



Latvia

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be done by microchip and before the age of 4 months. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered onto the national database by the age of 4 months or before a transfer of ownership.

Cats

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

There is one national database for dogs, the database of the Latvian Agricultural Data Centre.

Microchipping of dogs is regulated, as the microchip must be inserted by a vet.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

All **dog breeders** must register an economic activity on the VID system. They are not required to hold a license, however breeders with several animals must record these in the studbook for registered breeds managed by breeding organisations, who in turn must be registered with the Agricultural Data Centre.

Cat breeders

All **cat breeders** must register an economic activity on the VID system. They are not required to hold a license, however breeders with several animals must record these in the studbook for registered breeds managed by breeding organisations, who in turn must be registered with the Agricultural Data Centre.

Breeding **organisations** must be registered with the Agricultural Data Centre.

Inspections are carried out by the Food and Veterinary Service but only take place as a result of reported violations.

Legislation prohibits the **trading** of genetically defective dogs (having inherited diseases, pathologies or malformations). There is no legislation preventing the breeding or trading of cats with genetic anomalies.

There is a compulsory **code of practice** for breeders. The owner of a breeding establishment must have received formal training or appropriate education in veterinary medicine, biology or dog handling. If the owner is a legal entity, at least one member of the staff must be trained or educated.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

There is legislation on the minimum age at time of sale: 8 weeks for **puppies** and 10 weeks for **kittens**.

All dog and cat **traders** must inform the Food and Veterinary Service before starting activities.

Sales in **pet shops** are prohibited but sales at **markets** and **on the street** are permitted.

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 the tail docking of some hunting dogs is permitted.

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

Legislation: Veterinary medicine law; Identification and registration; Breeding regulations