



Estonia

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is not compulsory nationwide, however there are some regional requirements for microchipping.

There are two **databases** where dogs can be registered: the Tallinn Environment Department and the Estonian Association of Veterinarians, which is linked to the **EU-wide database** EuroPetNet. Cats can also be registered on the Estonian Association of Veterinarians database.

Microchipping of dogs and cats is regulated, the microchip insertion must be performed by a vet.

Cats

Permanent identification of **cats** is not compulsory nationwide, however there are some regional requirements for microchipping.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Dog breeders must register by submitting an Economic Activity Report to the Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB) before commencing activities. They must submit their name and address, location and description of facilities, species kept and number and type of establishment.

Cat breeders

Cat breeders must register by submitting an Economic Activity Report to the Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB) before commencing activities. They must submit their name and address, location and description of facilities, species kept and number and type of establishment.

Dog and cat breeder information is stored in the ARIB database but is not publicly accessible.

Inspections of breeders are mostly complaint-based, although some risk-based inspections are also conducted.

The Animal Protection Act prohibited to breed dogs and cats where it can be foreseen that breeding activities will cause suffering to the animal.

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.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

There is no minimum age requirement at the time of sale for the purchase of **puppies** or **kittens**.

Sales of dogs and cats in **pet shops, markets** or **on the street** are legal.

Dog and cat **traders** must register by submitting an Economic Activity Report to the Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB) before commencing activities. They must submit the same information as breeders.

Surgical operations to modify the appearance of dogs and cats or for other non-curative purposes (e.g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing) is prohibited, with no exemptions.

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

Legislation: Veterinary Act; Animal Protection Act; Keeping Companion Animals