



Vlaanderen  
is diervriendelijk

# Identification & Registration of dogs in Belgium

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# Legislation

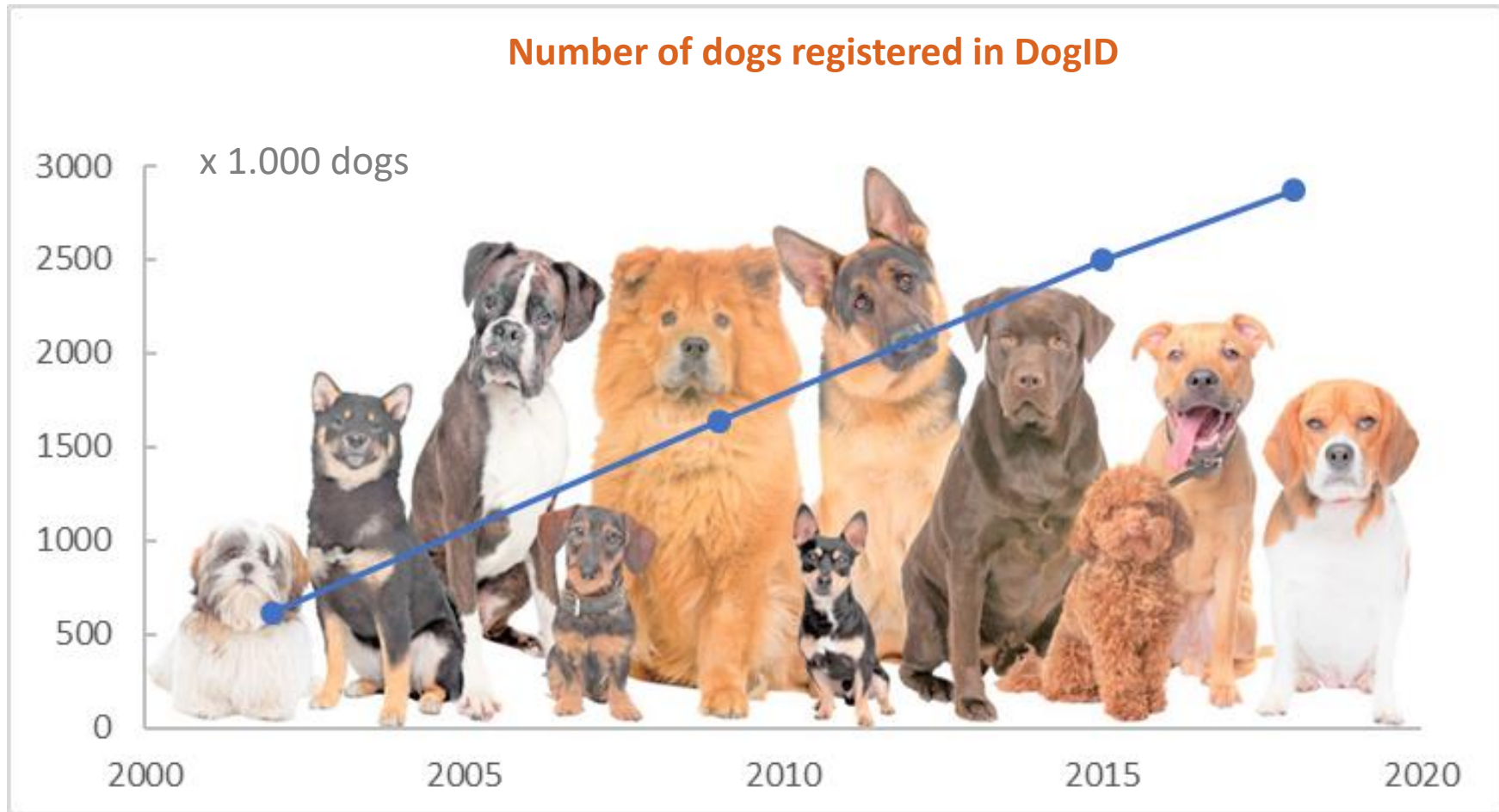
- ▶ Since 1st September 1998:
  - Every dog must be identified and registered at least at the age of 8 weeks.
  - No dog may be sold or given away without identification or registration.
  - A dog entering Belgium must be registered within 8 days.
  - Registration in 1 central database.
- ▶ Identification and registration: by veterinarian
- ▶ Registration ≠ ownership

# Registration of dogs in Belgium

- ▶ Each year: 160.000 new registrations
  - 21% non Belgian passport
  - 13% via Traces



# Dogs in Belgium



# History

## ▶ Legislative measures to reduce the number of dogs and cats in shelters

- 1996: Ban on sale of dogs and cats on markets
- 1997: Mandatory licence for dogbreeders and -traders
- 1998: Mandatory identification and registration of dogs
- 2004: European Passport for all dogs
- 2009: Ban on sale of dogs and cats in pet shops



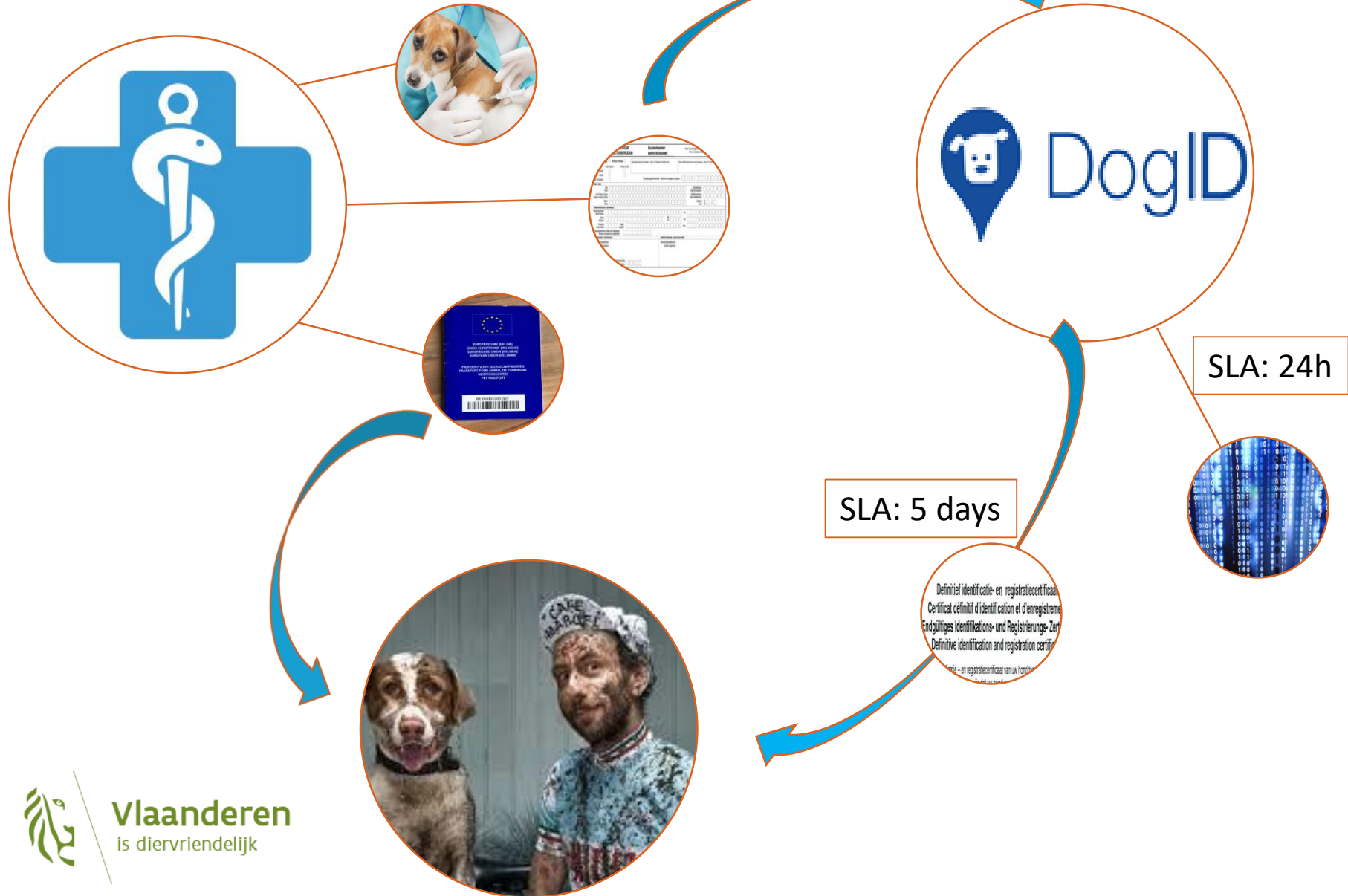
# Mandatory identification and registration of dogs

- ▶ Challenge: unite different organizations (breeders, shelters):
  - Each: own registration system with own database
  - Registration = membership of the organization
- ▶ Founding of BVIRH/ABIEC (Belgian association for the identification and registration of dogs)
  - Representatives of dog traders, dog breeders, shelters, veterinarians
  - 1 central database

# Current situation

- ▶ BVIRH /ABIEC: ceased activities.
- ▶ Designated company: manages a national register.
- ▶ Funding : sale of official documents > self-sufficient.
- ▶ Rules (rights and obligations) for all participants (legislation).

# I&R



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# Database

- ▶ Registration costs
  - 12,93 euro, includes updates of the dog/owner data e.g. new address
- ▶ New developments
  - Online registration
    - × 60%
  - Bulk registration (breeders)
  - Barcode scanner > software of the veterinarian
  - Use of the National Registration Number

# Database

- ▶ Competent Authority
  - Owner of the data
  - Access to all information
  - Controls the project
  - Meetings with representatives of the different regions (Wallonia, Brussels and Flanders)
    - × Technical topics
    - × Legislative



# Importance of I&R

- ▶ **Found dogs > owner**
  - Days dogs in shelter ↘
  - Europetnet.com
- ▶ **Information on trade of dogs**
  - Number of dogs
  - Number of dogs from certain breed e.g. with breeding disorders, most popular breeds
  - Mortality
  - Imported dogs (combined with information on Traces)
- ▶ **Information for inspecting authorities**
  - e.g. number of dogs, owner's history of a dog
- ▶ **Breeders without licence**



Questions?

