

# Commission proposal on the welfare of dogs and cats

EU Platform on Animal Welfare

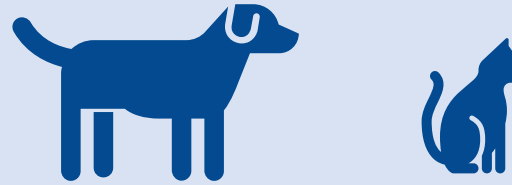
7 December 2023 Brussels

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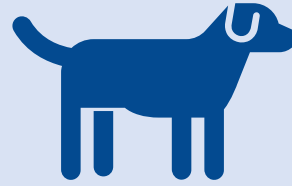
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# Background (1)



- **73 million dogs** and **84 million cats** in the EU
- Market estimated at **EUR 1,3 billion**
- *EU coordinated action on the illegal trade of dogs and cats 2022-2023: widespread forgeries and misleading information*
- **EFSA report** on breeding establishments

# Background (2)



- Growing sale through **online platforms**
- Many **frauds** related to **third countries**
- Incomplete EU **traceability** rules facilitate frauds
  - » **Good breeders** are disadvantaged
  - » **Consumers** are misled and pay the costs
  - » **Animals** suffer

# Scope



- **Welfare requirements** for establishments = breeding establishments, pet shops and shelters



- **Identification and registration** for any dog or cat offered for sale or at no cost

- Animals used for scientific purposes covered by other legislation

# Obligations for establishments (1)

- **Exemptions** for small establishments
- General animal welfare **principles** (five domains)
- Animal caretakers in number and competent
- **Breeding strategies** not detrimental
- **In line breeding** first and second degree forbidden

# Obligations for establishments (2)

- **Notification** to the authorities for all establishments
- **Approval** of breeding establishments
- Information on **responsible ownership** including online
- Detailed competencies for **animal caretakers**
- Animal welfare **visit by a veterinarian**

# Obligations for establishments (3)

- Requirements for **feeding** and watering, **housing**, **health**, **behavioural** needs and **painful** practices
  - Tethering or keeping in containers restricted
  - Keeping only indoor prohibited
  - Minimum age for breeding (and restrictions beyond an age)
  - Mutilations are prohibited (except neutering and medical)

# Competent authorities



- **Training** courses for animal caretakers
- **Database** for register microchipped dogs and cats
- Databases must be interoperable
- Collecting and reporting data

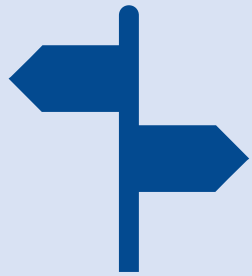


# Identification and registration (ID)

- **Identification** by transponders for animals from establishments or supplied by natural persons
- **Registration** in a national database by a veterinarian
- Any supplier **must prove the ID** of the animal
- An **EU system to check ID** to the public free of charge
- Information to **online acquirers** on the way to check ID



# Entry into the Union



- **Compliance** or equivalent conditions
- Countries and establishments prelisted
- **Certification** at import
- **Requirements on transponders** at import
- **Registration** in a Member States database in 48 hours

# National rules and timing



- Possibility of stricter national rules
- Application **after 2 years**
- Delayed application
  - **after 3 years** for ID and national databases
  - **after 5 years** for housing, health, interoperability of databases and imports

# References



- EFSA Scientific and technical assistance on welfare aspects related to housing and health of cats and dogs in commercial breeding establishments:  
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/8213>
- Voluntary initiative on the health and welfare of pets (dogs and cats) in trade:  
[https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-conclusions\\_en#pets](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-conclusions_en#pets)
- Online sale of dogs and cats: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/other-aspects-animal-welfare/online-sales-dogs-and-cats\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/other-aspects-animal-welfare/online-sales-dogs-and-cats_en)