



Germany

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is not nationally compulsory. Germany is made up of 16 Federal States and it is compulsory in some of these States.

Cats

It is generally not compulsory to identify owned **cats**, however Article 13b of the Animal Welfare Law empowers the Federal States to order identification of neutered cats in stray populations.

There are two private **databases** for pet animals in Germany: TASSO and FINDEFIX, run by a German animal welfare organisation. Alternative databases include IFTA and Registrier mich!. TASSO is a member of the EU-wide database EuroPetNet and Registrier mich! is an associate member.

Microchipping of dogs and cats is not regulated at the federal level.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Only **dog breeders** with 3 or more reproductive females (or litters) per year must register and obtain a license. They must indicate the species, persons responsible and their competencies, and information on the premises and facilities. The licence is subject to authorisation by the Competent Authorities.

Cat breeders

Only **cat breeders** with 3 or more reproductive females (or litters) per year must register and obtain a license. They must indicate the species, persons responsible and their competencies, and information on the premises and facilities. The licence is subject to authorisation by the Competent Authorities.

There is no central **database** of registered breeders.

Inspections are carried out by the competent authorities prior to authorisation.

Legislation prohibits **breeding** of cats and dogs if it is expected that, due to hereditary factors, the offspring will lack body parts or organs, or will be unfit or deformed thereby causing pain, suffering or harm, or have behavioural problems resulting in suffering or increased aggressiveness.

There is a compulsory **code of practice** for dogs, but not for cats. The code focuses on reproduction standards, including the age and frequency at which a female dog can give birth.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

To be eligible for sale, **puppies** must be at least 8 weeks old. There is no minimum age of sale for **kittens**.

All dog and cat **traders** must apply for authorisation to the Competent Authorities. Authorisation requires compliance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act.

Sales in **pet shops**, at **markets** and **on the street** are permitted.

Surgical operations to modify the appearance of dogs and cats or for other non-curative purposes (e.g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing) are prohibited, with an exemption for tail docking in certain circumstances.

There is no specific regulation of **online advertising** of dogs and cats for sale.

Legislation: The Animal Welfare Act; Dog Welfare Ordinance