
Towards better pet welfare in the EU

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Outline

1. Who are we
2. Main concerns
3. Animal Health Law
4. Pet trade subgroup
5. Our vision for the future
6. Q&A



Who we are...

We are
**66 Member
organisations**
in **25 EU Member
States** and
beyond



EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS



LIETUOVOS
GYVŪNŲ TIESIŲ
APSAUGOS
ORGANIZACIJA



Dyreveralliansen



Main concerns

01

Responsibility

- Inbreeding and diseases
- Abandonment

02

Commercial transport

- Risk of zoonotic diseases
- Untracked movement

03

Online sale

- EU-spread organized crime
- Costs and misleading marketing

04

Taxation

- Unreported revenues translate into lower inflow of taxes

05

Strays

- Burden on municipalities
- Foreign adoptions

Who is
responsible?



Who bares
the costs?

Consumers

Taxpayers

Breeders

Animals



Public authorities



Animal Health Law

2021 APRIL

Background

- *From c.40 basic laws to one single framework*
- *Horizontal principles and rules contributing to better animal husbandry*
- *Better response to new disease threats*
- *Flexibility for disease prevention and control*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

Background

Uncontrolled



Sheltered



Controlled



EUROPEAN PARLI

regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, a
(4)(b) thereof,

the proposal from the European Commission,

Article 43(2), Article 114



Registration: breeders & sellers

Operators

“Any natural or legal person having animals [...] under their responsibility, including for a limited duration of time, but excluding pet keepers and veterinarians”

Establishments

“Any premises, structure, or, in the case of open-air farming, any environment or place, where animals [...] are kept, on a temporary or permanent basis, except for

- *Households where pet animals are kept*
- *Veterinary practices or clinics”*



Labradoodle Puppies For Sale added a new photo.

19 December 2016 · 🌟



Registration: breeders & sellers

Pet animals

“A kept animal of the species listed in Annex I [including dogs & cats] which is kept for non-commercial private purposes”

Pet keeper

“A natural person, and may include a pet owner, keeping a pet animal”



Establishments

Registration

- Name & address of operator
- Location of establishment & description of its facilities
- Categories, species and numbers of animals intended to be kept on the establishment
- Type of establishment

Approval

- Capacity adequate for the number of kept animals
- Adequate housing of a suitable standard
- An appropriate storage area is available respectively for pet food, litter
- Adequately trained personnel

Review

- Establishments to be reviewed at intervals based on the risks involved
- Powers of suspension or withdrawal of approval dependent on nature of deficiencies
- Approval can only be restored when the establishment complies with all requirements



Operators

Knowledge

- Animal diseases, biosecurity, the interaction between animal health, animal welfare and human health
- Good practice of animal husbandry for species under their care
- Professional experience or training or education needed

Responsibilities

- Good animal health, minimising risk of disease spread
- Good animal husbandry
- Physical protection measures for the animals (housing, cleaning, disinfection)

Obligations

- Providing basic information to future pet keepers on animal health, animal welfare and husbandry
- Registration of their establishments and activities
- Record keeping requirements

Identification & Registration

Identification

“Detailed requirements for the identification and registration of kept terrestrial animals”

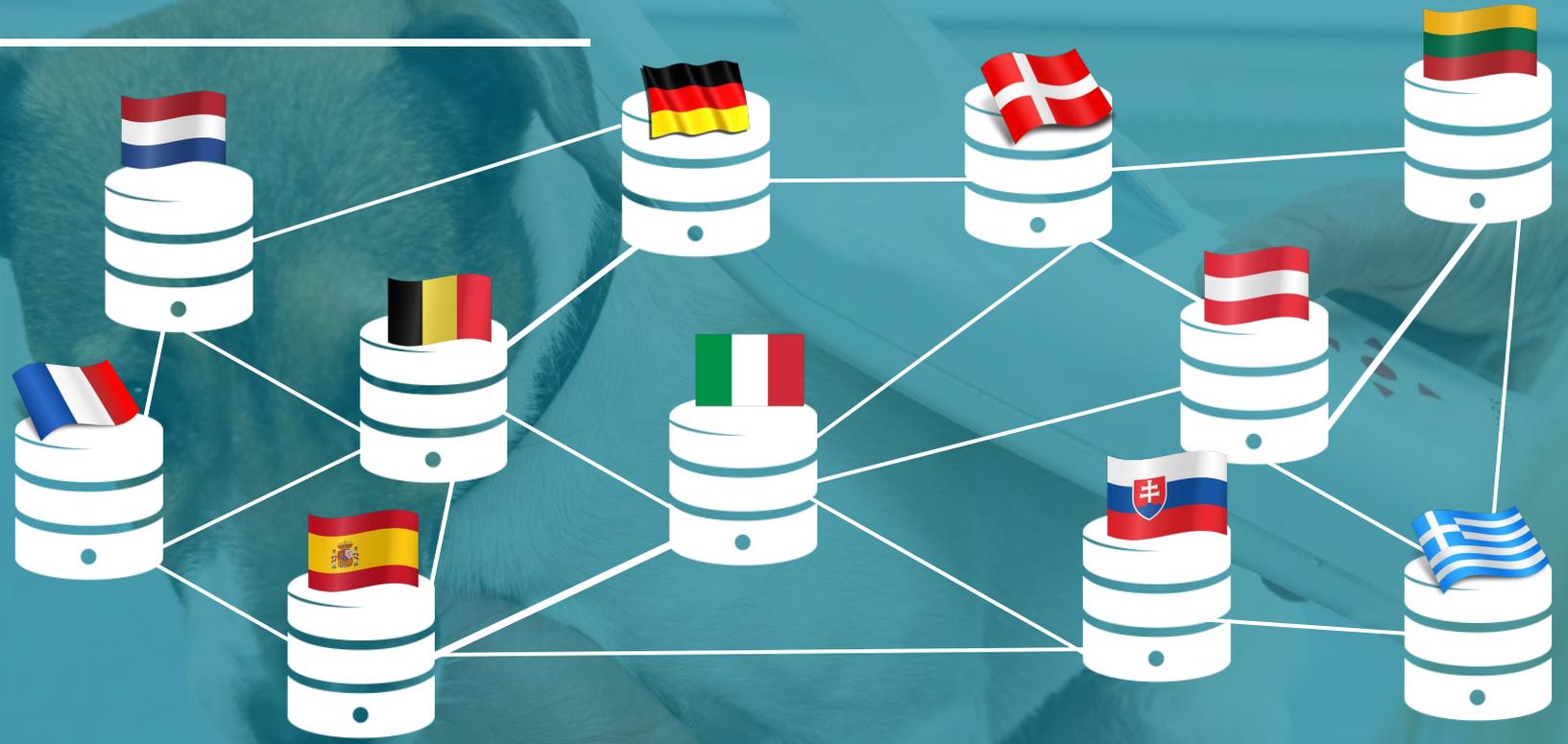
Registration

“To facilitate the traceability of kept terrestrial animals, their movements between Member States and their entry into the Union”

Identification

- *Passport numbers & transponder codes should be linked*
- *Common rules for generation of transponder codes*
- *A common minimum level of data needs to be established*
- *Prompt, comprehensive updating of data (new owners)*
- *Adequate deterrents / penalties for non-compliance*

Registration





**Pet Trade
Subgroup**



Composition

- 9 seats for Member States
(13 involved: Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Netherlands)
- 1 Business Organisation (FVE)
- 1 independent expert (University of Milano)
- 3 NGOs (RSPCA, Vier Pfoten, Eurogroup for Animals)



Objectives

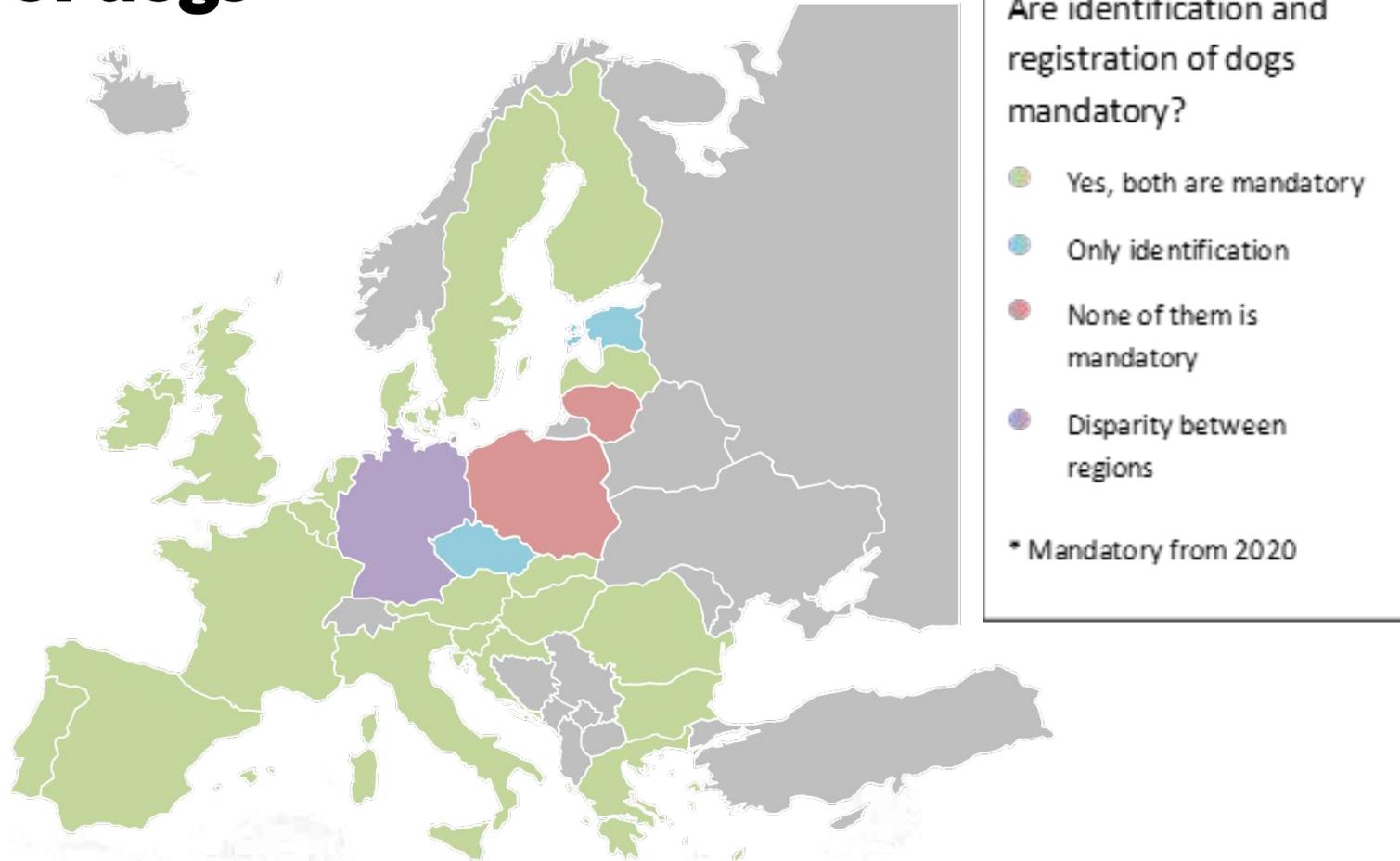
- Exchange of good practices on enforcement, Identification and Registration
- Improving communication & cooperation between Member States with regard to pet trade
- Greater exchangeability of data from I&R systems
- Development of guidelines
- Improving the use of the TRACES system



Outcomes

- Mapping of all national legislation in respect to I&R, categories and requirements for breeders, pet sale
- Recommendation regarding TRACES improvements
- Recommendations on I&R
- Guidelines on:
 - Commercial transport
 - Online pet sale
 - Breeding and socialisation

I & R of dogs



WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING A PET ONLINE?



Before buying, **think twice** and consult your veterinarian on healthy and suitable breeds. Owning a dog is a huge long-term responsibility.

Have you considered **adoption**? There are many dogs in local shelters waiting for a family.

Look for a **reputable animal shelter or breeder**.



Do not buy a dog before checking:

- **Meet the dog personally** before buying. 
- **Puppies <8 weeks** of age should not be taken from the mother. Dogs **<15 weeks** of age cannot travel abroad/be imported.
- **Witness the puppy and the mother interacting** at the breeder's establishment (never meet on a parking lot, or similar).
- **General health; check for vaccination & anti-parasitic treatment.** 
- **Birth date & country, microchip number, passport, pedigree certificate, etc.**



- **Beware of red flags** (i.e. wrong picture and a poor description of the animal, offer of home delivery, many different breeds for sale by the same vendor, etc.)
- **Ensure you have the name & contact details** of the seller.
- **Talk with the seller on the phone. Ask questions and expect to be asked.** 
- **Never buy in a rush, out of mercy or from social media.**
- **Ask for references, testimonials and warranty.** 
- If you suspect fraud, **report it to the police, local authorities, or other animal welfare enforcement agency.**



Online sale

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING A PET ONLINE?



Dogs are amazing companion animals and give a lot of joy! However, before buying them, think twice. Typically, dogs live for around 12 years, but some live much longer. So, if everything goes well, you have a nice companion for many years.

Is a dog right for me?

Things to consider:

- Will you be able to take daily care of it? Dogs will take up a lot of time and energy, because they are dependent on your care. All dogs, even small ones, need regular exercise and plenty of opportunities to walk, run and play outside. The amount of exercise each dog needs is largely dependent upon their age and health but you should be prepared to take them for regular walks every day, as often as three times a day for some dogs.
- Will a dog fit into your family life?
- What will you do when going on holiday?
- Do you have sufficient home space to keep a dog?
- Are you prepared for the costs? It is estimated that the average costs of keeping a dog is around 1000€ or more each year (food, materials, health and care costs, etc).

What kind of dog will fit best with me?

The next step is to consider what kind of dog will fit best with your lifestyle. Every dog has its pros and cons in view of behaviour, need for exercise, amount of investments and need for veterinary care.

It is a good idea to consult a veterinarian or shelter staff and conducting a good research online before you get a dog. Veterinarians are able to give you an advice on how to choose a dog that fits your family's expectations and lifestyle. They can give you more information on the health of certain breeds and their welfare needs. They know most of the breeders in the neighbourhood.

For further information RSPCA has advice which might be useful on 'what puppy is right for you' on their website.

Where to get a dog?

Consider carefully where to get a dog from. Ideally get a dog from a reputable breeder or a local rehoming charity. Do your research into the breeder. Many local rehoming centres or shelters have

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR CLASSIFIED SITES



MINIMUM INFO ABOUT THE DOG

- Recent pictures of the animal
- The breed, date and country of birth, gender, etc.
- Microchip number and the database where it is registered*
- Vaccination and anti-parasitic treatment records, and other health info such as neutering
- Price and warranty*
- Appropriate and relevant animal care information
- Detailed description: character, parents, etc.



MINIMUM INFO ABOUT THE BREEDER/SELLER

- Contact details of the seller (phone, name, email, region, address, etc.)
- Status of the seller: hobby or commercial breeder, trader, shelter, charity, etc.
- Breeder's or seller's registration number*



*If applicable in your country/region

Classified sites

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR CLASSIFIED SITES



Guidelines for online platforms selling dogs: how to do it responsibly?

It's becoming more and more common to buy pets online via classified ads sites. It is important that this is done in a controlled and responsible way, as animals are sentient beings different from and not ordinary goods.

Classified sites can and should regulate this in order to guarantee that the animals advertised or sold via your platform are sold in a responsible way. So that animals do not suffer and buyers do not get disappointed.

Classified sites should validate the information a seller provides online. Also validate the breeder numbers with back-end checks, preferably against pet registries, where the breeder establishment numbers should be added.

In most EU countries, commercial breeders will need to have a breeder registration number, according to EU or national legislation. If a commercial breeder/seller is not registered, they shouldn't be allowed to sell online.

Ideally, online animal sales should only be allowed in a specialized and reputable journal or website (e.g. the sites recognized by the local veterinary authority). A specialized magazine or a specialized website is a magazine or website whose announcements relate exclusively to the marketing of animals or related goods and services.

When done via selling platform, at least some minimum requirements should be followed to ensure it is done in a regulated and responsible way.

Several organisations present a complete set of guidelines for the online sale by providing a toolkit to help them set up and operate an advertising of pets.

Minimum information vendors/advertisers should include about the animal:

- A recent photograph of the animal that they are advertising.
- To display the date and country of birth, the gender, etc.
- Display the price of the animal and if it is applicable in your country/region - the warranty.
- The animal microchip identification code and database in which the animal is registered as well as parent's microchip number and database where it is registered (if available).
- Vaccination and anti-parasitic records, and other health info such as neutering.

Our vision for the future

Interconnected
databases

2

New rules on platforms

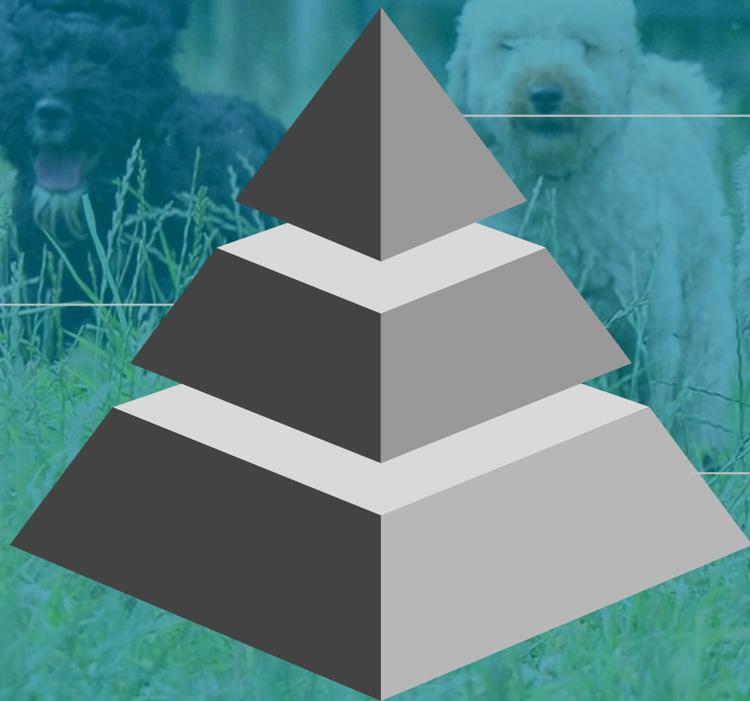
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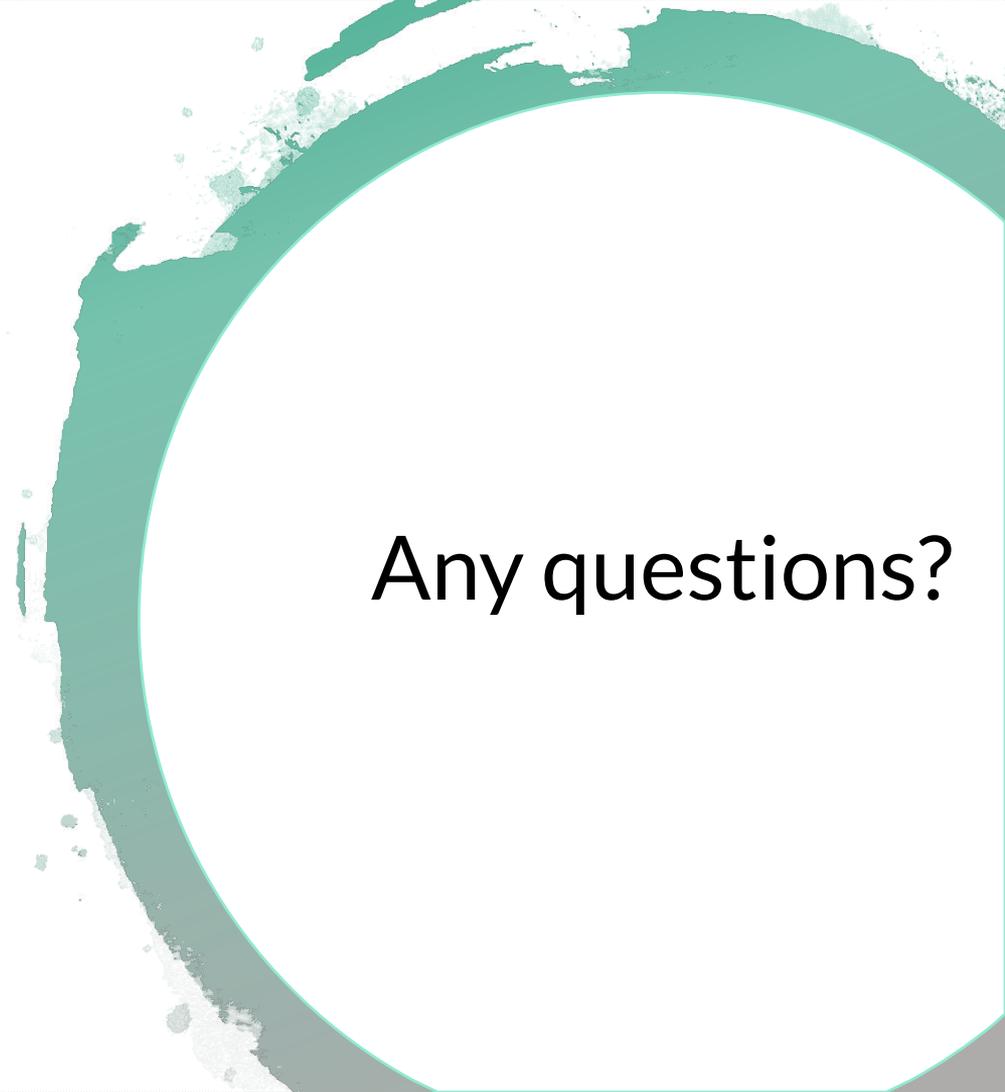
Guidelines as a main
reference point

Registration of breeders
& sellers

1

Mandatory
identification &
registration





Any questions?

Thank you

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