



Bulgaria

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and after the age of 4 months or within 7 days of acquiring a dog over 4 months of age. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in a database within 3 days of insertion.

Cats

It is neither nationally nor regionally compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered, however, a database is currently under development.

There is one **national database** for dogs which is run by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. It is not linked to an EU-wide database.

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

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

All **dog breeders** must be registered and licensed. They must have a contract with a veterinarian and comply with the Animal Protection Act, the Veterinary Practice Act, and the Ordinance on Keeping of Animals for Commercial Purposes. These set requirements for the facilities and keepers (training), veterinary care, food, hygiene and more.

Cat breeders

All **cat breeders** must be registered and licensed. They must have a contract with a veterinarian and comply with the Animal Protection Act, the Veterinary Practice Act, and the Ordinance on Keeping of Animals for Commercial Purposes. These set requirements for the facilities and keepers (training), veterinary care, food, hygiene and more.

Breeders are listed in a **register** held by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. The information held includes the species and use of the animals, the capacity of the establishment and the breeding methods used.

Inspections are legally required to be carried out by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency prior to the licence being granted. They are no requirements for inspections after the licence has been granted.

There is no legislation to prohibit the breeding of dogs or cats that would result in genetic conditions such as inherited diseases or exaggerated confirmations.

Ordinance 41/2008 is a compulsory **code of practice** for breeders which sets the minimum standards for keeping animals for commercial purposes, this includes veterinary, care, and hygiene standards.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

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

All dog and cat **traders** must be **registered**, however there is no specific minimum criteria for a trader to meet.

Sales of dogs and cats in **pet shops** are permitted but sales at **markets** and **on the street** are forbidden.

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.