



Malta

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and before the age of 4 months. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in the National Livestock Database.

Cats

Permanent identification of **cats** is not compulsory.

There is a central **national database**, the National Livestock Database, where registration of dogs is compulsory and of cats is voluntary. The database is not linked to an EU-wide database, however the legislation provides for data exchange with other government or international entities.

Microchipping of dogs and cats is regulated insofar as only veterinarians may perform microchip insertion.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Dog breeders breeding four or more litters per year are required to apply for a licence. Those breeding fewer are not required to register. The application for a licence includes the numbers and breeds of the animals, the breeder's proof of competence, details of the facilities and equipment, and procedures.

Cat breeders

Cat breeders are not required to register or apply for a licence.

There is no **database** of registered breeders in Malta.

There is no legal requirement for **inspections** of breeders.

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.

There are no national guidelines or **Code of Conduct** for breeders to adhere to, however organisations such as the Malta Canine Society have adopted their own sets of guidelines.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

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

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

Commercial dog and cat **traders** must apply for a licence at least 2 months before they plan to start their activity, which must be renewed annually. Applications need to be endorsed by a veterinarian. For pet shops, an inspection may be carried out before the licence is granted.

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: Animal Welfare Act; Control of dogs regulations; Electronic Identification of Dogs Regulations; Dogs Act