



Austria

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and before the age of 3 months, or before transfer of ownership. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in a database within one month.

There is one **national database** for dogs (Heimtierdatenbank) created by the Ministry of Health and three approved **private databases** (IFTA, Petcard and Datenbank animal data) which must transfer data to the national database. The national database is linked to the **EU-wide database** EuroPetNet.

Microchipping of dogs and cats is regulated. The microchip must contain the manufacturer and country codes and only vets can perform the insertion.

Cats

It is neither nationally nor regionally compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered, unless kept for breeding, but owners can voluntarily identify and register their cat in one of the three approved private databases.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

All **dog breeders** must be registered and licensed, which requires compliance with provisions of the Animal Protection Act and regulations based on this, which cover facilities and care requirements, as well as knowledge and training requirements).

A list of breeders is kept by each province (Lander) but there is no central **database**. Breeders must also register with a Breeders Union.

Inspections are carried out by the Regional Veterinary Offices within six months of registration, and then once a year.

Legislation prohibits the **breeding** of dogs and cats where it can be foreseen that they or their descendants will suffer because of it, in particular in connection with **genetic anomalies**, and including extremes of conformation.

There is a compulsory **code of practice** for breeders which includes the age at which puppies and kittens can be separated from their mother, plus species-specific requirements for space, social needs, food, exercise, and more.

Cat breeders

All **cat breeders** must be registered and licensed, which requires compliance with provisions of the Animal Protection Act and regulations based on this, which cover facilities and care requirements, as well as knowledge and training requirements).

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

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

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

All dog and cat **traders** must be **registered** and must comply with the provisions of the Animal Protection Act and regulations based on this, which cover facilities and care requirements, as well as knowledge and training requirements.

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.

Online advertising of dogs and cats for sale, like other forms of public display and offering for sale, can only be done by approved keepers, registered breeders, or those entrusted with the keeping of dogs and cats who cannot stay with their previous keeper and whose permanent teeth have been formed and, in the case of dogs, have been registered for at least 16 weeks.

Legislation: Animal Welfare Act (TSchG); Regulation on the keeping of animals (Tierhaltungsverordnung); Regulation on animal welfare inspections (Tierschutz-Kontrollverordnung)