



## Croatia

### Identification and registration

#### Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip before the age of 90 days (or before leaving the breeder, if earlier). Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in the microchipping database and issued a European Pet Passport.

There is one **national database** for dogs (Lysacan) managed by the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is **not linked** to an EU-wide database.

**Microchipping** of dogs and cats is regulated. Only authorised veterinary organisations and practices may perform microchip insertion and the microchip number must contain the manufacturer and country codes.

#### Cats

It is neither nationally nor regionally compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered. Owners may choose to register their cat in the national database voluntarily.

### Regulation of breeding

#### Dog breeders

**Dog breeders** who sell or give away dogs must be registered and licensed. They must submit details of the breeder and designated veterinary practice, details of the breeding bitches (including microchips), a map of the premises and a certificate of competence of the person responsible.

#### Cat breeders

**Cat breeders** who sell or give away cats must be registered and licensed. They must submit details of the breeder and designated veterinary practice, details of the breeding queens (including microchips), a map of the premises and a certificate of competence of the person responsible.

There is a **register** of dog and cat breeders held by the Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Inspections** are carried out by the State Inspectorate of Republic of Croatia and take place prior to breeder authorisation and then on the basis of risk assessment, random selection or complaints.

It is forbidden to breed dogs that are not clinically healthy, have **hereditary health issues**, or are not protected from disease. However, there is no legislation specifically prohibiting breeding for **exaggerated conformations**.

While there is not yet a full **code of practice**, the legislation sets rules for training and staff to animal ratio, as well as minimum and maximum age of breeding bitches and queens, frequency of litters, and requirements for the facilities such as space, temperature and equipment.

### Sales and advertising

#### Dog and cat traders

The minimum age at which they can be separated from the mother is 8 weeks for **puppies** and 12 weeks for **kittens**.

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

As only breeders can sell or give away dogs and cats, it follows that **traders** (i.e. breeders) must be **registered** and licensed (following inspection) in order to sell or give away animals on their premises.

**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 generally prohibited, with exemptions for removal the sensitive parts of the body in hunting dogs, in compliance with specified kennel standards.

Only the breeder can advertise dogs and cats for sale. The advert must include the breeding registration number. The 2017 Animal Protection Law includes a specific requirement for **online advertising** of dogs: adverts for puppies must include the microchip number of the puppy and its mother.