



## Cyprus

### Identification and registration

#### Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and before the age of 6 months. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in the national database.

#### Cats

It is not compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered in a database.

There is one **national database** for dogs, The Central Cyprus Government Veterinary Services Database. The database is **not linked** to an EU-wide database. Currently there is no database for cats.

**Microchipping of dogs** is regulated insofar as only authorised veterinarians can perform the insertion.

### Regulation of breeding

#### Dog breeders

**Dog breeders** must be registered and licensed. Every litter must be declared to the authorities. Professional Animal Carers must hold a licence and breeding establishments must hold an animal welfare certificate, which depends on compliance with specific welfare criteria and criteria for the facilities.

#### Cat breeders

**Cat breeders** must be registered and licensed. Every litter must be declared to the authorities. Professional Animal Carers must hold a licence and breeding establishments must hold an animal welfare certificate, which depends on compliance with specific welfare criteria and criteria for the facilities.

The competent authority collects the breeders' information but there is no publicly accessible **database** of licensed breeders.

**Inspections** are carried out by the District Veterinary Office / Rural Veterinary Station prior to granting the animal welfare certificate and then quarterly, or with each new litter.

There is **no legislation prohibiting** the breeding of dogs or cats which have genetic conditions such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations, but it is forbidden to **sell** animals with suspected disease, obvious symptoms of disease or injuries.

There is no **code of practice** for dog or cat breeders.

### Sales and advertising

#### Dog and cat traders

**Puppies** and **kittens** cannot be sold before 8 weeks of age.

All dog and cat **traders** must be **registered** and hold an animal welfare certificate, which is subject to an inspection. Any areas and premises where a large number of dogs are kept must also obtain a town planning permit from the town planning authority.

The sale of dogs and cats is allowed in **pet shops**, but not at **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, with no exemptions.

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

**Legislation:** Law on Dogs; 1994 Animal Protection and Welfare Act; Decree 359/2019 on the Protection and Welfare of Animals (Protection of Dogs and Cats in Breeding Facilities, Hotels, Shelters and Dog Pounds); 2021 Regulations on Protection and Welfare of Animals (Possession and Sale of Animals).