



Commission proposal on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability

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Reasons to act at EU level

- Citizens' expectations
- Divergence of national rules => unsmooth functioning of the internal market, unlevel playing field + uneven protection of animals
- Grey market / illegal trade => unlevel playing field + animal welfare problems + lack of consumer protection
- Lack of animal welfare rules at import
- Background: EFSA scientific and technical report; voluntary initiative on pets; EU enforcement action
- SWD summarising supporting evidence : March 2024

Objectives

General

- Internal market
- Welfare for dogs and cats
- Limit opportunities for fraud
- Protection of acquirers

Specific

- Minimum standards for **establishments** breeding/keeping dogs and cats
- **Traceability** of dogs and cats supplied in the EU (including online)
- Additional rules for **entry into the EU**
- Awareness on **responsible ownership**
- Competence of **animal caretakers**

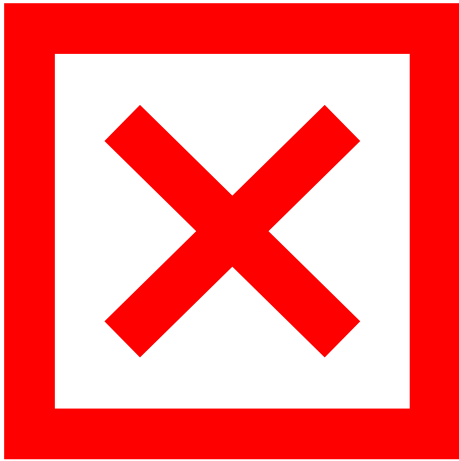
What is covered?



- The keeping of dogs and cats in **establishments**
 - Breeding establishments = reproduction and placing puppies or kittens on the market
 - Pet shops = placing dogs and cats on the market (without being born there)
 - Shelters = keeping of unwanted, abandoned, former stray, lost or confiscated animals
- The placing on the market and the supplying of dogs and cats
 - **Placing** on the market = offered against money (with or without benefit)
 - **Supplying** = any transfer of ownership (except occasional supplies offline)
- Excludes dogs and cats intended for **scientific purposes**



Establishments – Exemptions



- **Breeding** up to 3 females with 2 litters or less per establishment and per year
- **Pet shops** with up to 3 dogs or 6 cats
- **Shelters** with up to 10 dogs or 20 cats
- Exempted from animal welfare requirements for establishments but subject to identification and registration requirements for animals

Establishments – General obligations



- Compliance with animal welfare **principles**
- Enough skilled **animal caretakers**
- Non harmful **breeding** strategies
 - **Inline breeding** forbidden (parent x offspring or grandparent x grandchild)
- Informing acquirers on **responsible ownership**. Warning on responsible ownership if advertised online.
- **Competence** of animal caretakers
- Animal welfare **visits by a veterinarian**

Establishments – Specific obligations (1)

- Feeding and watering
 - Frequency, colostrum, weaning age
- Housing **[transition : 5 years]**
 - No keeping dogs or cats in containers
 - No keeping dogs exclusively indoors
 - Temperatures, lighting, space allowances



Establishments – Specific obligations (2)



- Health **[5 years]**
 - Age for first pregnancy, frequency of pregnancies, pregnancies beyond a certain age, etc.
- Behaviour
 - no restraining (few exceptions), no tethering, socialisation, enrichment
- Painful practices
 - No mutilations except medical reasons
 - Neutering and medical mutilations under anesthesia and analgesia by a veterinarian

Breeding establishments approval [5 years]

- Obligation of **notification [2 years]**
- Competent authorities perform **on-site inspection**
- Competent authorities grant **a certificate of approval**
- **List** of approved establishments publicly available

Shelters and pet shops [2 years]

- Obligation of **notification**
- Basic information – operator, location, capacity
- No requirement for approval

Identification and registration (ID) [3 years]

- Animals **microchipped** for **any supply** of dogs or cats + dogs and cats kept in establishments
- Identification and registration in database by a **veterinarian**, or assistant under the responsibility of a veterinarian. Update of database.
- ID within **3 months after birth** for breeding establishments
- **Suppliers must prove ID** and acquirers are able to check ID
- **Online platform shall inform** acquirers how to check ID
- The Commission in charge of developing a system to check ID



Competent authorities



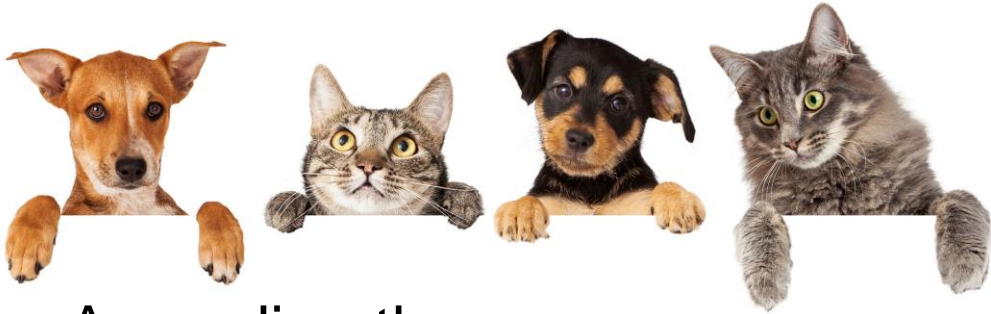
- Ensure offer and approve **training courses** for animal caretakers
- Establish and maintain an **ID database for dogs and cats [3 years]**
- Databases are **interoperable** to check ID **[5 years]**
- Provide data to the Commission **[6 years]**
- Commission in charge of **databases standards**

Entry into the Union [5 years]

- Only if compliance or **equivalent** standards
- **Third countries** listing
- **Establishments** listing
- **Attestation** of compliance in the official certificate
- **Microchipping** compulsory at the entry
- **Registration** within 48 hours in an EU database



Procedural and other provisions



- Amending the annexes
- **Stricter national rules** permitted in certain areas
- Reporting and evaluation
- Penalties
- Date of application: **2 years** [when not specified otherwise]

Conclusions

- Legal basis 114 + 43 => EU competence focusing on ensuring a good functioning of the market of dogs and cats while ensuring high level of animal welfare (art 13),

=> no competence on handling by pet owners, or management of stray dog population
- Management of the market => fight against illegal trade => need for comprehensive and robust traceability system (wide scope)
- Suppliers to raise awareness on responsible ownership



Thank you