



Croatia

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip before the age of 90 days. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in the microchipping database and issued a European Pet Passport.

Cats

It is neither nationally nor regionally compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered. Owners may choose to register their cat in the national database voluntarily.

There is one **national database** for dogs (Lysacan) managed by the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is **not linked** to an EU-wide database.

Microchipping of dogs and cats is regulated. Only authorised veterinary organisations and practices may perform microchip insertion and the microchip number must contain the manufacturer and country codes.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Dog breeders must be registered and licensed. They must submit details of the breeder and designated veterinary practice, details of the breeding bitches (including microchips), a map of the premises and a certificate of competence of the person responsible.

Cat breeders

Cat breeders must be registered and licensed. They must submit details of the breeder and designated veterinary practice, details of the breeding bitches (including microchips), a map of the premises and a certificate of competence of the person responsible.

There is a **register** of dog and cat breeders held by the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Inspections are carried out by the State Inspectorate and take place prior to breeder authorisation and then on the basis of risk assessment, random selection or complaints.

There is no legislation prohibiting the breeding of dogs or cats which have **genetic conditions** such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations.

While there is not yet a full **code of practice**, the legislation sets rules for training and staff to animal ratio, as well as minimum and maximum age of breeding bitches and queens, frequency of litters, and requirements for the facilities such as space, temperature and equipment.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

The minimum age at which they can be separated from the mother is 8 weeks for **puppies** and 12 weeks for **kittens**.

As only breeders can sell dogs and cats, it follows that **traders** (i.e. breeders) must be **registered** and licensed (following inspection) in order to sell animals on their premises.

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

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, however there are some exemptions for hunting dogs.

Online adverts for dogs for sale must include the microchip number of the puppy and its mother. In addition, only breeders are allowed to advertise dogs and cats for sale online.