



Republic of Ireland

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and either no later than the age of 12 weeks, or before transfer of ownership, whichever comes first. Once microchipped, it must be registered on one of the four Government-approved databases.

Cats

It is neither nationally nor regionally compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered.

There are currently four microchip database providers: Animark, Fido, Irish Kennel Club and Microdog ID Ltd. All four are linked to the **EU-wide database** EuroPetNet.

Microchipping of dogs is regulated; the insertion must be done by a registered implanter.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Only **dog breeders** keeping six or more breeding bitches must be registered with the Local Authority and authorised.

Cat breeders

Cat breeders are not required to register or seek authorisation.

A **list** of authorised dog and cat breeding establishments is held by Local Authorities.

Inspections are carried out at random times, with consent of the occupier, and may be done prior to authorisation.

There is no legislation prohibiting the **breeding** of dogs and cats where it can be foreseen that they or their descendants will suffer because of it.

There are **guidelines** for dog breeders which accompany the Dog Breeding Establishments Act. There are no compulsory **Codes of Practice** or guidelines for cat breeders.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

The **minimum age** at which a **puppy** or **kitten** can be sold or supplied is 8 weeks.

Sales in **pet shops** and **in the market** are permitted but it is forbidden for sales to take place **on the street**.

Dog and cat **traders** (sellers or suppliers) selling more than 6 pet animals per year must be **registered** and **authorised** by the Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine. To appear on the official register, they must also sign up to a voluntary Code of Practice.

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 of some working dogs before the age of 8 days.

Online advertisements of dogs for sale must include the dog's microchip number. There is no specific regulation of online advertising of cats for sale.

Legislation: Microchipping of Dogs; Dog Breeding Establishments Act; Animal Health and Welfare (Sale or Supply of Pet Animals); Animal Health and Welfare Act; Guidelines for Dog Breeding Establishments