appearance or physiological functions of animals, including cats and dogs, such as clipping of ears and tails, mutilation or removal of vocal chords and claws, are prohibited.



### **Links to legislation**

Law on welfare and protection of animals:

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_e?p\\_id=455524&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_e?p_id=455524&p_tr2=2)

Order on health requirements for pet breeders:

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=454514&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=454514&p_query=&p_tr2=2)

Pet traders regulations:

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=378586&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=378586&p_query=&p_tr2=)

Regulation on pet identification and registration:

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/1c927a80ae7011e59010bea026bdb259/asr>

# Luxembourg



## Identification and Registration

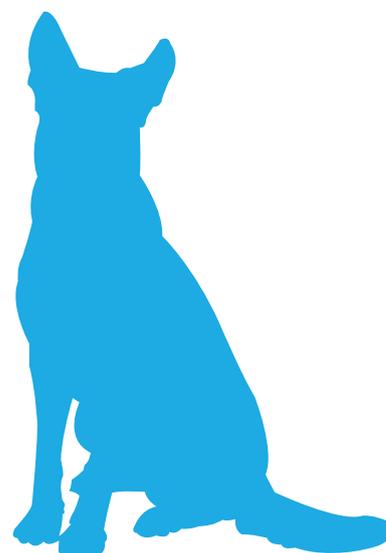
### Dogs

In Luxembourg, it is compulsory to identify dogs with a microchip before they reach four months of age. It is also compulsory to register them in a pet database and to declare them to the municipality with a veterinary certificate which proves the breed, the rabies vaccination status and whether the dog is possibly dangerous or not, on the basis of their breed. Possible pet databases are [www.idchips.com](http://www.idchips.com) or [www.tasso.net](http://www.tasso.net)

### Cats

Since 2019, all cats must be identified with a microchip and registered on a database.

Owners of cats can register their pets in ID Chips or in Tasso. Both ID Chips (under the name LAK) and Tasso are members of Europetnet, thus linked to an EU database.



### **Regulation of dog and cat breeders**

According to the animal welfare law (Art 6), commercial dog and cat breeders need to be authorised by the Minister who can impose specific animal welfare conditions. Breeding establishments with more than 10 animals need an authorisation from the Mayor of the Municipality as they are considered as classified establishments (class 2) under the environmental code.

As for any dog or cat owner, breeders must respect the provisions of the Convention of the Council of Europe on the protection of pet animals, which is directly applicable in Luxembourg through a law of 31st July 1991 implementing it.

Breeders must declare their activity to the authorities, indicating the species and breeds covered, the responsible person and his/her competence, a description of the facilities and equipment. The responsible person must have followed a professional training or have sufficient experience with companion animals.

The Competent Authority must ensure that these requirements are complied with but there are no specific provisions on the control of breeders.

Breeders must ensure that the facilities and care of cats and dogs takes into account the behavioural needs of the species and breed, by providing sufficient and adequate food and drink, enough space to exercise and ensuring that they don't escape.

Any person who selects a pet animal for breeding is responsible for having regard to the anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics which are likely to put at risk the health and welfare of either the offspring or the female parent.

Breeder information is not recorded in a database.

There are no national guidelines or codes of practice for breeders to adhere to in Luxembourg.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Dog breeders need to declare their activity to the municipality. Rules for the authorisation of dog breeding activities are set up at municipal level. On the basis of the municipal rules, the Mayor decides whether to grant the authorisation or not.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

There are no specific provisions for cat breeders, but the general rules of the Council of Europe apply.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Dog and cat traders need to be authorised by the Minister, with the same procedure as for dog and cat breeders.

The animal protection law includes general provisions on animal transport. It specifies that the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of animals during transport are directly applicable as implemented by the law of 15th December 1971. The Convention includes specific provisions concerning commercial transport of cats and dogs which mainly concern the need to feed cats and dogs at intervals not exceeding 24 hours and to allow them to drink every 12 hours as a minimum.

Pet animals cannot be sold to people under 16 years old without the consent of their parent or legal representative.

There is no minimum age at which cats and dogs can be sold.

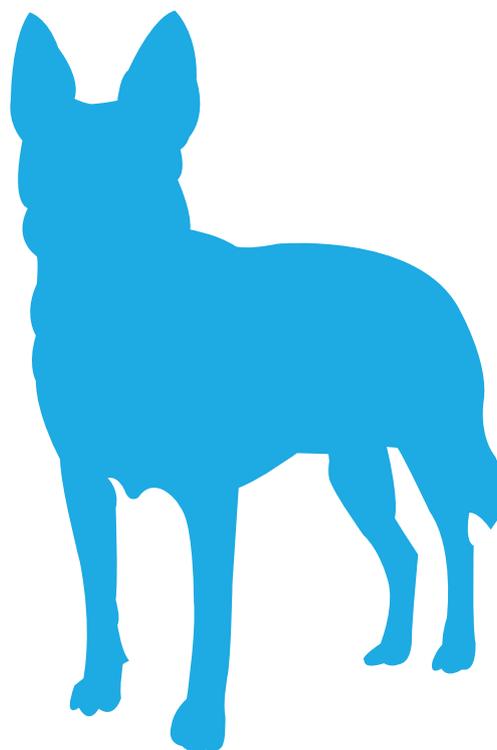
It is illegal to sell cats and dogs in pet shops, at markets, in the street or on the internet, although private sellers do offer pet sales on certain internet sites.

There are no specific provisions concerning inspections on traders in the legislation.

### **Surgical mutilations**

According to the animal welfare law of 1983, an animal cannot be mutilated except for veterinary reasons or under specific conditions which are regulated.

Luxembourg has ratified and implements the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of pet animals, which stipulates that surgical interventions aimed at modifying the appearance of companion animals for reasons other than health must be prohibited. In particular the following mutilations are prohibited in dogs and cats: tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing.



### **Links to legislation**

Law on the protection of animals 2018:

<http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2018/06/27/a537/jo>

Law concerning dogs:

<http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2008/0062/a062.pdf>

2011 amendment to the law concerning dogs:

<http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2011/0233/a233.pdf#page=2>

Law on classified establishments:

<http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2012/0105/a105.pdf#page=2>

# Malta



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

Since April 2012, all dogs over the age of four months must be microchipped. In addition dogs must wear a tag or a badge including the owner's contact details.

All warranted veterinarians in Malta are authorised to carry out the insertion of microchips in dogs and their registration.

The veterinarian will then register the dog with the National Livestock database and a lifetime licence is issued.

The National Livestock Database is not a member of Europetnet. However, the legislation provides for data exchange between the national dog register and other government or international entities as may be required for the purposes of identifying owners. Veterinarians can contact the database using the microchip number of an animal and receive the contact details of the owner.

### Cats

Cats do not need to be identified nor registered, except when offered for sale in pet shops. Owners can also decide to identify and register their cat. In 2018 it became possible to register cats on the National Livestock Database.

According to the pet shop Regulation, a list of animals and the acceptable means of identification may be published by the Director of veterinary services from time to time. However, so far no list has been published.

## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

The Animal Welfare Act includes very general provisions on the breeding of animals. All people involved in the breeding of animals are responsible for ensuring that the anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics of animals are taken into account, so that the health and welfare of the offspring or the parents is not put at risk. The Act provides for regulations covering the breeding of given species or categories of animals to be adopted by the Minister if necessary. These regulations should include the minimum age for young animals to be separated from their mother.

The Directorate of animal welfare keeps records about breeders.

Inspections are mostly carried out following complaints.

There are no specific training requirements for breeders.

There are no national guidelines/code of conduct for breeders to adhere to, except for the code of conduct adopted by the Malta canine society which is a private set of guidelines and is available at:

[http://www.maltacaninesociety.org/uploads/1/0/0/2/10027043/code\\_of\\_ethics.pdf](http://www.maltacaninesociety.org/uploads/1/0/0/2/10027043/code_of_ethics.pdf)

### Requirements for breeding dogs

Dog breeders intending to breed more than four litters a year need to register with the Director of Veterinary Services by applying for a licence. They must pay the annual licensing fee of 50 euros.

The application must include the contact details and qualifications of the breeder, the address of the breeding establishment, the breeds and number of male and female dogs intended to be used for breeding, as well as a description of the emergency facilities, equipment and procedures.

Breeders must keep records, including the whelping date, name of sire, sexes of the puppies born, number of puppies born and deaths, if any.

Bitches need to be at least 12 months old to be mated. The maximum number of litters per breeding female dog is six and no bitch can have more than one litter per period of 12 months.

In 2018 new regulations were introduced on the keeping of dogs to ban long term tethering and ensure the welfare of dogs in transport. The requirements also introduce specifications for dog enclosures, for example space per dog, to ensure appropriate standards of welfare.

### Requirements for breeding cats

There are no specific rules for cat breeders, other than the general rules on animal breeding included in the animal welfare act.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Commercial cat and dog traders must apply for a license at least 2 months before they plan to start their activity. An inspection may be carried out before the licence is granted. A veterinarian must be attached to the pet shop and endorse the application by stamping it before it is sent to the authorities. Licences specify the species of animals authorised for sale and are renewed annually following an inspection by the veterinary service.

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops, but cannot be placed on display outside the pet shop. It is prohibited to sell animals at markets and on the street. The sale of animals on the internet is not regulated.

To be sold, puppies and kittens must be at least 8 weeks old and they cannot be sold to people under 16 years old without the consent of their parent or legal representative. However, under the Dogs Act and the Electronic Identification of Dogs Regulations, no person can obtain a licence for a dog if he/she is under 18 years old.

Any person managing a pet shop must be at least 18 years old, be of good conduct and have relevant qualifications. All staff in the pet shop must have sufficient knowledge and experience of the species sold in the pet shop to ensure the animals' health and welfare.

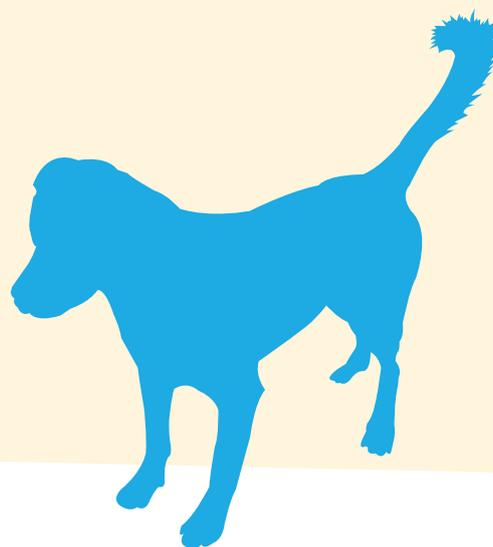
Pet shop traders must ensure that animals are transported to and from the pet shop in a suitable manner according to health, welfare and species characteristics. There are no specific rules for the commercial transport of cats and dogs, other than those of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, which provide for an interval of maximum 24 hours to feed and maximum 12 hours to provide water to cats and dogs.

The pet shop regulations include general requirements and detailed ones according to the species. The enclosures must be suitable for the animal species, taking into account the specific need for space to exercise, temperature, lighting, ventilation, humidity and cleanliness. Animals must be inspected regularly and at least twice per day. Cats and dogs must be allowed at least two days of acclimatisation before being placed for sale, being kept in isolation during that period.

The regulation includes separate requirements for dogs and for cats according to their age, dividing them into 3 age classes: under 12 weeks, from 12 weeks to 6 months and over 6 months. The requirements cover the floor space and height, temperature range, bedding and, for dogs, the need for suitable socialisation and human contact to establish a well-balanced character. For dogs over 6 months of age, an exercise run must be provided. Cat enclosures must be provided with scratching posts and litter trays which must be cleaned twice daily. For cats over 6 months of age, an exercise area of at least 2m in height must be provided, which is exclusive to each enclosure.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Surgical operations for the purpose of modifying the appearance of an animal by which any part of the animal's body is removed or damaged, other than for a curative purpose, are prohibited. Animals which have undergone a surgical operation which is prohibited are not allowed to participate in shows or competitions, and are not allowed to be kept in stock to be sold, offered for sale, sold or bought.



### **Links to legislation**

2001 Animal Welfare Act:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8905&l=1>

Dogs Act:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8788&l=1>

Electronic identification of dogs regulations:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11664&l=1>

Control of dogs regulations:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=9752&l=1>

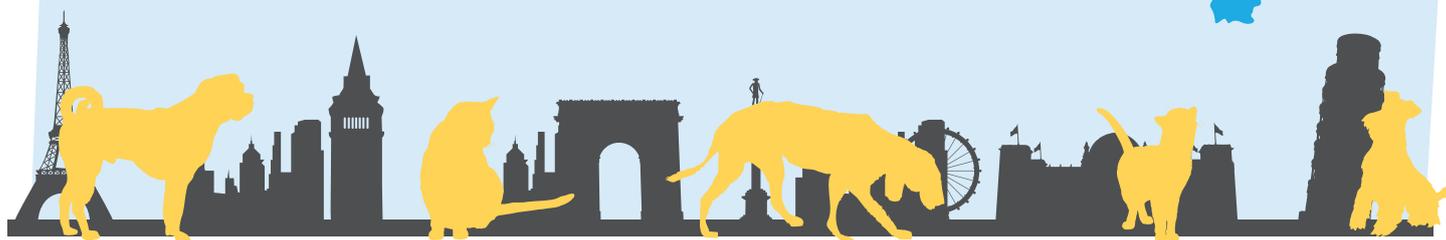
Protection of animals offered in pet shops:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12084&l=1>

Animal Transport Regulations:

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11049&l=1>

# Netherlands



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

Anyone who keeps, transports, buys or sells a dog born after 1st April 2013 must ensure that it is identified with a microchip within seven weeks after birth. The dog owner must register it in a database within 8 weeks following the dog's birth. Before selling, giving for free or transferring a dog to a new owner, the current owner must identify and register it. The new owner must register the dog on their name within two weeks after the transfer.

This does not apply to stray dogs taken in by shelters, which must be chipped before they enter the Netherlands and registered by the person or organization who imported the dog within two weeks after having entered the shelter. When the dog is temporarily placed in a host family, the registration has to be adjusted: this transfer from the organization to the host family also has to be registered. All changes need to be updated within two weeks. In case of adoption: not the owner but the keeper of the dog has to be registered.

The obligation of registration does not apply to dogs that belong to people who are from another EU member state or a third country and plan to stay in the Netherlands for less than 3 months.

The registration must be done in a database designated by the Minister. There are several databases for dog registration in the Netherlands. They all need to transfer their data to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, which keeps a central database for internal use of the enforcement authorities only.

There are currently three databases which are members of Europetnet: Stichting Chip ([www.stichtingchip.nl](http://www.stichtingchip.nl)), Stichting Nederlandse Databank Gezelschapsdieren - (<http://www.ndg.nl>) and PetBase ([www.petbase.eu](http://www.petbase.eu)).

The chip number has to start with the countrycode, for the Netherlands it is 528.

The expectation is that in 2020 an official EU dog passport will be mandatory.

## Cats

There is currently no obligation to permanently identify and register cats in the Netherlands. But after years of intensive lobbying, in the summer of 2019 the Minister announced the start of a pilot on chipping and registration of cats at several large municipalities. Unfortunately for the time being there is no national approach of identification and registration of cats.

Owners of cats and older dogs (for which it is currently not compulsory to be identified and registered) can decide voluntarily to permanently identify their animal and register them in one of the available databases too.

## Regulation of commercially keeping and/or breeding dogs and cats

Before starting their activities, commercial pet breeding establishments must be registered. Besides breeding this also applies to the selling, keeping in stock, delivering and rescuing of animals. However, no registration is needed for people who breed cats and dogs but can prove that they do not trade commercially. There is no minimum number of animals to be kept at an establishment but rather the commercial activities determine the need to register the establishment. Some instructions have been formulated to help prove whether an establishment is operating as a business.

The person under whose responsibility the breeding activities are carried out must register the establishment by providing the following data:

- the contact details, citizen service number or the registration in the chamber of commerce of the person under whose responsibility the activities are carried out, or the name and the registered office of the legal entity and the registration number in the trade register;
- the address of the establishment,
- a description of the facilities and equipment that will be used for housing pet animals
- the kind of activities and date on which the activities will start
- the contact details of the manager and a copy of his/her certificate of professional competence

- the animal species or groups of species.

Once an establishment is registered, a unique number is assigned to it.

The registration of breeding/keeping establishments is centralised through a government service and database (<https://mijn.rvo.nl/bedrijfsmatig-huisdieren-houden>)

Any modification of the data provided when registering must be reported to the Ministry within four weeks after it has happened.

The person in charge of a commercial pet breeding establishment must hold a certificate or diploma from an educational institution recognised by the Education & Vocational Education Act as proof of professional competence. Such a diploma or certificate must specifically state the animal species for which the exam has been taken.

Breeders must respect the provisions of the 2011 Law on animals and the 2014 Decision on the keeping of animals, which include requirements concerning the housing, care and environmental conditions for keeping animals. They include the following provisions:

- a suitable enclosure with sufficient room to move and materials adapted to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animal;
- protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and health risks;
- sufficient and suitable nesting space for gestating or nursing animals;
- prevention of fear or stress as a result of the manner in which animals are housed;
- a suitable number and composition of the groups of animals in each enclosure;
- separate rooms for sick pets.
- Animals must be checked daily and there must be a procedure in place to record the checks and veterinary treatments.

Breeders must keep proper records, in written or digital format, of the pet animals that are kept at the facility, containing at least the contact details of the person from whom the pets originate and the certificate of vaccination of dogs and cats. These records must be kept for at least two years from the moment the animal is no longer present at the facility.

Any person keeping companion animals can be inspected by the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) or by the inspection service of the “Dierenbescherming” but the inspections are mainly targeted at breeders and traders who have sold or are keeping more than 20 dogs and/or cats in a 12 month period, because this is an indication that the establishment is operating as a business. Inspection authorities plan their activities annually, but breeding establishments are not inspected before they start their activities.

The Law on animals prohibits the use for breeding of animals with physical characteristics which can affect their health and well-being as well as the health and well-being of the progeny. The Decree about the keeping of animals also prohibits breeding pets in a manner which harms the welfare and health of the parent or the offspring. Breeding must prevent the following from being transferred to, or occurring in, the offspring:

- serious hereditary defects or diseases
- external characteristics that can have harmful consequences for the welfare or health of animals.
- serious behavioral defects
- animals to reproduce in an unnatural way
- to produce too many offspring which can harm the health or welfare of parents and offspring

Breeders must ensure that animals become socialized by having contact with people and other animals of the same species and being accustomed to the housing surroundings.

The manager of the breeding establishment must possess a certificate of competence approved by the Minister for the animal species bred or kept at the facility. A ministerial decision specifies the type of certificates and diplomas which are approved as certificate of competence. A copy of the certificate of competence must be available to officials during inspections.

Derogations are possible in specific cases for a maximum of 12 months, if the person in charge of the day-to-day management of the facility possesses sufficient relevant work experience.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

A dog cannot produce more than one litter within a period of twelve consecutive months. Dogs must be allowed to go outside of the enclosure in which they are kept, on a daily basis, in line with their behavioural and physical needs.

Puppies cannot be separated from their mother before the age of seven weeks.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

A cat can produce a maximum of two litters within a period of twelve consecutive months or a maximum of three litters within a period of twenty-four consecutive months.

Kittens cannot be separated from their mother before the age of seven weeks.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Commercial pet traders must register their establishment following the same procedure as breeding establishments.

In the same way, people organising an animal market, a show or an exhibition, must inform the authorities by registering at least two weeks before the event takes place. The person organising such an event must ensure suitable housing and care of the animals during the exhibition, show or market, corresponding to the physical and behavioural needs of the animals. Traders must have a certificate of competence, exactly like breeders.

Pets must not be sold to people younger than 16 years. Pets must not be housed or exhibited in the shop window of a commercial establishment.

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops, at markets and at shows, as long as the criteria related to pet shops or markets/shows are met. It is not forbidden as such to sell cats and dogs in the street but it would mean having to comply with the pet shop criteria or with the market/show criteria and this is highly unlikely.

There are no specific rules concerning the sale of dogs and cats on the internet.

The minimum age at which cats and dogs can be sold is seven weeks, the same age at which they can be separated from their mother.

The transport of dogs and cats is regulated through EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. There are no other specific provisions for cat and dog transport.

### **Surgical mutilations**

All physical interventions on animals are prohibited unless expressly allowed under the Law on animals. Concerning cats and dogs, tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing are fully prohibited.

It is also forbidden to sell, have in stock for sale, offer for sale or buy animals on which prohibited physical interventions have been performed.



### **Links to legislation**

Law of 19 May 2011 providing for an integrated framework concerning kept animals and related topics (Law on Animals):

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0030250/2019-01-01>

Decree on keeping of animals, 5th June 2014:

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0035217/2018-07-01>

Amended Decision on keeping of animals relating to breeding and trading of pets (17 June 2014):

<https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stb-2014-232.html>

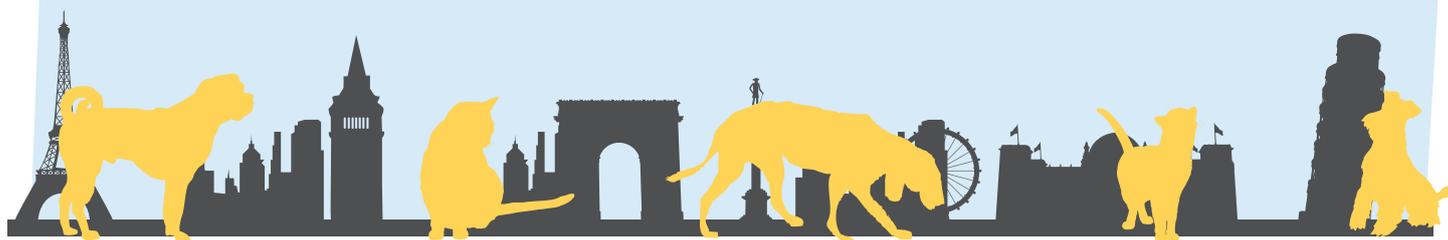
Ministerial regulation on the keeping of animals, 23 June 2014

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0035248/2019-07-23>

Decision on identification and registration of animals, 1 January 2015:

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0009019/2015-01-01/#Hoofdstuk2>

# Poland



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

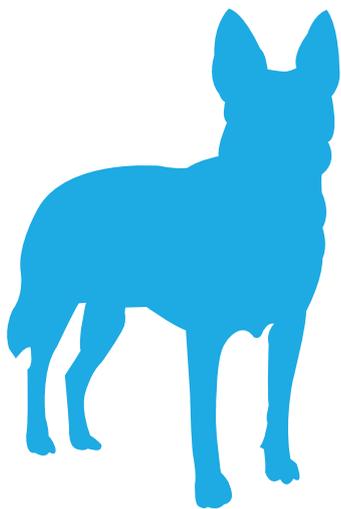
In Poland dogs do not need to be permanently identified and registered. However, owners of dogs need to pay a fee to the Municipality, which varies according to the Municipality. In addition, dogs cannot roam without being controlled and without bearing a tag allowing the owner to be identified, according to article 10a of the Act on Animal Protection.

### Cats

Cats do not need to be permanently identified, nor registered in a database.

Dogs and cats can, however, voluntarily be microchipped and registered in a database if their owner wishes.

One of the national databases IDENTYFIKACJA.PL - AID ([www.identyfikacja.pl](http://www.identyfikacja.pl)) is a member of Europetnet.



### Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Only breeders registered with national organisations that have the statutory mission to breed pure-bred dogs and cats are allowed to commercially breed them. Other than this, breeders do not need to be registered or licensed.

#### Requirements for breeding dogs

There are no specific requirements for breeding dogs.

#### Requirements for breeding cats

There are no specific requirements for breeding cats. There is no national code of practice or guidelines for breeders to adhere to.

There are no specific provisions preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations but Article 6 (12) of the Act on the protection of animals prohibits applying cruel methods in animal breeding and production.

There are no specific inspection rules for commercial cat and dog breeders and traders, apart from very general wording in Article 3 of the Act on Animal Protection, which provides for cooperation between competent authorities at government and local level and the association of veterinarians, the Veterinary Inspection and other institutions to implement the Act.

There is no national database of cat and/or dog breeders.

There are no specific rules on education/training of cat and/or dog breeders.

### Regulation of dog and cat traders

Commercial cat and dog traders do not need to be registered.

In Poland, it is forbidden to sell or buy cats and dogs in pet shops, at markets and on the street.

Dogs and cats are only allowed to be sold or bought from private homes or from the breeder's premises. Breeders can advertise on the internet, but cats and dogs can be bought only at the place of breeding.

The Polish legislation does not specify a minimum age at which puppies or kittens can be sold. Equally there is no minimum age stated in the Animal Protection Act for people to buy a cat or a dog. However, according to other regulations, only adults (over 18 years old) are allowed to buy a cat or a dog.

The commercial transport of cats and dogs is regulated through EU Regulation 1/2005 on the Protection of Animals during transport. The Minister of Transport and Maritime Economy, in agreement with the Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy and the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry can determine by way of a resolution the detailed principles and conditions of transport of animals, the maximum time of transport for a given species, age and the method of dealing with the sick and dead animals. However, no detailed rules have been adopted for the transport of cats and dogs. There are no specific rules on the education/training of cat and/or dog traders.

### Surgical mutilations

It is forbidden to deliberately mutilate an animal. All procedures intended to change the look of an animal and performed for reasons other than protecting its health and well-being, in particular, cutting dogs' ears and tails, is prohibited. Devocalisation and declawing are also prohibited, except for medical reasons.

### Links to legislation

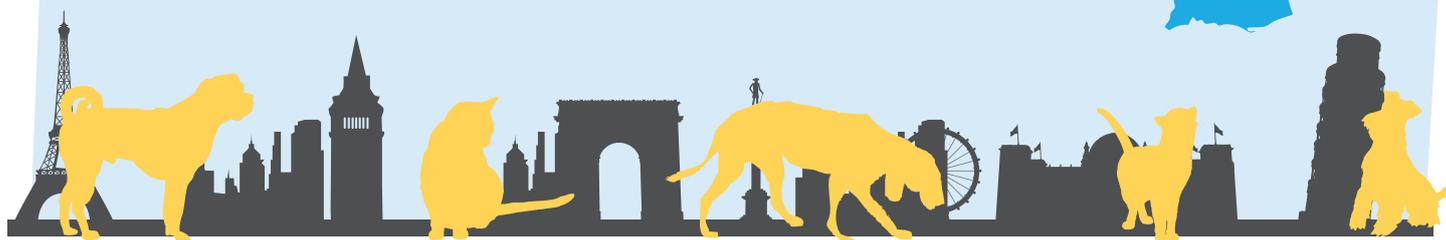
Consolidated Act on Animal Protection (Polish):

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/Download?id=WDU19971110724&type=3>

Act on animal protection (unofficial English translation):

<https://www.globalanimallaw.org/database/national/poland/>

# Portugal



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

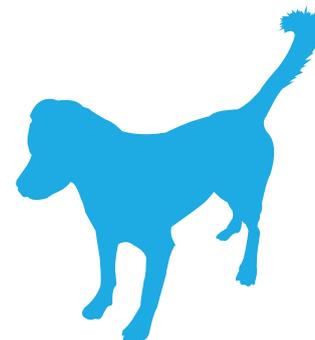
In Portugal, all dogs born in Portugal or that have been in the country for more than 120 days must be microchipped.

As of October 2019 dogs must be registered on the official microchip database, Pets Information System(SIAC), by the vet that microchipped them within 15 days following microchipping. Microchipping and registration must take place within 120 days after the dog is born.

Where animals are sold or adopted at breeding facilities or registered shelters, the microchip must be inserted and registered before they leave the facility, regardless of age.

Dog owners must also get a licence at the municipal council, which is renewable annually. To get the licence, they must provide the health record; with proof of electronic identification and vaccinations. In the case of hunting dogs they must also display the up-to-date hunter card and for watchdogs a declaration of the goods to be guarded.

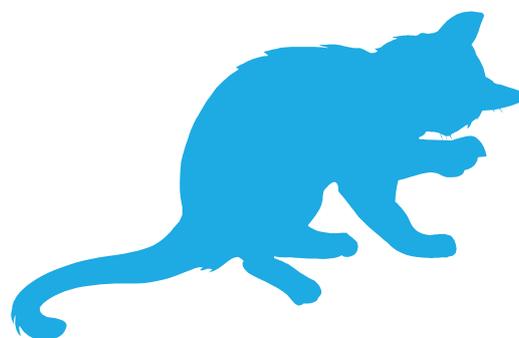
To register and licence their dogs, owners must pay a fee, which is calculated yearly by the municipal council.



## Cats

Owners of cats born after 27 June 2019 have three months to microchip their cats. For cats born up until that date, owners must microchip them within two years, the deadline being 2021.

Currently SIAC is not a member of Europetnet. There is one Portuguese member of Europetnet which is the Sistema de identificação e recuperação animal (SIRA): [www.sira.com.pt](http://www.sira.com.pt)



### Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Breeding establishments must be licensed according to Decree n° 276/2001. To apply for a licence they must provide to the Regional Direction of the Food and Veterinary Services their name, the purpose of the establishment, the species of animals kept and the name of the veterinarian who will be responsible for the care of the animals.

There is no minimum number of animals that breeders need to own to be obliged to be licensed, but all breeders have to be licensed. They have to provide plans of the establishment, with a description of the rooms and their use. They also have to provide their commercial licence and a stamped opinion of the municipal veterinarian. After examining the documentation, the General Direction of Food and Veterinary decides whether or not they agree to license the establishment and if yes, they give it an authorisation number. The licence is valid for 5 years and its renewal must be requested a minimum of 60 days before the end of the 5 years.

There are regular inspections by the Direction General of Veterinary (DGV) every year. The Competent Authorities have to establish an annual control plan (Art 67 of Decree 260-12) and an annual report must be produced.

There is no compulsory inspection before the licence is granted.

Breeding establishments must comply with specific requirements to ensure that the welfare of the animals is respected, including:

- sufficient space, indoor & outdoor
- suitable equipment for the animals' behavioural needs, including the possibility to hide
- appropriate lighting and temperature
- provision of shelter
- suitable food and water
- hygiene requirements
- animals must be checked every day
- environmental enrichment
- ability to exercise at least once a day

There are no national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice for registered breeders to adhere to.

There is a national database of establishments authorised to keep companion animals for commercial purposes which includes breeders. The General Directorate of Food and Veterinary Affairs manages the database and updates it regularly.

**Requirements for breeding dogs**

Space allowances (floor space and height of the enclosure) are given for dogs according to the weight of the animals and the housing system, individually or in groups, indoor or outdoor. Separate space requirements are set for female animals with litters.

**Requirements for breeding cats**

Space allowances (floor space and height of the enclosure) are given for cats according to the weight of the animals. Separate requirements are set for female animals with litters.

Cat enclosures must include litter trays, a resting place and structures and objects enabling them to climb, sharpen their claws and other items for enrichment.

**Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Pet keeping establishments involved in commercial trade must be licensed. The procedure is identical to the procedure for breeder establishments. Inspections are not carried out before the granting of the licence. Regular inspections are carried out by the DGV according to the annual plan.

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops but can only be exposed in pet shops from the age of 8 weeks. They need to be at least 8 weeks old to be sold.

It is occasionally allowed to sell cats and dogs at markets or fairs, by requiring an authorisation at least 30 days before the market or fair takes place. Cats and dogs cannot stay for more than 15 days at the selling point. Internet trade is not regulated.

The requirements for commercial traders are identical to those for commercial breeders, except for some housing specifications in cages at pet shops.

Separate space requirements are set for housing dogs and cats in cages at pet shops, where they can stay for a maximum of 15 days.

When dogs are housed in cages they must be able to exercise at least once per day in outdoor runs large enough to allow them to move freely and equipped with materials for entertaining them.

Commercial trading establishments must have enough staff with proper knowledge and competence to take care of the animals, under the guidance of a responsible veterinarian.

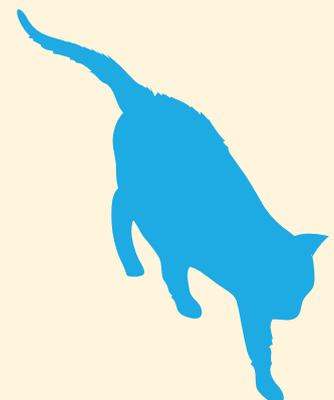
General provisions concerning the transport, loading and unloading of companion animals are included in the legislation but do not go into more details than the provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. They cover aspects such as the need to use suitable vehicles, adequate for the species and number of animals, adequate ventilation, temperature, provision of water and security in order not to threaten people and other animals. Establishments must be equipped with proper structures to allow loading and unloading to and from the means of transport and to ensure that animals are well treated and do not get overstressed. Cats and dogs can be moved using public transport as long as they are carried in suitable crates so that they are contained and cannot bite or cause damage to people, other animals or goods.

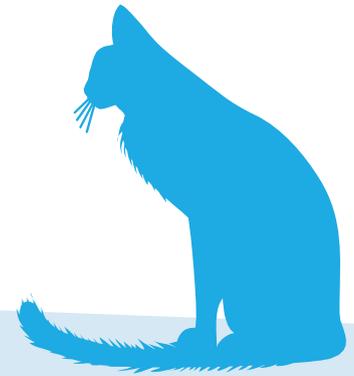
**Surgical mutilations**

Tail docking in dogs is allowed and has to be performed by a veterinarian.

Other mutilations that change the appearance of the animals are only allowed if it is necessary for health reasons and the owner must have a certificate from a veterinarian proving it.

Ear cropping, declawing and devocalisation are thus prohibited.





### Links to legislation

European Convention for the Protection of Companion Animals

<http://www.ministeriopublico.pt/instrumento/convencao-europeia-para-proteccao-dos-animais-de-companhia-2>

Laws put into practice for the European Convention for the protection of companion animals in Portugal:  
Decreto-Lei Nº. 276/2001, 17 October 2001

[http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei\\_mostra\\_articulado.php?nid=1848&tabela=leis](http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?nid=1848&tabela=leis)

successively amended by Decreto-Lei Nº. 95/2017, 23 August 2017

[http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei\\_mostra\\_articulado.php?tabela=leis&nid=2760&pagina=1&ficha=1](http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?tabela=leis&nid=2760&pagina=1&ficha=1)

Portuguese National Authority for Animal Health - Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV)

<http://www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt/portal/page/portal/DGV>

Legal status & protection of animals in Portugal

Decreto-Lei nº. 8/2017, 3 March 2017

<https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/106549655>

Regulation for breeders, buying and selling dogs and cats in commercial establishments and over the internet:  
Decreto-Lei Nº. 276/2001, 17 October 2001

[http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei\\_mostra\\_articulado.php?nid=1848&tabela=leis](http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?nid=1848&tabela=leis)

successively amended by Decreto-Lei Nº. 95/2017, 23 August 2017

[http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei\\_mostra\\_articulado.php?tabela=leis&nid=2760&pagina=1&ficha=1](http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?tabela=leis&nid=2760&pagina=1&ficha=1)

Art 67 of Decreto-Lei 260/2012, 12 December 2012

[http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei\\_mostra\\_articulado.php?nid=1848&tabela=leis](http://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?nid=1848&tabela=leis)

Portaria Nº. 67/2018, 7 March 2018

<https://dre.pt/home/-/dre/114825663/details/maximized>

Registration and licensing of dogs and cats

Decreto Lei Nº. 315/2009, 29 October 2009

<https://dre.pt/pesquisa/-/search/483402/details/maximized>

Decreto-Lei Nº. 82/2019, 27 June 2019

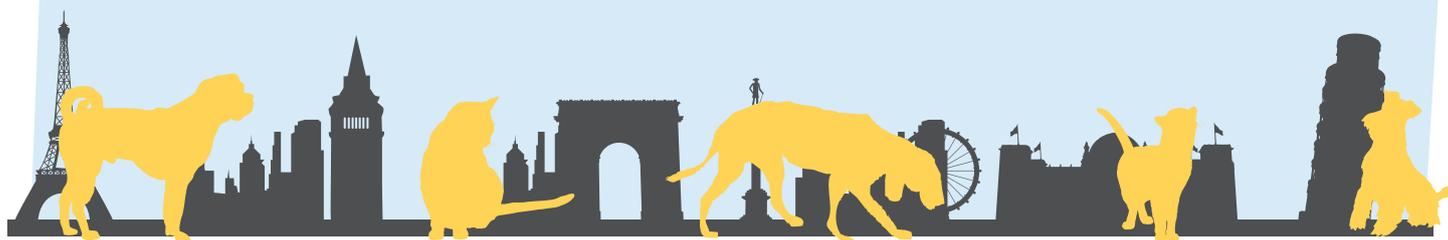
<https://dre.pt/web/guest/home/-/dre/122728684/details/maximized>

Regulation of surgical mutilation

Decreto-Lei nº. 82/2019, 27 June 2019

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/home/-/dre/122728684/details/maximized>

# Romania



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Romania, dogs must be identified with a microchip and registered in the central database of owned dogs by 90 days of age and before they are sold, given for free or before they are adopted from shelters. The Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directions (DSVSA) manage the microchips.

An ordinance of 1/09/2014 regulates dog identification and registration and gave owners of adult dogs until 1st Jan 2015 to apply the rules. Since that date, it is prohibited to keep unidentified and non-registered dogs. Dog owners must also be registered in the same database.

Any change to the dog's status (lost, stolen, death, sale) must be communicated to the register within 7 days.

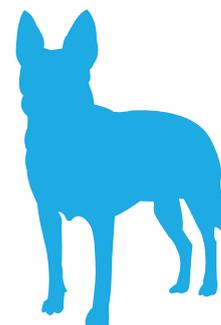
There is one national database for dogs, the Registry for Evidence of Owned Dogs (RECS) managed by the College of Veterinarians and available at: <https://rompetid.ro/registrul-de-evidenta-al-cainilor-cu-stapan/>. This database is not a member of Europetnet.

A dog which is not microchipped and registered in RECS, cannot be vaccinated against rabies, which is an obligation for all dogs and cats in Romania. All dogs must also be sterilised unless they belong to a specific breed, as proven by an official document from a dog breeding association.

### Cats

There is no obligation to identify and register cats in Romania.

Cat owners can however decide to identify and register their cat through the portal for the registration of companion animals managed by RomPetID. However, the database for the registration of owned cats, owned ferrets and other owned pet animals was not active at the time of writing.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Law 205/2004 on animal welfare (and the implementing ordinance 31/2008) and Law 60/2004 refer to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of pet animals and include the following provisions for animal keepers to comply with:

- The obligation to respect sanitary and veterinary standards for housing, feeding, care, reproduction, exploitation, protection and animal welfare.
- The obligation to ensure, depending on the behavioural needs, species, breed, sex, age and type of production, the following: adequate shelter; sufficient food and water; care and regular inspection of the animals.
- Puppies and kittens must not be separated from their mother before the age of 8 weeks.
- The size of the cages used to house dogs indoors must allow the animal to stand up and turn around.
- Dogs may be tied, with minimum 2m length of chain. They also may be housed in a fenced paddock, with minimum six times the space of the cage.

### Requirements for breeding dogs

Starting on 1st January 2015, all dogs must be sterilised unless they belong to a specific breed, as proven by an official document from a dog breeding association. The minimum age for sterilisation is 4 to 6 months for females and 6 to 8 months for males.

However this provision is included in Decision no. 1059 of 11 December 2013 which was suspended at the time of writing.

Kennels - defined as fenced units, with facilities and areas equipped for housing, husbandry, reproduction and selection of pure-bred dogs destined for public services or marketing - must be registered under the veterinary law.

To be registered, the kennel legal representative must submit several documents to the county veterinary and food safety direction or to the veterinary and food safety direction of Bucharest Municipality. These documents are:

- the application, following a model set up in annex 6 of ordinance 16/2010
- A certificate issued by the Trade Register
- A map describing the establishment

- The proof of ownership or the right to use the place where the establishment operates, in line with the legislation in force
- A sworn declaration that the establishment satisfies the sanitary conditions provided for by the veterinary law in force for the given activity.

Within 30 days of reception of the application, the staff of the veterinary direction checks the file and inspects the establishment. An evaluation report is then produced, based on a model provided for in the veterinary law, which states whether the establishment meets the veterinary requirements or not, and can thus be registered or not. The authorisation is issued within 5 days from the date of the evaluation report. If the establishment does not comply with the veterinary legislation, the operator has to remedy the deficiencies and request a new evaluation.

The inspection, however, mostly looks at hygiene rather than animal welfare aspects. Kennel operators have to comply with the requirements of the animal welfare law, but it is not a precondition to be registered. Indeed, to get the sanitary-veterinary authorisation an inspector evaluates the establishment on the basis of a check list which includes technical specifications such as the size of the housing, the sewage system etc. The animal protection law is mentioned and its provisions should be checked. There are no further legal provisions specifically on dog breeding. There are however rules on dog breeding from the Romanian Kennel Club (Asociatia Chinologica Romana AchR) which only apply to dogs registered at AchR. AchR is a member of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI).

Many dog breeding establishments are however not registered in AchR, nor sanitary-veterinary authorised, nor controlled.

There is no official national database of registered dog breeders in Romania.

There is only a database "Cartea de origine Romana" (Stud Book) within the AchR (but as not all purebred dogs are registered in AchR, not all are included in the Stud Book)

There is a list of registered operators managed by the sanitary and veterinary directions (county and Bucharest), but it is not openly accessible.

**Requirements for breeding cats**

There are no specific requirements for breeding cats. The Romanian National Felinological Federation (FNFR) has its own internal rules but as in the case of AchR only the members must comply with it.

There are no clear provisions preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations but a general provision in the animal welfare law can be interpreted as going in that direction. It says that “Animal keepers who select an animal for breeding must respect the anatomical characteristics and the physiological and behavioural needs of the species and breed concerned, not to compromise performance, and to ensure the health and welfare of the offspring”.

There is no restriction on the number of animals a breeder can keep, as long as the legal health, sanitary and animal welfare standards are complied with.

Regular checks of operators are performed by inspectors from the veterinary and food safety directions (county or Bucharest municipality), but it is not clear how frequently these sanitary and welfare inspections take place.

There are no national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice for registered breeders to adhere to. There are no specific requirements for the education/training of breeders.

**Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Commercial trade in companion animals is only allowed after registration in accordance with the veterinary and sanitary legal provisions, according to Ordinance 31-2008 on the implementation of the animal welfare law.

Pet shops must be registered with the veterinary authorities, following the same procedure as for dog breeding establishments (see above).

Only dogs which are identified and registered in the RECS system can be exposed in pet shops and other exhibition places to be sold.

When selling dogs and cats in pet shops, kennels and catteries, the seller must hand out written instructions to the buyer on the behavioural needs, physiological needs, safety and welfare of the animal sold.

There are no provisions concerning the sale of dogs and cats in markets and on the street. The sale of dogs and cats on the internet is not regulated.

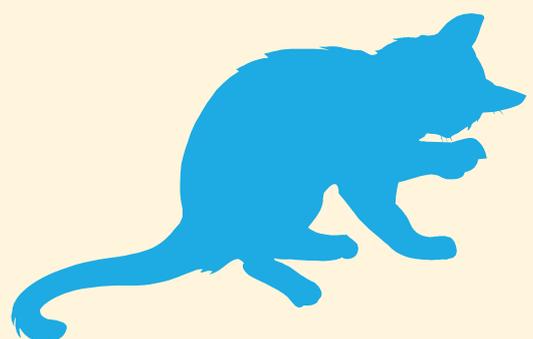
There is no minimum age at which cats and dogs can be sold. However, puppies and kittens cannot be separated from their mother before the age of eight weeks.

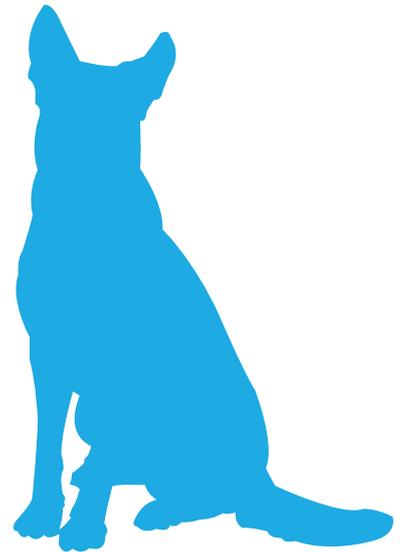
There is no minimum age at which someone can buy cats and dogs.

Law 205/2004 on the protection of animals provides for transporters, in general, to “carry animals under appropriate conditions, depending on the species, physiological state, sex, age, type of production, in order to avoid injury or physical exhaustion”. The transport of cats and dogs must be done in compliance with the provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, but in the Romanian legislation there are no specific provisions concerning commercial cat and dog transport. There is no training/education obligation for cat and dog traders.

**Surgical mutilations**

Surgery to change the appearance of an animal other than for curative purposes, such as tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing, is considered as animal cruelty and is prohibited.





### **Links to legislation**

Ordinance of September 2014 on identification and registration of dogs:

[https://rompetid.ro/files/downloads/legislatie/ORDIN\\_1-Identificare\\_caini.pdf](https://rompetid.ro/files/downloads/legislatie/ORDIN_1-Identificare_caini.pdf)

Law 205/2004 on the protection of animals:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/52646>

Ordinance 31/2008 on the implementation of the animal welfare law:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/95377>

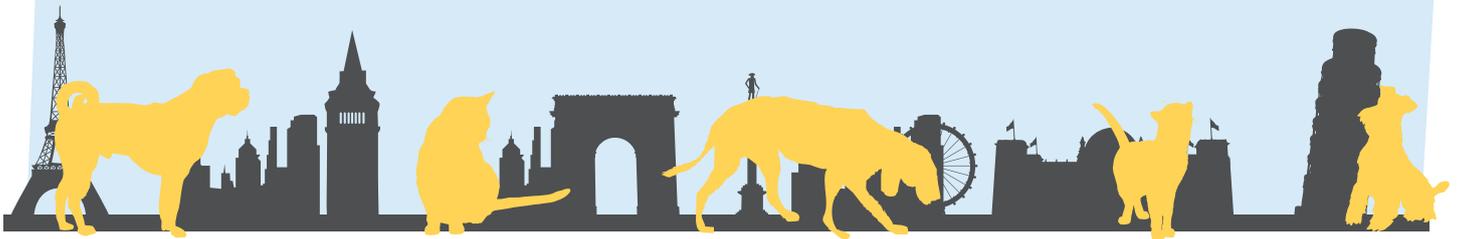
Law 60/2004 for ratification of European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/51666>

Ordinance 16/2010 (on sanitary and veterinary requirements for the registration and authorisation of operators dealing with live animals and animal products):

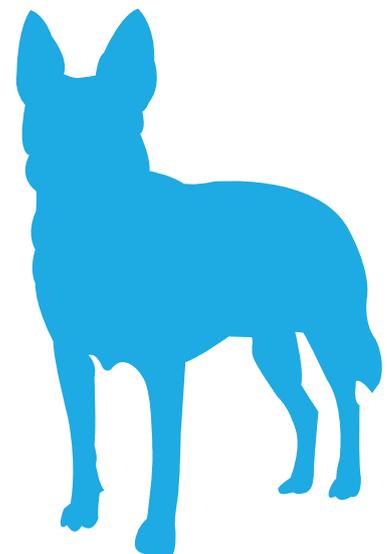
<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/117435>

# Slovakia



## Identification and Registration

Since September 2018 all dogs must be identified before the first change of ownership but no later than 12 weeks of age. Details of the dog and its owner must be entered by the veterinarian on the central pet register - [www.crsz.sk](http://www.crsz.sk). CRSZ is operated by the Veterinary Chamber of the Slovak Republic. This database is not connected to a European database but is a member of [PETMAXX.com](http://PETMAXX.com).



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Under the law on veterinary care, dog and cat breeders need to notify the veterinary authorities of their breeding activity, as do other animal breeders. Animal breeders must notify the start, suspension and termination of their activities to the veterinary authorities and ensure that the competent veterinary authorities always have up to date information on their establishment, including any significant change in activities.

However, dog and cat breeders do not need to be authorised before starting breeding activity. When breeders notify the veterinary services of their breeding activity, inspections are not conducted to confirm that the establishment respects the animal welfare requirements.

There are no criteria to determine when breeders need to announce their activity, such as having a minimum number of breeding animals or producing a minimum number of litters per year.

Decree 123/2008 requires that pet animals used in breeding should not show serious genetic disorders, problematic behaviour such as aggressiveness or exaggerated timidity. Selective breeding methods should not cause permanent disability.

The general requirements of Decree 123/2008, which apply to all companion animal keepers, cover:

- The need to inspect animals regularly and at least once per day.
- The need to provide veterinary treatment when necessary.
- Housing must allow good health and the satisfaction of physiological, behavioural and social needs.
- Adequate food and drink must be provided at appropriate intervals.
- There must be enough space to allow the animals to move freely.
- The provision of suitable equipment to allow animals to express their natural behavior, for example by facilitating scratching and hiding.
- Weaning must be done at the most appropriate time to ensure the welfare of both the young animals and their parents.

In addition to these general requirements, the decree includes a set of requirements specifically for breeding establishments, which cover the following aspects:

- The materials used for the construction of breeding facilities and of fences and other facilities, which may come into contact with pets, must have no sharp edges which could injure the animals. The facilities must be of adequate size to be comfortable.
- All equipment and materials which come into contact with animals, must be clean and disinfected.
- Suitable microclimate conditions: aeration, dust, temperature, humidity; and adequate lighting to meet the physiological and behavioral needs of the animals.
- Protection against bad weather and predators when pets are housed outdoor.
- To avoid problems, the social behaviour of the animals must be taken into account when creating groups or adding an animal to an existing group.

Animals kept in a group must be able to hide from the other individuals in the group. Pet animals that behave aggressively or could represent a danger to other pets should be separated from other animals.

Although there are internal guidelines from the State Veterinary Office for the inspection of quarantine centres and shelters, which should be checked twice a year, there are no such inspection guidelines for breeding establishments. Checks are mainly carried out by the Veterinary Services following complaints by citizens.

There is no database of dog and cat breeders. The Veterinary Administration keeps lists of authorised establishments such as shelters, quarantine centres and breeders of dangerous animals, but not of dog and cat breeders.

Decree 123/2008 requires that pet animals used in breeding should not show serious genetic disorders, problematic behaviour such as aggressiveness or exaggerated timidity. Selective breeding methods should not cause permanent disability.

There is no training or education obligation for dog and cat breeders or for people handling animals in dog/cat breeding establishments.

There are no national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice for registered breeders to adhere to.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Decree 123/2008 covers specific requirements for dogs, including the following:

- Dogs must be able to see and hear what is going on in the breeding establishment and in its environment and be able to communicate.
- Dogs must be able to move according to their needs, taking into account their size and temperament.
- Dogs can be tied and kept outside but in that case the chain must be long enough to allow the dog to move at least 2m and shelter must be provided.
- there is a minimum height for outside pens, of 2m for dogs weighting under 50 kgs and 2.5m for dogs weighting 50 kgs and more. An annex provides for minimum space requirements of pens according to the weight of the dogs and the number of dogs kept together in a pen.
- Dogs kept in outside pens must be walked every day.
- Females in the last third of pregnancy, lactating bitches, sick dogs and puppies under six months of age must be able to move freely and to satisfy their physiological and behavioural needs.

However short-term tethering is permitted, particularly at feeding, cleaning, investigation and treatment of the animals to safeguard their welfare.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

Decree 123/2008 covers specific requirements for cats, including the following:

- Cats must be able to see and hear what is happening in the breeding establishment and be able to communicate.
- Cats must be provided with appropriate equipment or material allowing them to scratch their claws and climb, and with litter trays which are properly maintained.

- Cats may be tethered for a limited period of time necessary to ensure their well-being, at feeding, cleaning, investigation and treatment to safeguard their welfare. During this time the animal must be controlled.
- Cats require sufficient freedom of movement. If they are kept in cages, the cage must provide cats with protection from inclement weather, especially rain, frost and direct sunlight. It must be suitably drained and protected against predators. The smallest permissible cage height is 2m. The minimum space requirements for cats are 2m<sup>2</sup> per cat kept individually, with an additional 1m<sup>2</sup> per additional cat and a maximum of 2 cats per group. A mother and litter of unweaned kittens is considered as one animal.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Traders in cats and dogs must comply with the same requirements outlined in the veterinary care decree (123/2008) for breeders. They must notify the veterinary authorities in the same way.

There is no minimum age at which kittens and puppies can be sold in Slovakia. There is also no minimum age at which someone can buy a cat or a dog.

There are no specific rules for the sale of cats and dogs in pet shops, at markets or on the internet.

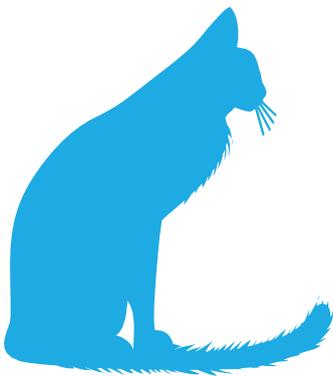
The commercial transport of cats and dogs is regulated through EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. There are no additional specific regulations covering cat and dog transport in Slovakia.

There are no training/educational obligations for cat and dog traders in Slovakia.

There are no specific inspection obligations for cat and dog traders.

### **Surgical mutilations**

The removal of body parts is prohibited, except for tail docking of dogs in accordance with recognized breed features, until the age of 14 days after birth, and the removal of dew claws in dogs.



### Links to legislation

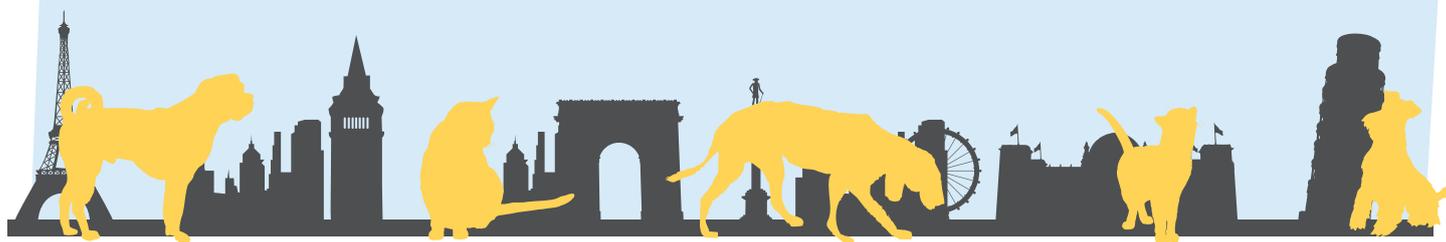
Law 39/2007 on veterinary care (also covers the welfare of animals):  
[http://www.svssr.sk/legislativa/zakon\\_39\\_2007.asp](http://www.svssr.sk/legislativa/zakon_39_2007.asp)

Law 342/2011 amending and supplementing Law no. 39/2007 Coll. on veterinary care:  
[http://www.svps.sk/dokumenty/legislativa/zk\\_342\\_2011.pdf](http://www.svps.sk/dokumenty/legislativa/zk_342_2011.pdf)

Decree 123/2008 Coll. on Detailed rules on the protection of pet animals and requirements for quarantine centres and shelters: [http://www.svssr.sk/dokumenty/legislativa/v123\\_2008.pdf](http://www.svssr.sk/dokumenty/legislativa/v123_2008.pdf)

Ministerial Decree No 19/2012 on identification and registration of pets:  
<http://www.mpsr.sk/download.php?fID=5495>

# Slovenia



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

Dogs must be identified with a microchip before they reach the age of three months. They must also be registered in the central dog register at the same time. Data on the dog origin, dog vaccination status and on the owner are entered in the register. When buying a dog, the owner must register it within 7 days of buying it. Dog owners must be at least 18 years old to be able to register a dog. Otherwise they must be represented by their legal representative.



### Cats

There is no obligation in Slovenia to permanently identify and register cats. When stray cats are released after neutering, they are marked by cutting part of one ear so that they will not be caught again.

When abandoned cats housed in shelters are adopted by a new owner, they are neutered and microchipped before adoption.

One central register for dogs has been set up by the Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection.

The animal protection law includes a legal basis for the creation of registers for other categories of animals. However there is currently no central register for cats. Cat owners have the possibility to register their animal in one database. There is however no member of Europetnet in Slovenia.

## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Commercial cat and dog breeders must be registered with the veterinary inspection.

Breeders keeping more than 5 dogs or cats need to be registered but there are no detailed requirements applying to them other than those of the animal welfare law.

If breeders own more than 10 dogs or 10 cats they must comply with specific requirements, including having proper education and ensuring that a sufficient number of trained staff are available to take care of the animals. The training requirements are the same as for traders (see below under the trade section). An inspection is conducted before granting the authorisation.

Official veterinarians conduct regular inspections of all establishments where animals are bred, exposed or commercially traded. Breeding premises are inspected at least once a year, and additional inspections can be carried out following reports of neglect to the veterinary inspectorate.

Breeders are not recorded in a central database. Dogs and cats cannot mate before 14 months of age and they cannot mate before 290 days after the female has given birth.

The animal welfare law prohibits the breeding of vertebrates if they or their descendants present hereditary defects which negatively impact the welfare of the animals. Breeders must also ensure that the breeding of animals does not lead to behaviour problems in their progeny.

### Requirements for breeding dogs

For breeders who have up to 10 dogs, the requirements are the same as for dog owners. These requirements include:

- Dogs must receive adequate food. Up to six months of age dogs must be fed at least three times a day, from six months to one year of age, at least twice a day, adults at least once a day. Drinking water must be constantly available.
- Puppies must not be separated from their mother before the age of eight weeks.

- Adequate shelter must be provided to protect dogs against adverse weather and sufficient space to allow proper movement must be available.
- Natural light, adequate ventilation, and the possibility to see the surroundings.
- Bitches with puppies and sick dogs should be kept in a place in which the temperature must not be lower than 20 °C.
- Regular cleaning.
- Specifications for tethered dogs concerning the minimum length of chain allowed. Dogs younger than 6 months, pregnant bitches nearing term and bitches with puppies are not allowed to be tethered.
- Specifications concerning the kennel size according to the dogs' weight and the number of dogs housed per kennel.

For breeders keeping more than 10 dogs, additional requirements must be complied with, including those applying to shelters, and the following:

- A specific room must be reserved for the preparation and storage of food.
- Specific space must be provided for cleaning, bathing and grooming animals, and to store the equipment for animal care.
- A separate heated room must be reserved for sick or injured animals.
- Records must be kept for every dog, covering the identification, registration and vaccination data, as well as health information including veterinary treatment, the list of people taking care of dogs and dog care records.
- Accommodation space for dogs, including external accommodation, must be regularly cleaned and disinfected to prevent the transmission of diseases.

### Requirements for breeding cats

For breeders who have up to 10 cats, the requirements are the same as for cat owners. These requirements include:

- Adequate food. The frequency of feeding should be: for young cats up to six months of age at least four times a day, for cats between six months and one year of age, at least three times a day, and for adults at least twice a day. Drinking water must be constantly available.
- Kittens may not be separated from their mother before the age of twelve weeks.
- Cat housing must provide protection against adverse climatic conditions.

- Cats kept indoors must have access to enough space with natural lighting and equipment to climb and play.
- Cats must be checked at least once per day.
- Cats may be kept in cages for a maximum of 30 days, in shelters and shops. Space requirements are provided in an annex. At events cats may be kept in smaller cages for a maximum of 10 hours per day and a maximum of three days in a row.

Breeders keeping more than 10 cats must also comply with requirements applying to shelters, and with additional requirements, including:

- A specific room must be reserved for the preparation and storage of food.
- Specific space must be provided for cleaning, bathing and grooming animals, and to store the equipment for animal care.
- A separate heated room must be reserved for sick or injured animals.
- Records must be kept for every cat, including health information and veterinary treatment.
- Accommodation spaces for cats, including external accommodation, must be regularly cleaned and disinfected to prevent the transmission of diseases.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

It is prohibited to sell dogs and cats in the street and at markets. Cats can be sold in pet shops, but not dogs, which must be sold directly by the breeder. It is illegal to resell a puppy and consequently puppies cannot be imported to be sold. The sale of cats and dogs on the internet is not regulated, but sellers must respect the animal protection law. It is permitted to sell pets at special events if an authorisation has been requested in advance and the event has been approved by the veterinary inspectorate.

Pet shop managers and breeders must hold a valid certificate of completion of training on the nutrition, care, behaviour and health of pets. The training must last at least six hours and include: technical and administrative aspects of the legislation on animal welfare; physiological needs of animals, especially the need for water and food; animal behaviour and the concept of stress; practical aspects of handling of animals; care for animals in an emergency and

the security of the personnel dealing with animals. The training program is certified by the veterinary administration. A certificate is issued after an examination which lasts at least one hour, and is valid for five years.

The legislation includes specific requirements for housing animals in pet shops, including requirements for lighting and ventilation, cleaning, fire alarms and building materials which cannot injure the animals. Pet shop traders also need to sign a contract with a veterinarian who will monitor the health of the animals and treat them when necessary.

Pet traders must keep detailed records, including information on the origin of each animal (name and address of the breeder), number of animals sold and purchased, number of animals which have died during transport or after arrival and number of sick animals, as well as records on veterinary treatments.

Dogs cannot be sold before the age of 8 weeks and cats before the age of 12 weeks.

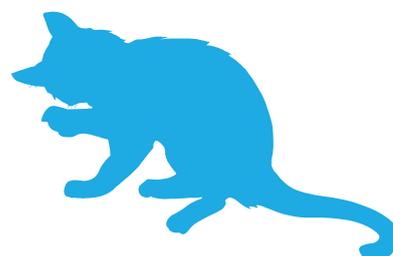
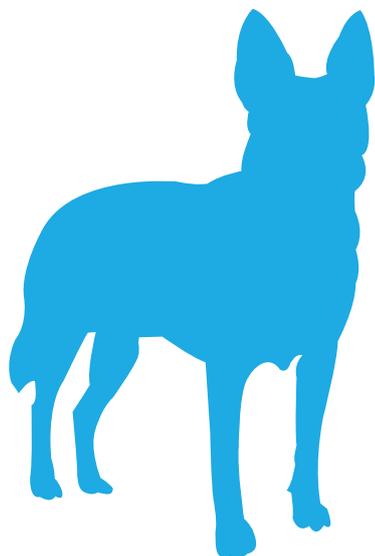
People who are under 18 years old cannot buy a dog or a cat unless accompanied with their legal representative.

Traders have the duty to inform the customer on the care, nutrition and health needs of the animal they purchase.

The Transport of pets for commercial purposes must be carried out in accordance with EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. There are no additional rules at national level.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Mutilations are prohibited, in particular tail docking, ear clipping, declawing and devocalisation, unless for medical reasons. There is one exception, which is to cut one fourth of one cat ear under full anaesthesia to ensure the identification of neutered stray cats.



### Links to legislation

Animal protection law:

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1353>

Law on shelters:

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV2861>

Rules on the protection of pet animals:

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV9190>

Webpage of the Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection on dog registration:

<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/storitve/centralni-register-psov-crpsi-2/>

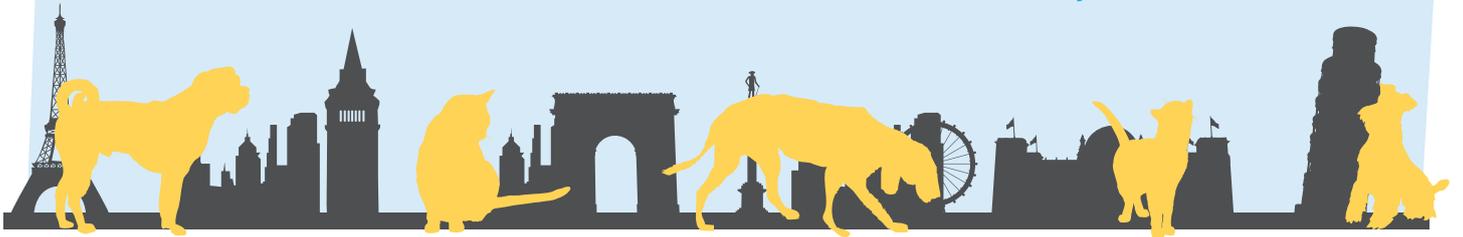
Law on Veterinary Compliance Criteria:

<http://www.uradni-list.si/1/content?id=58300>

Rules on the identification and registration of pets

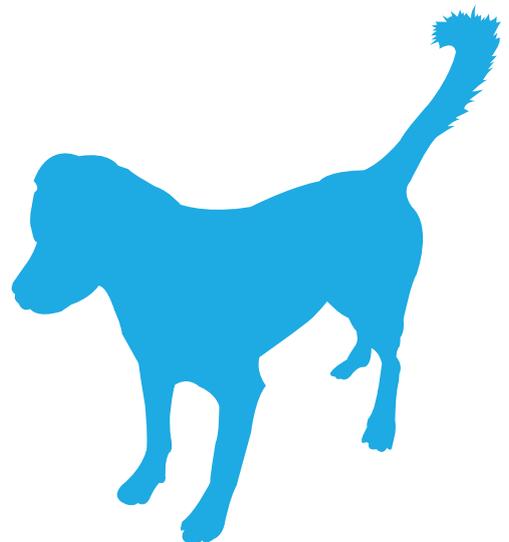
<http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV12107>

# Spain



In Spain, the protection of companion animals falls under the regional governments of the Autonomous Communities (AC). There are 17 Autonomous Communities<sup>8</sup>, and each of them has its own animal welfare law. Although these laws are not identical, they are based on common principles and thus very similar. The laws are often completed with orders or decrees covering one topic in more detail, such as identification and registration.

As it would be too long to present a detailed analysis of the 17 sets of legislation, this summary gives an overview of the main provisions and the different options adopted in the AC for the topics of interest.



<sup>8</sup> Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Baleares, Canarias, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Castilla la Mancha, Cataluña, Extremadura, Galicia, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia, Navarra, País Vasco, Valencia

# Identification and Registration

## Dogs

In all autonomous communities, dogs must be permanently identified with a microchip. In all ACs, dogs must be identified within three months after birth, except in Navarra and País Vasco, where owners have four months and one month respectively to identify their dog. When buying a dog which is not yet identified, new owners generally have one month to identify and register them. In Aragón however, they only have 10 days, and in Asturias, Baleares and Cataluña, dogs must be identified before being sold or exchanged for free. In Cantabria, Galicia and La Rioja, the law does not specify additional time to identify dogs which are newly acquired by their owner, so dogs must also be identified before being sold.

In all ACs, dogs must be registered in a central database of the autonomous community. Registration is generally done at the same time as identification or very shortly afterwards. All these databases are members of Europetnet, thus linked to an EU database.

## Cats

In seven autonomous communities (Andalucía, Asturias, Canarias, Cantabria, Cataluña, La Rioja, and Madrid), it is compulsory to identify cats with a microchip (except in Cantabria: with a microchip or a tattoo), and to register them in the central database of companion animals.

For those autonomous communities where it is not an obligation to identify and register cats, owners can decide to do it if they wish and cats can then be registered in the central database of companion animals of the autonomous community where the owner lives.



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

Breeding establishments must be licensed according to a Spanish National Decree on authorisation and registration of animal establishments. Breeders need to be authorised and registered in the official register of animal establishments and reference centres. Every autonomous community has created a register, which is managed by the Ministry of agriculture of the AC. To be authorised and registered, establishments must comply with sanitary requirements, and with the related animal welfare measures as provided for in their regional animal welfare Law.

To be registered, establishments must apply by providing:

- Contact details.
- A map of the interior, situation and access to the establishment.

- A report prepared by an authorised veterinarian describing the sanitary requirements.

After authorisation and initiation of the activities of the establishment, the competent authority must check the establishment through a visit to the premises, to verify compliance. Once compliance has been checked, the establishment is registered in the official register.

The laws of the autonomous communities include specific provisions for breeders of companion animals in general, but no specific requirements for dog or cat breeders.

The competent authorities must keep records of authorised and registered establishments (including breeders and traders). They must ensure that the general requirements of the animal welfare law are complied with. These requirements are specified in the AC laws and generally include the following provisions, which transpose at regional level the national animal health law, going further in some AC:

- Establishments must ensure good hygienic and sanitary conditions and rooms which are adapted to the physiological conditions of the animals they house.
- Establishments must ensure that they can rely on suitable veterinary services which are responsible for the health and welfare of the animals.
- When they sell animals, establishments must provide all the legal documentation, including veterinary certificates.
- Animal owners must treat them humanely, and keep them in good health and hygienic conditions, in line with the specificities of the animal species.
- Establishments must keep records of the animals bred and sold, in line with the legislation, which generally includes at least data on the origin, identification and destination of the animals.

There are no specific provisions preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations, except in the legislation of Cataluña. Law 2/2008 on the protection of animals includes the obligation, for animal establishments, to sell animals with no visible signs of psychological or physical pathologies and which do not suffer, themselves or their progenies, from inherited diseases which can be diagnosed.

There are no guidelines or codes of practice which breeders must adhere to.

There are generally no training or educational obligations for owners or staff of breeding/trading establishments. Cataluña is the only autonomous community which imposes training requirements for people taking care of animals in breeder/trader establishments. The law requires that they follow an officially recognised course and obtain a certificate of competence recognized by the authorities but without examination. However these certificates have not yet been introduced by the authorities.

## Regulation of dog and cat traders

Cat and dog traders must be authorised and registered, using the same procedure as for cat and dog breeders (see above).

There are no provisions concerning the sale of cats and dogs on the internet except in the law of Cataluña, which imposes, for any transaction with animals through publications or other media, to include in the advertisement the registration number of the trader or breeding establishment.

Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops and at markets, as long as these are authorised and registered animal establishments. In Cataluña, Cantabria and Extremadura the animals cannot be exposed in the window of the pet shop but they can be kept in the shop. There are no such provisions in the other AC laws.

In most regional laws, there are provisions related to itinerant sales of animals. However, only Cataluña specifically prohibits the sale in the street unless they have permission from the local authority.

The law of Cataluña prohibits separating young animals from their mother, to be sold as companion animals, before the weaning age recommended for each species. In Andalucía, mammals cannot be separated from their mother before 40 days after birth. In Asturias, cats and dogs cannot be sold before they are 8 weeks old, or 6 weeks if they go directly from the breeder to the home of the buyer. There is no mention in the other laws of a minimum age at which cats and dogs can be sold.

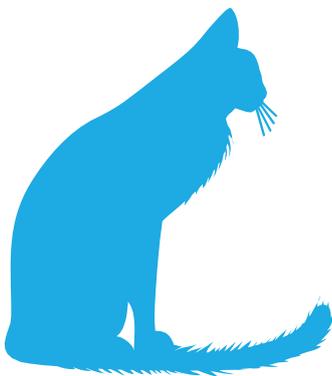
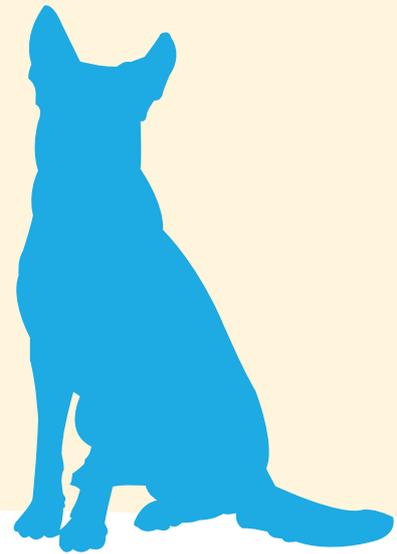
In most AC laws, there is a minimum age at which someone can buy an animal without the consent of their parent or legal representative. This age varies from 14 years to 18 years. Some laws only specify that animals cannot be sold to minors.

AC laws also include general provisions on the transport of companion animals, which make reference to EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. For example one of the laws provides for animals to have enough space to be able to stand or lay down. The means of transport or boxes must protect the animals from extreme weather conditions. Animals must receive water and food at adequate intervals as provided for by the law.

When loading and unloading animals, proper equipment must be used to avoid damage or suffering of the animals.

### **Surgical mutilations**

In general, the laws of the Autonomous Communities prohibit surgical mutilation if the aim is aesthetic. However many laws allow surgical mutilations as an exception when it is "to give animals the usual aspect of the breed". This is specifically allowed in 9 ACs out of 17. Only one AC (Cataluña) specifically prohibits devocalisation and declawing, while Asturias does not mention mutilations at all.



### **Links to legislation**

Decreto 1119/1975, de 24 de abril, sobre autorización y registro de núcleos zoológicos, establecimientos para la práctica de la equitación, centros para el fomento y cuidado de animales de compañía y similares (Decree on authorisation and register of animal establishments):

<http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/1975/05/29/pdfs/A11416-11417.pdf>

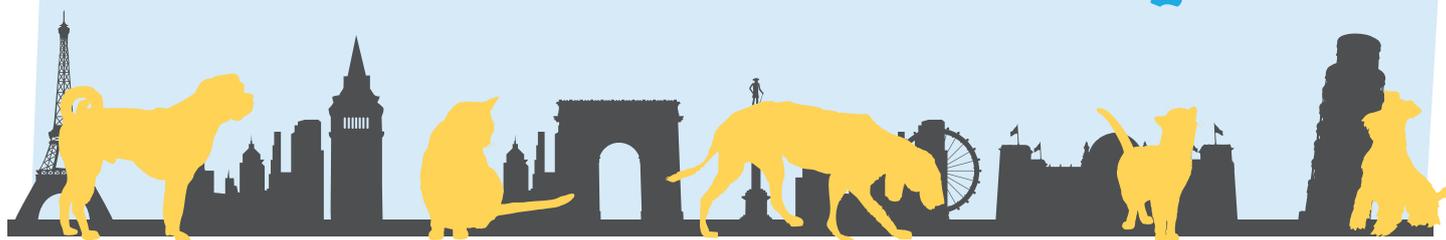
Orden de 28 de julio de 1980 por la que se dan normas sobre núcleos zoológicos, establecimientos para la equitación, centros para el fomento y cuidado de animales de compañía y similares (Order fixing rules for animal establishments):

<http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/1980/09/11/pdfs/A20396-20397.pdf>

Links to national and autonomous communities laws:

<http://derechoanimal.info/en/database>

# Sweden



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

Dogs must be permanently identified with a tattoo or a microchip before they reach four months of age or, if they are bought from someone who did not identify them, within four weeks of buying them.

Dogs must also be registered in a central dog register. Changes, such as change of ownership, address or if the dog dies, must be introduced in the register within 4 weeks of the change.



### Cats

Cats do not need to be permanently identified and registered.

The central dog register is not a member of Europetnet.

In addition to the dog register, there is a database managed by the Swedish Kennel Club on which all dogs can be recorded. This register is a member of Europetnet.

There is no register for cats kept by Swedish authorities. However, cats can be registered in the Swedish Kennel Club's register or in the Cat Club SVERAK's register, Sweden's largest cat organisation with regional and local cat clubs under its umbrella. Cat owners can register their cat, free of charge, in SVERAK's register, even if they are not a member of the SVERAK cat club. SVERAK's id-register includes cats that are not pedigrees.

### Regulation of dog and cat breeders

When they breed on a professional basis or on a substantial scale, dog and cat breeders need a permit. A "substantial scale" is when breeders keep 10 or more dogs or cats older than 12 months, they breed three or more litters per year, or sell dogs or cats from three or more litters per year from their own breeding.

Applications for permits are examined by the competent authority which pays special attention to the ability of the applicant to conduct the activities and to the premises in which the activities are to be conducted, to check if they are suitable with regard to animal welfare.

The requirements for cat and dog breeders are set up in specific regulations, which also include advice, beside binding provisions. The provisions cover, among other aspects:

- Lighting, ventilation, temperature, humidity
- Equipment of housing.
- Specific rooms for food storage and preparation, animal treatment and sick animals in large establishments.
- Dogs and cats cannot be housed in cages except at shows and races and during transportation. In that case, dogs need to be able to exercise every two hours. When transported in cages, dogs and cats cannot be kept in the cages for more than 3 hours if the vehicle is stationary.
- Exercise areas and their equipment.
- Dogs and cats must have their social needs satisfied and animals must not be put together unattended with animals they do not know.
- Animals must be cleaned and groomed.
- Adequate food must be provided daily.
- Cats and dogs must be checked at least twice a day. Young, sick or injured animals must be checked more often.

In Sweden, it is prohibited to use animals for breeding which have diseases or disabilities that can be inherited, animals which are most likely carriers of a genetic disease and the mating combination increases the risk of illness or disability of the offspring, and/or animals which exhibit behavioural disorders in the form of exaggerated fear responses or aggressive behaviour in everyday situations.

A bitch or a female cat that has given birth twice by caesarean section cannot continue to be used for breeding.

The animal welfare ordinance provides for prior inspections of the premises before granting the permit, or if more appropriate, as soon as possible afterwards. The county administrative Boards are the competent authorities to perform the official controls. The requirement for prior inspection does not apply to establishments housing less than 5 dogs or 5 cats.

There is a central database with information about companies with animals for the Swedish animal welfare control. Breeders with permits (according to section 16 in the Animal Welfare Act) are registered in that database. The database is managed by the Swedish Board of Agriculture but the county administrative boards have access to information in it.

### Requirements for breeding dogs

The regulations on the keeping of pet animals include specific provisions for breeding dogs, including:

- Dogs should be given the opportunity to hide from other dogs. Stall partitions should allow visual contact between dogs.
- Exercise yards must be equipped with a lookout post in the form of a lying area at least 0.5 m above the ground where all dogs are able to lie down in natural position.
- If dogs stay permanently in an exercise yard, it must be equipped with safe environmental enrichment.
- Dog houses must protect the animals against adverse weather.
- Water must be permanently available.
- Groups must be formed by dogs which go well together.
- Puppies under 4 months of age may only be left completely alone for short periods.
- Dogs cannot be tethered indoors and only for a maximum of 2 hours outdoors. Puppies under 6 months of age may only be tethered for shorter periods.
- Dogs kept indoors need regular outdoor exercise adapted to the dog's age and health status. Dogs kept permanently in an exercise yard must also be walked daily.
- Bitches cannot be bred until the second sexual cycle and not before 18 months of age.

- If a bitch has two litters within 12 months, at least 12 months of rest must be allowed before the next whelping.
- Puppies must not be separated from their mother before 8 weeks of age.

### **Requirements for breeding cats**

The regulations on the keeping of pet animals include specific provisions for breeding cats, including:

- Partitions between cat boxes must allow visual contact between cats.
- Cat housing should be equipped with environmental enrichment such as elevated lying areas and hiding places, and one litter box per two cats.
- The area in which cats are kept must not house more than 15 adults or 20 young animals and all cats must have access to a sleeping place.
- Cats cannot be tethered.
- Kittens cannot be separated from their mother before they reach 12 weeks of age.

The regulations also include advice, beside binding provisions. There are no other official national guidelines/codes of practice but organisations such as the Swedish Kennel Club, for example, have their own regulations that those who want to participate in their activities must adhere to.

### **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

Commercial cat and/or dog traders must also be licensed, as soon as they trade on a professional basis or on a substantial scale, which means that they sell three or more dogs or cats per year from another breeder.

People who are engaged in commercial pet trade or in pet trade in a substantial scale must have the training or other knowledge prescribed by the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

Puppies cannot be sold before the age of 8 weeks and kittens before the age of 12 weeks.

It is not permitted to sell cats and dogs at pet shops, at markets, or on the street.

Internet trade in cats and dogs is not regulated.

There is no minimum age at which someone can buy a cat or a dog. However, general rules about parenting are applicable and may prevent a person under 18 from buying things (including an animal). In 2009, the Government appointed a committee to make an overview of the animal welfare legislation. The committee proposed in its report (Swedish Government Official Report, SOU 2011:75) a 16-year-old-limit for a child to keep (main responsibility) an animal. No decision has however yet been made regarding the age limit proposal.

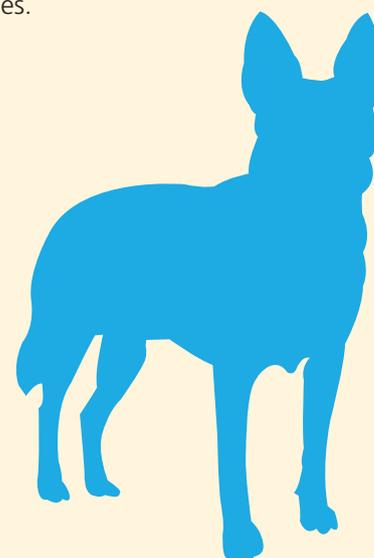
In addition to EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, specific national rules have been adopted concerning the commercial transport of dogs and cats. They cover space requirements, ventilation, temperature, shade and the need to provide water to cats and dogs at regular intervals not exceeding 6 hours. Dogs must also be walked every six hours. Annexes give specific space requirements for dogs and for cats according to the size of the dogs/cats.

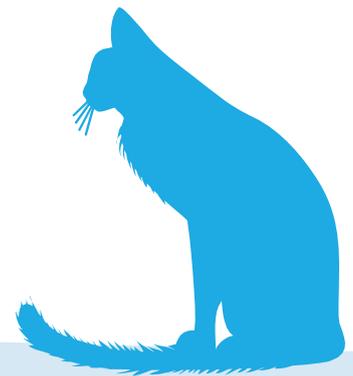
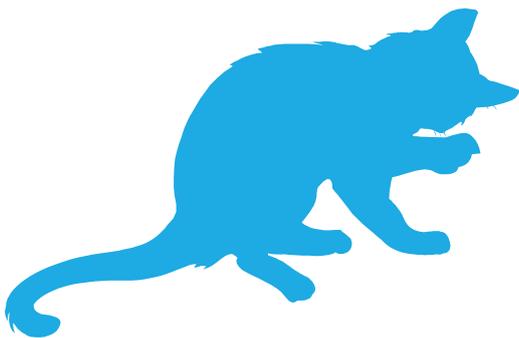
### **Surgical mutilations**

Under the Animal Welfare Act, it is prohibited to subject animals to surgical procedures except when they are necessary for veterinary medical reasons. Tail docking, ear cropping, declawing and devocalisation are thus not allowed in Sweden.

### **Abandoning of animals prohibited**

According to the latest Animal Welfare Act (2018:1192), it is prohibited to abandon all animals of domesticated species.





### Links to legislation

Animal Welfare Act Animal Welfare Ordinance:  
<http://edepot.wur.nl/158668>

Animal Welfare Ordinance:  
[https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/djurskyddsforordning-201966\\_sfs-2019-66](https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/djurskyddsforordning-201966_sfs-2019-66)

Regulations on identification and registration of dogs:  
<https://djur.jordbruksverket.se/download/18.141c9f5d161fe950f26179a2/1520407115897/2018-003.pdf>

Regulations on the keeping of dogs and cats (including breeding and trade):  
<https://djur.jordbruksverket.se/download/18.7c1e1fce169bee5214fb19d3/1554448722900/2019-027.pdf>

Regulations on the transport of live animals:  
<https://djur.jordbruksverket.se/download/18.7c1e1fce169bee5214fad39b/1553851303158/2019-007.pdf>

Dog register:  
<https://djur.jordbruksverket.se/swedishboardofagriculture/engelskasidor/animals/dogregister.4.95a932f14cd64cc12814055.html>

# Conclusions

**The results of this study show that the legislation at the national level in each of the EU's 27 Member States, regarding commercial activities with cats and dogs, varies widely.**

**Without EU legislation to harmonise the legislation across EU Member States, this is likely to have serious implications not only on dog and cat welfare, but also on key areas in which the EU has competence to legislate: public health, consumer protection and on the functioning of the internal market. The key findings are summarised below and where these relate to an area of EU competence, this is highlighted in bold.**

## **Compulsory identification and registration**

The identification and registration of dogs is currently compulsory in 22 Member States out of 27. Most Member States have a national database on which dogs must be registered. However, less than half of these databases are linked to an EU database, preventing full traceability of dogs when moved over EU borders.

For cats, only seven Member States impose compulsory identification and registration at national level, while in a further five countries, only some regions have rules in place to impose it.

Without a system for the identification and registration of dogs and cats, which is accessible across the EU, there is currently little traceability when animals are moved over country borders. This poses a risk to animal and **public health** if animals cannot be traced in the event of a disease outbreak, or if vets treating sick animals are not aware that they have come from another country.

At the end of 2014, the three-year EU funded CALLISTO project (on the risks of infectious diseases transmitted by companion animals to humans and food animals) concluded that identification without registration in a cross-border accessible database is of limited value for zoonotic disease prevention and control, epidemiological studies and surveys.<sup>9</sup> The project therefore made a high priority recommendation for the identification and registration of companion animals in a database linked across EU Member States.

The lack of an identification and registration system which can be accessed across the EU also impacts **consumer protection** where purchasers are unable to trace where their new pet has come from.

'The identification and registration of dogs is currently compulsory in 22 Member States out of 27.'

<sup>9</sup> Strategy report of the EU CALLISTO project, 2014:  
[http://www.callistoproject.eu/joomla/attachments/article/111/third\\_cycle\\_report.pdf](http://www.callistoproject.eu/joomla/attachments/article/111/third_cycle_report.pdf)

## Breeding

24 out of 27 Member States impose some sort of registration or licensing of commercial dog breeders whilst some sort of registration or licensing of cat breeders is in place in only 15 EU Member States.

However, the definition of “commercial” breeder is not harmonised across Member States, leading to big distortions between countries, or even between regions within countries.

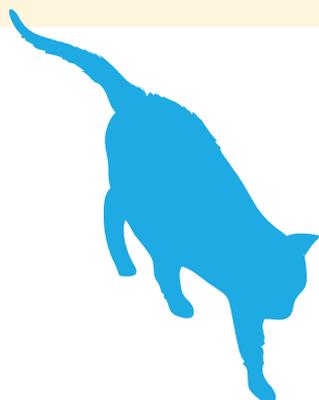
The conditions for registration or licensing also vary widely between countries. For example:

- Whilst some Member States impose educational/training requirements for staff taking care of dogs and/or cats in breeding establishments, these requirements can vary widely from a short training followed by a test to the need for the manager of the breeding establishment to have a degree in biology. In the majority of Member States, there are no educational/training requirements for staff in breeding establishments.
- Dog and/or cat breeding establishments are inspected before being allowed to start their activities in only 10 Member States.
- Only 12 Member States have a national database of registered/licensed dog and cat breeders.
- Only 9 Member States have provisions on the socialisation of puppies and/or kittens.
- Some Member States have detailed requirements on the conditions in which breeding animals and their offspring should be kept, whilst others have no requirements at all. When there are detailed requirements, these can vary widely too.

- Only 16 Member States have legislation to prevent the selective breeding of dogs and cats with genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations. Among those which have adopted legal provisions, several only have a general provision not allowing the selection for breeding purposes of animals “whose anatomical and physiological characteristics or behavioural attributes may, depending on the species and breed, prove to be harmful for the health and well-being of the breeding female and its descendants”.

Poor standards during breeding can result in serious welfare issues and also in certain health issues for puppies and kittens. Where puppies and kittens are bred in a way which increases the risk of health problems, this poses a risk to consumer protection when new purchasers are faced with unexpected and expensive veterinary bills for their new pet. To put this into context, Canine Parvovirus is an example of an infectious disease which can arise if puppies are bred in unsuitable conditions. Aside from the obvious welfare implications for puppies, veterinary treatment for Canine Parvovirus can cost thousands of euros. Hip dysplasia is an example of an inherited disease for which dogs can be screened before breeding to reduce the risk of this developing in their offspring. Hip replacement surgery in dogs can also cost thousands of pounds.

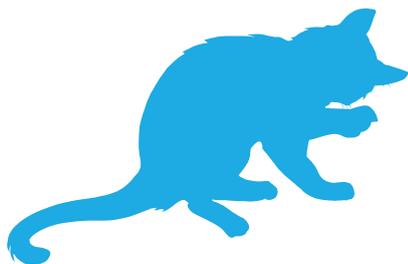
‘Some Member States have detailed requirements on the conditions in which breeding animals and their offspring should be kept, whilst others have no requirements at all.’



Where puppies and kittens are bred in poor conditions, they may also not be given enough experience of different environments, people or other animals to allow them to develop into confident adult animals and long-term behaviour problems can be the result. Where owners are not aware of this risk, this also impacts **consumer protection**. Behaviour problems are one of the top reasons for animals being handed over to a rehoming organisation by owners, as they are unable to cope with their pet's behaviour.

As the national legislation on breeding varies widely across Member States, this is likely to impact the **functioning of the internal market**. Where breeders in some countries do not have to comply with detailed requirements for breeding dogs and cats, it follows that they will have fewer costs to meet the minimum national requirements. They would therefore be at a competitive advantage compared to countries with higher requirements. This is evidenced in Dogs Trust's four reports on Puppy Smuggling, which demonstrate the illegal trade in puppies from Central and Eastern Europe to the UK.<sup>10</sup> The lack of uniform breeding standards across EU Member States is a clear incentive for this very lucrative trade, with breeders making hundreds of thousands of euros by exporting puppies.

'A huge majority of Member States (20 out of 27) still allow the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops.'



## Trade

The majority of Member States have a licensing system in place for dog and cat traders. However, the conditions for licensing vary widely between countries. For example:

- A huge majority of Member States (20 out of 27) still allow the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops. There are huge variations between countries in the requirements for the authorisation of pet shops.
- 15 Member States allow the sale of dogs and cats at markets.
- The vast majority of Member States do not have any controls on internet trade. Where Member States do have some controls on internet trade, this can range from a requirement that the animal's microchip number is stated on online adverts through to the prohibition of internet trade in one Member State (Luxembourg).
- 10 Member States do not impose a minimum age at which a puppy can be sold, and 10 do not impose a minimum age kittens at which kittens can be sold. When a minimum age is imposed for the sale of kittens, it can vary from 7 to 12 weeks, and for puppies from 7 to 8 weeks.
- Not all Member States impose a minimum age for people to buy a dog or a cat. When there is a minimum age, it can vary between 14 years old and 18 years old.
- Only 3 Member States have adopted detailed requirements for commercial transport of cats and dogs in addition to the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
- Some Member States do not regulate cat and dog trade at all.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/puppy-smuggling/ps-media>

The large variations in national legislation on the trade of dogs and cats can result in serious problems. Where puppies and kittens are sold from pet shops, markets, over the internet or through a trader other than the breeder, owners may be unaware of where and how their new pet has been bred and the experiences they have had. This poses a **consumer protection** risk where owners are unknowingly purchasing pets which are likely to have, or to develop, health or behaviour problems.

This also impacts **the functioning of the internal market** where traders in some countries are at a competitive disadvantage compared to other countries.

### Surgical mutilations

Surgical mutilations are prohibited in most Member States. However:

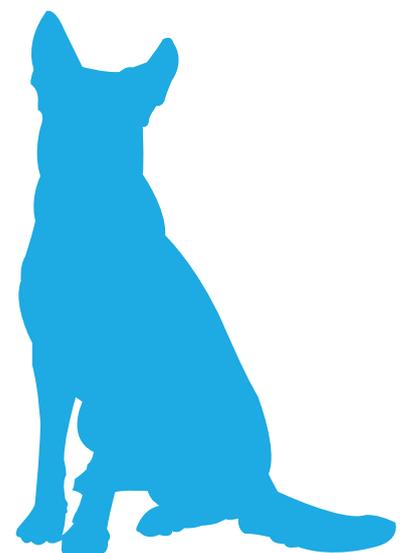
- 5 Member States still allow tail docking of dogs as a rule. 8 Member States allow it in certain circumstances, such as for working dogs or for certain breeds of hunting dogs.

Surgical mutilations, for anything other than for therapeutic purposes, can be detrimental to animal welfare. In terms of tail docking, the most frequently exempted mutilation in Member States, there is good evidence to show that the act of docking causes pain. In some Member States, tail docking must be performed before a puppy reaches a certain age, and a reason given for this can be that very young animals are believed to experience less pain. However, there is some evidence to show that pain in neonates is enhanced compared to adults.

A dog's tail is also a major element of its means of communication with other dogs and other species, so tail docking can impact on the ability to communicate.

The removal of the tail may induce or exacerbate other medical conditions such as incontinence in bitches.

'5 Member States still allow tail docking of dogs as a rule. 8 Member States allow it in certain circumstances, such as for working dogs or for certain breeds of hunting dogs.'



## Conclusion

This report aimed to assess the national legislation relating to dogs and cats involved in commercial practices in each of the EU's 27 Member States, It specifically focussed on legislation relating to breeding, trade and surgical mutilations. The findings of the report demonstrate that the national legislation varies widely between countries and that substantial gaps remain in several countries.

In 2010, a report published by the European Commission on the Evaluation of EU policy on animal welfare highlighted the need to extend the scope of EU animal welfare legislation. Indeed, the report found that EU legislation on the protection of animals had contributed to the proper functioning of the internal market, but mainly in the areas where specific EU legislation had been adopted. The report showed that much greater variations in standards existed for those animals outside the scope of current EU legislation, such as pets, and harmonisation was important to avoid distortion of competition in the internal market. The results of our research confirm these findings. EU legislation in this area would also protect animal and human health and ensure consumer protection.

Thus, in the context of cross-border activities, regulating the welfare of cats and dogs should be the responsibility of the EU, for the same reasons that the EU has adopted rules to protect other categories of animals such as farm and laboratory animals.

'In the context of cross-border activities, regulating the welfare of cats and dogs should be the responsibility of the EU.'



# Recommendations

## The EU Dog & Cat Alliance recommends the following actions by the EU:

- EU legislation should be adopted requiring the **compulsory permanent identification and registration of dogs and cats** on an appropriate database, which is linked to an EU database. This would allow traceability to help protect animal health and welfare, public health and improve consumer protection.
- Specific requirements should be adopted for the **transport of cats and dogs** in connection with an economic activity, under Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. Detailed provisions covering cats and dogs would allow a better enforcement of this Regulation. This would leave less room for interpretation and ensure improved welfare for dogs and cats which are transported.
- EU legislation should be adopted requiring the **licensing of dog and cat breeders** by Member States. This would improve the functioning of the EU internal market by ensuring minimum standards across all Member States, as well as improving animal health and welfare and ensuring consumer protection.
- **Harmonised EU standards for cat and dog breeders** should clarify a definition of 'commercial breeder'. Standards should include, among others: requirements to ensure dogs and cats are kept in conditions suitable for their species specific needs; provisions concerning the training/ education of staff taking care of cats and dogs in breeding establishments, or equivalent experience; requirements to ensure proper socialisation of puppies and kittens; and requirements to prevent selective breeding practices leading to reduced genetic diversity, inherited diseases and the expression of exaggerated conformations. Such standards should be developed with input from recognised experts in dog and cat health, behaviour and welfare.
- **A ban on sales of cats and dogs in pet shops, at markets, shows or exhibitions as well as in the street. There should also be appropriate controls on internet trade.** Cats and dogs should only be sold from breeder's premises, allowing new owners to be aware of the conditions in which their new pet has been raised and the experiences they have had, and minimising the risks of health and behavioural problems in the future. Concerning imports from other Member States only registered breeders should be allowed to import dogs and cats from another Member State's registered breeders and to sell them in their premises. This would allow full traceability of the animals and the breeder they come from, better functioning of the internal market, and consumer protection.
- **A full ban on all surgical mutilations** which are still allowed, other than for medical reasons, i.e. tail docking, ear cropping, declawing and devocalisation.

# Annex 1

List of questions used to study the national legislation and build the summaries of national legislation

## 1. Identification and registration

- Is it compulsory for dogs and/or cats to be permanently identified? If so, is this by microchip or tattoo?
- Is it compulsory for dogs and/or cats to be registered on a national database?
- If registration is compulsory, how many approved databases are there in the country for dogs and/or cats? Are the approved databases linked to an EU database? E.g. Europetnet.
- If it is not required for dogs and/or cats to be registered in a national database, what is the situation instead? For example, are there databases which owners can voluntarily register their animals in? If so, how many databases?
- Are any checks/inspections performed on breeders? If so, how frequent are inspections and who are they carried out by? Are breeders required to pass inspections to continue breeding?
- If breeder information is recorded in a database, who is responsible for this database? Is it mandatory to keep the information updated?
- Is there any legislation preventing the breeding of dogs and/or cats which have genetic problems such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations?
- Is any education/training on dog and/or cat welfare mandatory for breeders?
- Are there any national welfare Guidelines or Codes of Practice for registered breeders to adhere to? If so, are these compulsory or advisory?
- Outside of any regulation described above, please summarise any other key requirements which breeders must meet when breeding dogs and/or cats.

## 2. Regulation of dog and cat breeders

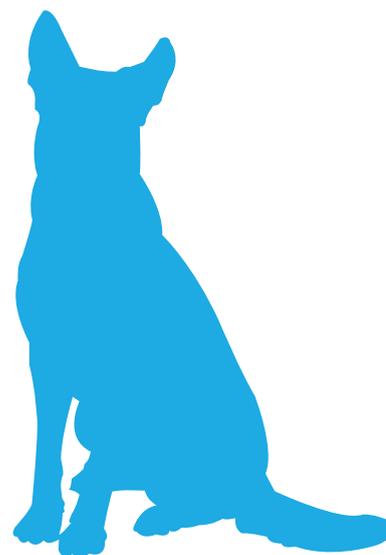
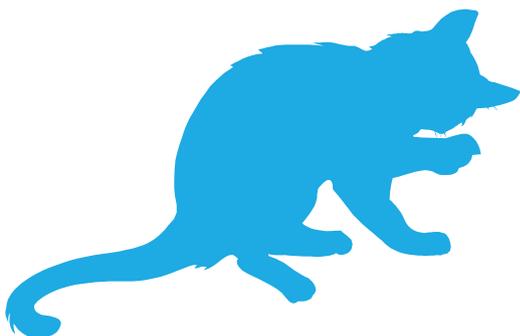
- Is there any regulation of dog and/or cat breeders, such as a requirement for them to be registered or licensed? I.e. are they required to register details with the Competent Authority or Municipality, or to meet certain conditions before being legally allowed to breed dogs and/or cats?
- If dog and/or cat breeders are required to be registered or licensed, does this apply to all breeders or only certain breeders? E.g. breeders which breed a certain number of litters per year or which own a certain number of breeding bitches? Please describe the criteria and also any cost involved for the breeder to be registered or licensed.
- Please summarise the requirements that breeders need to meet in order to be allowed to breed dogs and/or cats. For example, are there requirements specifying how animals should be kept, their behavioural requirements, their health requirements etc.? Or do breeders just need to register basic information such as their name and address?

## 3. Sale

- Is there a requirement for dog and cat traders to be licensed or to meet certain criteria to be able to sell animals? If so, please summarise the criteria.
- Is the sale of dogs and/cats over the internet regulated? If so, please summarise the key requirements.
- Can dogs and cats be sold in pet shops, at markets or on the street? Please specify all which apply.
- Is there a minimum age at which dogs and/or cats can be sold?
- Is there a minimum age for the owner, at which they can buy a dog and/or cat?
- Is there any national legislation on the transport of dogs and cats for sale? If so, please summarise the key requirements.
- Is any education/training on dog and/or cat welfare mandatory for traders?
- Outside of any requirements described above, please summarise any other key requirements which traders must meet when selling dogs and/or cats.

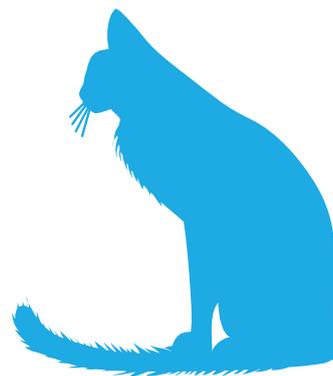
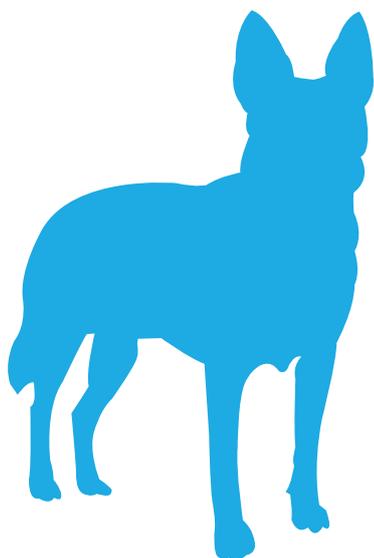
#### 4.Surgical mutilations

- Are surgical operations for the purpose of modifying the appearance of a dog and/or cat, or for other non-curative purposes prohibited? For example, this includes tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation and declawing.



# Acknowledgements

The EU Dog & Cat Alliance would like to thank all the Competent Authorities and animal welfare organisations which helped to check the accuracy of the country summaries in this report.





**EU DOG & CAT  
ALLIANCE**

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The EU Dog & Cat Alliance is a coalition of organisations from across the EU which are working to protect dog and cat welfare. The secretariat for the EU Dog & Cat Alliance is administered by Dogs Trust.

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