



## Sweden

### Identification and registration

#### Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification needs to be by microchip or tattoo and before the age of 4 months, or within 4 weeks of change of ownership. Once identified, the dog must be registered in a national database.

#### Cats

Permanent identification of **cats** is not currently compulsory. However, from 1 January 2023 permanent identification of cats by microchip or tattoo before the age of 4 months or within 4 weeks of change of ownership will become mandatory. Once identified, the cat will have to be registered in a national database.

Dogs must be registered in the Board of Agriculture's **national database** (this will be mandatory for cats from 1 January 2023). The Swedish Kennel Club also has a database, which is a member of the **EU-wide EuroPetNet**. Currently, owners may register their cats in the Kennel Club database or the Cat Club SVERAK's database.

**Microchipping** of dogs and cats is not regulated.

### Regulation of breeding

#### Dog breeders

All **dog breeders** are required to be registered and those breeding on a professional basis (three or more litters per year or keeping 10 or more dogs) must hold a permit. The competent authority assesses the applicant's ability to conduct the activities and the suitability of the premises prior to granting a permit.

#### Cat breeders

All **cat breeders** are required to be registered and those breeding on a professional basis (three or more litters per year or keeping 10 or more cats) must hold a permit. The competent authority assesses the applicant's ability to conduct the activities and the suitability of the premises prior to granting a permit.

A list of dog and cat breeders with permits is recorded on a national **database**.

**Inspections** are the responsibility of the County Administrative Boards and are legally required to take place prior to granting a permit.

There is legislation prohibiting the breeding of dogs and cats which have **genetic conditions** such as inherited diseases, inherited disabilities or behavioural disorders in the form of exaggerated fear responses or aggressive behaviour in everyday situations.

There is a compulsory **code of practice** for dog or cat breeders which covers facilities, inspections, cleaning, care and breeding practices. There are dog- and cat-specific provisions regarding facilities and environment, enrichment and more.

### Sales and advertising

#### Dog and cat traders

The minimum age at which a **puppy** can be sold is 8 weeks and for a **kitten** is 12 weeks.

All dog and cat **traders** must be **registered**. Traders must have the training or other knowledge prescribed by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. If they sell three or more dog or cat litters per year, they must hold a licence.

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

**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 no exemptions.

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