



United Kingdom

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and before the age of 8 weeks, unless the vet believes it will compromise the health of the dog.

Cats

Permanent identification of **cats** is not yet compulsory nationally, but has been announced for the future in England and is being considered in Scotland and Wales.

There are 16 nationally recognised **databases**, all of which are private and not associated with any Government department. One database, Petlog, is linked to **EU-wide database** EuroPetNet. Two databases (ChipWorks and ProtectedPet) are associate members of EuroPetNet.

Microchipping of dogs is regulated in England, Wales, and Scotland insofar as insertion must be performed by a veterinary professional. There is no specific legislation in Northern Ireland.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Dog breeders must be registered and licensed with the Local Authority if they breed more than 3 litters in a 12-month period. Any breeder advertising a business of selling a dog must hold a license. Licensed breeders must remain compliant with the Licensing of Activities Involving Animals Regulations.

Cat breeders

There is no UK-wide requirement for **cat breeders** to be registered and licensed. In Scotland, cat breeders who breed 3 or more litters a year must be licensed with their Local Authority.

Each Local Authority holds a **list** of licensed breeders within their area. This information is not shared between authorities.

Inspections are mandatory for license holders.

Legislation prohibits the **breeding** of dogs and cats where it can be foreseen that they or their descendants will suffer because of it. This includes the extremes of conformation.

There is no compulsory **Code of Conduct** for breeders.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

There is legislation on the minimum age at time of sale: 8 weeks for **puppies** and **kittens**.

Dog and cat **traders** are not required to be registered. However, in England and Scotland, all traders and businesses selling animals must be licensed.

Sales in **pet shops, at 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. ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing) are prohibited, with exemptions to allow the docking of working dogs' tails.

Licensed breeders are required to display their license number when **advertising online**. Beyond this there is no specific regulation of online advertising of dogs and cats for sale.

Legislation: Microchipping of Dogs (England), Microchipping of Dogs (Wales), Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland), Microchipping of Dogs (Northern Ireland), Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals), Animal Welfare Act.