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## Calculations to showcase puppies from unknown sources

This paper outlines the methodology for how FOUR PAWS estimated the number of puppies coming from unknown sources in the EU and presents the detailed calculations per country. The paper is a supporting document of the Report *Billion Euro Industry: why the EU must strengthen regulations to end the illegal puppy trade now*, available at [www.four-paws.org/billion-euro-puppy-trade](http://www.four-paws.org/billion-euro-puppy-trade).

### Methodology

FOUR PAWS collaborated with Ministries of EU Member States and pet registration databases to identify how many puppies come from known, legitimate sources. This allowed us to assess the number of puppies potentially from unknown or illegal origin.

FOUR PAWS extends its gratitude to the Ministries, pet registration databases, Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), and other stakeholders and individuals who provided valuable information and contributed to our data collection efforts.

The following results are based on the data available to FOUR PAWS. The approach taken is conservative, reflecting the limitations in available data. Several Ministries did not respond to our inquiries, several could not provide information on registered breeders, and in some countries, the only available data came from limited TRACES figures<sup>a</sup> and the annual registration of FCI puppies.<sup>1</sup> TRACES data also included dogs of all ages and may include former stray animals who were transported for rehoming.

Where data on registered breeders was available, we calculated the number of puppies using the minimum threshold required for breeder registration. It is important to note that commercial breeders may produce significantly more puppies than this threshold, which could mean our estimates for puppies from registered breeders are lower than the actual number. Conversely, we do not know if all listed breeders are still active.

Due to the absence of comprehensive data, the estimate of puppies from unknown sources may appear high. This assessment should be viewed solely as a preliminary calculation by FOUR PAWS and is based strictly on the available data.

### The calculation

Here a simplified explanation of our calculation, divided into two steps:

Dogs from known sources

Minus officially exported dogs

= Dogs from known sources available in a country to fill the demand

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<sup>a</sup> Excluding some third countries, as outlined in the chapter "Import and Export Trends from TRACES data"



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Annual demand

Minus dogs from known sources available in a country to fill the demand

= Dogs from unknown sources to fill the annual demand

### Tables used for the calculations

<p><b>Average demand for dogs</b></p>	<p>This figure represents the total number of dogs required to meet the demand in each EU Member State.</p> <p>Data for this was sourced from the FEDIAF Report 2024 (using 2022 data and an estimated average dog lifespan of 11.5 years).<sup>3-11</sup></p>
<p><b>- MINUS:</b> <b>Dogs from known sources which include:</b></p>	<p>This refers to dogs from documented and regulated channels, the number of which is then subtracted from the total demand.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of puppies bred by registered breeders</li> </ul>	<p>Where specific data was not available, we estimated by multiplying the number of registered breeders by the minimum number of puppies or litters required to register as a breeder. Litters are calculated with an average of 5.4 puppies.<sup>12-16</sup></p> <p>This calculation represents the minimum number of puppies produced, assuming all registered breeders were active. It provides a conservative estimate due to the lack of additional data.</p>
<p><i>OR:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders</li> </ul>	<p>FCI data was used primarily for comparison to avoid double counting of puppies already included in the registered breeder figures.</p> <p>If no figures for puppies from registered breeders were available, we subtracted the number of puppies from FCI breeders instead or used the FCI data, when the number by registered breeders was lower.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imports</li> </ul>	<p>Imports refer to dogs that enter the country through known and documented channels. These dogs are considered part of the known supply and were subtracted from the demand.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privately bred puppies</li> </ul>	This includes puppies bred by private individuals not covered in the previous categories (registered or FCI breeders).
<b>+ PLUS:</b> <b>Exports</b>	We adjusted the number of dogs from known sources by adding exports. Exported dogs are no longer available in the country to meet domestic demand, thus reducing the number of dogs from known sources.
<b>= EQUALS</b> <b>Dogs from unknown sources</b>	After subtracting all known sources (registered breeders, FCI breeders, imports, and private breeders) and adjusting for exports, the remaining gap represented the number of dogs potentially from unknown sources.

#### Overview of results

Country	Dog Population per country (data taken from the 2024 FEDIAF report, covering 2022 data, unless otherwise stated)	Annual demand for dogs (total dog population / average lifespan of a dog (11.5 years))	Estimated number of dogs from unknown sources to meet annual demand (based on Ministry responses, TRACES data, FCI figures and further available official data on registered breeders)	Percentage (rounded) of annual demand for dogs met by unknown sources (based on FOUR PAWS estimate) <sup>§</sup>
Austria	837.000	72.783	50.696	70%
Belgium	2.029.000	176.435	75.596	43%
Bulgaria	752.000	65.391	65.131	100%
Croatia	735.500	63.957	56.979	89%
Cyprus	48.648 <sup>§</sup>	4.230	4.230	100%
Czech Rep.	2.208.000	192.000	90.698	47%
Denmark	643.000	55.913	36.392	65%
Estonia	243.500	21.174	15.635	74%
Finland	797.000	69.304	6.495	9%

<sup>§</sup> Please note, where our calculations lacked sufficient data, we kept the annual demand as a baseline.

<sup>§</sup> <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/dog-ownership-by-country>



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France	7.600.000	660.870	396.619	60%
Germany	10.600.000	921.739	769.932	84%
Greece	655.000	56.957	49.553	87%
Hungary	2.800.000	243.478	243.478	100%
Ireland	520.000	45.217	28.907	64%
Italy	8.755.000	761.304	600.575	79%
Latvia	268.000	23.304	19.927	86%
Lithuania	580.000	50.435	42.562	84%
Luxembourg	82.550 <sup>d</sup>	7.178	6.254	87%
Malta	96.000 <sup>e</sup>	8.348	8.348	100%
Netherlands	1.830.000	159.130	6.601	4%
Poland	8.109.000	705.130	647.370	92%
Portugal	2.840.000	246.957	234.801	95%
Romania	4.244.000	369.043	369.043	100%
Slovakia	911.000	79.217	79.217	100%
Slovenia	299.000	26.000	22.148	85%
Spain	9.313.000	809.826	780.864	96%
Sweden	1.051.000	91.391	43.708	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.847.198</b>	<b>5.986.711<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>4.751.759</b>	<b>79%</b>

#### Overview of specifics per country

Country	Potential number of dogs from unknown sources	Comment
Austria	50.696	Calculated with ministry data; Calculated with minimum litters that require a registration

<sup>d</sup> <https://www.fci.be/en/statistics/ByYear.aspx?year=2022> "Approximate TOTAL number of DOGS (PURE-BRED OR NOT)"

<sup>e</sup> <https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2023-07-16/blogs-opinions/More-open-spaces-for-dogs-6736253356>

<sup>f</sup> The total annual demand of 5,986,713 dogs in the calculation may differ by two due to rounding during the process.



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Belgium	75.596	Calculated with minimum litters that require a registration; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports
Bulgaria	65.131	Ministry provided information; calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports
Croatia	56.979	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Cyprus	4.230	<b>Figure used here is “Average demand for dogs”, as calculation result outstripped demand, due to lack of data.</b> The annual demand baseline is based on insufficient data (pure breed dog population 2017) and too low; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports
Czech Rep.	90.698	Calculated with ministry data; Calculated with minimum litters that require a registration;
Denmark	36.392	No data about breeders by Danish ministry; used FCI puppy data
Estonia	15.635	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Finland	6.495	Calculated with ministry data;
France	396.619	Calculated with ministry data, with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for exports, and FCI puppies;
Germany	769.932	Incomplete data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Greece	49.553	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Hungary	243.478	<b>Figure used here is “Average demand for dogs”, as calculation result outstripped demand, due to lack of data.</b> No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Ireland	28.907	Calculated with 2017 data from Irish Kennel club, partner of FCI; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports
Italy	600.575	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Latvia	19.927	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies



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Lithuania	42.562	No data about breeders; used data provided by the pet registry; used FCI puppies
Luxembourg	6.254	Calculated with ministry data; calculated minimum litters that require a registration. Calculated only with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for exports
Malta	8.348	<b>Figure used here is “Average demand for dogs”, as calculation result outstripped demand, due to lack of data.</b> Almost no data available. Calculated only with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports
Netherlands	6.601	Calculated with ministry data; calculated minimum litters that require a registration. Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and Ministry data for exports.
Poland	647.370	Ministry data, but not on breeders; Used FCI data; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for exports
Portugal	234.801	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Romania	369.043	<b>Figure used here is “Average demand for dogs”, as calculation result outstripped demand, due to lack of data.</b> No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports only, no other data available
Slovakia	79.217	<b>Figure used here is “Average demand for dogs”, as calculation result outstripped demand, due to lack of data.</b> No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, used FCI figures
Slovenia	22.148	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Spain	780.864	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and exports, and FCI puppies
Sweden	43.708	No data about breeders; Calculated with reduced TRACES data set 2022 for imports and FCI puppies
Total	4.751.759	<b>Strictly based on the available data. Note, the calculation in following the division of dog population through lifespan and subsequent usage of the results has delivered as a result 4.751.761, the difference of two dogs likely derived from rounding up figures to full numbers.</b>



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### Country specific special remarks:

In Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Cyprus, the lack of breeder data compromised our calculation, and we used the overall annual demand figure.

### Results per country

Austria	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	72.783	New dog registrations in the pet registry in 2023: 42.881 dogs (including puppies). Even with the lowest estimate of the overall dog population available (629.120 <sup>9</sup> dogs / 11,5 = annual demand of 54.706) there is a huge difference between the demand and new dog registrations in 2023.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	20.358	<b>Estimate</b> , as no figures available, calculated with available breeder data: 17 registered commercial breeders with at least 3 litters each, “produce” at a minimum 275 puppies, (17*3*5,4 puppies), whereas this figure can be considered as too low, as commercial breeders might have several breeding bitches and many more litters. 3.719 registered hobby breeders with at least one litter (20.083 puppies). This figure might be too low, but we lack data for both breeder types.  Breeder data was taken from a Parliamentary Answer from 13.12.2022. <a href="http://www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVII/AB/12397/imfname_1488931.pdf">www.parlament.gv.at/dokument/XXVII/AB/12397/imfname_1488931.pdf</a>
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		<b>6.906 puppies by FCI breeders in 2023</b> , which is considered included in the breeder figure, as every breeder in Austria has to register. FCI Austria has 57,931 individual members (people) <sup>h</sup> , of which most must be inactive, given the number of registered breeders above.  Data is taken from the int. FCI webpage. There was some discrepancy in the international to available national FCI data: in Austria the data published by the ÖKV was 9.040 puppies <sup>i</sup> for 2022, whereas the international FCI website said 8.300 puppies by Austria, in 2021 also 9.530 puppies versus 8.521 puppies <sup>j</sup> .
Imports	1.755	1.755 dogs incl. puppies. 2023, ministry data

<sup>9</sup> Kurier, 5.7.2024, [https://www.statistik.at/fileadmin/pages/339/Themenblatt\\_Haustiere\\_2019-20.pdf](https://www.statistik.at/fileadmin/pages/339/Themenblatt_Haustiere_2019-20.pdf)

<sup>h</sup> <https://www.fci.be/en/statistics/ByYear.aspx?year=2023>

<sup>i</sup> ÖHZB 2022 (Österreichisches [oekv.at])

<sup>j</sup> ÖHZB 2021 (Sammelmappe-ÖHZB 20211.pdf [oekv.at])



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Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	26	26 dogs, 2023, ministry data
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>50.696</b>	

Belgium	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	176.435	Note: The available figures for the dog population were very different, e.g. the used FEDIAF 2023 data (2.029.000), World Population Review (1.340.000) and the FCI estimate (910.203). The latter appears overall too low and the FCI themselves used the FEDIAF data for their latest report ("Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union", 2024, Attila Márton)
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	84.920	<p><b>Brussels</b> notified us that <b>126 puppies</b> registered under an approval number in 2023 in the DogID registry. FOUR PAWS calculations with the registered 5 hobby breeders (5 both in 2023 and 2024<sup>1</sup>) and the required minimum number of 3 litters resulted in <b>81</b> puppies; thus we used the higher figure provided by the ministry. For Brussels, there are 130.983 dogs registered in the dog registry (30.6.2024), to keep this number stable, there would be an demand of 11.389 puppies annually, but the dog registrations might include deceased animals and be too high.</p> <p>For <b>Wallonia</b> we used the breeder list of 19. July 2023<sup>2</sup> showing 5598 occasional breeders, 277 hobby breeders, 15 professional breeders, and 9 breeder-sellers (the last two are nowadays both listed under the "professional" category), calculated with the minimum amount of litters which require registration in the relevant category (occasional breeder 1 litter, amateur breeders 2 litters, professional breeders and breeder-sellers: 6 litters), amount to a <b>minimum of 33.998 puppies</b>.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Find current list at [List of approved establishments for animals \(leefmilieubrusseel.be\)](https://leefmilieubrusseel.be)

<sup>2</sup> Find current list at [Liste des établissements agréés au 18-10-2023 \(wallonie.be\)](https://wallonie.be)





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		<p>(the figure was calculated once more with February 2024 data, and differs only slightly: 31.045 puppies)</p> <p>For <b>Flanders</b> we used the available data set from 7 February 2024, 799 hobby breeders, 154 professional breeders, 36 breeder sellers, and calculated with the minimum litters per category, who breed a <b>minimum of 19.877 puppies.</b></p> <p><b>All three regions sum up to 84.920 puppies.</b></p>
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		16.036 puppies 2023, assumed to be included among the puppies from registered breeders.
Imports	16.731	16.731 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	812	812 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>75.596</b>	

Bulgaria	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	65.391	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	6.148	110 registered dog breeders as of June 2024 according to a list provided by the ministry. This excel list about the breeders contains figures about the dogs, which sometimes states the number of adult dogs, and that there is also their offspring, but without the puppy number (e.g. "10 adult dogs and their offspring"), adult dogs (without any indication whether these are bitches or males), some description appears to be all animals - breeding dogs including puppies (e.g. "72 large breed dogs, 34 small breed dogs" - but not explicitly specified).



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		<p>FOUR PAWS summarized the total number of dogs, or where provided, calculated the possible number of puppies by the adult dogs, with one litter per year, and counted only the puppies. <b>6.148 was the sum of this rather “wild guess”</b>, and this figure includes breeding dogs for the cases where it was assumed it means adult dogs and puppies, whenever it was not indicated that the figures depict adult breeding dogs only.</p> <p>There is also no minimum numbers of puppies or litters which requires a registration as a breeder, by law. As there seems to be no limitation of litters per bitch for a defined time frame, there could be more litters than one per year per bitch.</p>
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		No data available
Imports	415	415 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	6.303	6.303 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>65.131</b>	99,6% of the dogs in Bulgaria to fill the annual demand of dogs according to FOUR PAWS research come from unknown sources.

Croatia	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
Average demand for dogs, MINUS:	63.957	
Number of puppies bred by		118 dog breeders according to <a href="http://www.fastbase.com/countryindex/croatia/d/dog-breeder">www.fastbase.com/countryindex/croatia/d/dog-breeder</a> , but the source is questionable, compared to the FCI data, and the legal



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registered breeders		situation that requires any breeder to register in Croatia. We use the FCI data instead.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	10.315	10.315 puppies, 2023
Imports	78	78 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	3.415	3.415 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>56.979</b>	
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Number of puppies / dogs</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	4.230	Baseline data was not available within FEDIAF Report, and taken from <a href="https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/dog-ownership-by-country">https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/dog-ownership-by-country</a> (number of dogs: 48.684). Given that a local animal welfare organisation speaks about 250.000 abandoned dogs annually <sup>m</sup> , the used figure might not reflect reality. Furthermore, we have detected that the worldpopulationreview has simply used the figure of FCI 2017 for "TOTAL number of PURE-BRED DOGS REGISTERED WITH THE STUDBOOK since its creation", thus this figures does not reflect the true annual demand for dogs in the country.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies		Data not available

<sup>m</sup> <https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/local/more-than-250000-dogs-abandoned-every-year-in-cyprus-animal-welfare-group-says/>



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bred by FCI breeders		
Imports	644	644 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	5.971	5.971 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>9.557</b>	Due to lack of a proper demand base, and lacking breeder data, the result is a higher number of animals from unknown sources compared to the demand. We will use in our sum for the annual demand in the whole EU the basic average demand figure of 4.320 dogs.

Czech Republic	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	192.000	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	102.060	From 3 or more female dogs older than 12 months, breeders must notify the number of reared animals. By the beginning of 2024, 4.200 notifications of breeders were registered. (Ministry reply). A bitch may have maximally 3 litters in 24 months by law. 4.200 notifications * 3 bitches * 1,5 litters a year * 5,4 puppies = 102.060 puppies according to our calculation of the minimum bred puppies.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		42.249 (2023)
Imports	1.853	1.853 dogs, 2023, Ministry data
Privately bred puppies		Data not available



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<b>PLUS Exports</b>	2.611	2.611 dogs, 2023, Ministry data
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>90.698</b>	

<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Number of puppies / dogs</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	55.913	59.712 dogs were newly registered in 2023 in the pet registry, showing the 11,5 life span calculation for the average demand is not too far off from reality, but a bit too low.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration cannot extract data regarding the number of issued permits for registered establishments. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration cannot extract data regarding the number of any breeders (or "smaller" establishments), that do not require a permit.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	18.079	18.079, 2023
Imports	1.479	2023, Ministry data
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	37	Ministry replied 37 dogs were exported in 2023, and that the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration cannot extract data regarding export of dogs from Denmark to third countries.
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>36.392</b>	



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Estonia	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	21.174	2.682 dogs, therein 1.868 puppies, were newly registered in the LLR registry, which might not cover the whole country.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	4.299	4.299 puppies, 2023
Imports	1.580	1.580 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	340	340 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>15.635</b>	<b>Remark:</b> Estonia has higher import than export numbers.

Finland	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	69.304	26.300 puppies were born in Finland in 2023 (data from pet registry); 236.919 new dog registrations in 2023 in the Finnish Dog Registry, which was only opened in May 2023, and during 2023 all dogs should have been registered (both puppies and older dogs).



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Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		519 operators have reported active dog breeding activities. The notification on keeping animals does not specify whether the operator works as a breeder as a hobby or as professional. Minimum amount to be required to register is 3 litters per year. 519 x 3 litters x 5,4 puppies per litter = 8.408. As the FCI figures are much higher, we use the FCI figures instead.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	43.835	43.835 puppies, 2023
Imports	19.416	19.416 dogs in 2023, ministry data, summarizing Commercial imports to Finland from countries <b>outside EU</b> (According to TRACES-data), Non-commercial movements from third countries, Commercial imports to Finland <b>from EU-countries</b> (according to TRACES-data), but they do not have data regarding non-commercial movements of dogs from other EU countries.
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	442	442 dogs in 2023, ministry data
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>6.495</b>	

France	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	660.870	718.613 had been newly registered in the pet registry in 2023, excl. import, according to the ministry. The new registration figures for 2023 show that our approach with 11,5 years life time might be too conservative. The pet registry has send data about how many dogs were newly registered (at the moment of identification) in 2023 on private persons (661.337 dogs) and how many on professional breeders (56.903 dogs). FOUR PAWS cannot assess, whether the



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		identified and registered dogs by private persons were actually bred by these private persons. We used the FCI puppies for our calculations, as the figure was higher than the puppies newly identified and registered by professional breeders, and this figure will include puppies bred by private persons as well. FOUR PAWS willingly will update the calculation on its website, should we receive confirmation to use the data of newly registered puppies, which would result in an even higher figure than the total demand.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		No data available on registered breeders yet, as the breeder database has only been recently set up. As the data provided by the pet registry on puppies bred by registered breeders is lower than the FCI puppies, we will use the FCI puppies in this calculation.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	225.861	225.861 in 2023
Imports	39.826	According to the data established for intra-EU imports or trade by ICAD (French pet registry) for the week of identification: 39,826 dogs imported in 2023
Privately bred puppies		
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	<b>1.463</b>	1.463 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries); the ministry could not provide export data
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>396.619</b>	

Germany	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment





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<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	921.739	61.050 dogs are registered in Berlin, with 9.234 new registrations in 2023. We did not receive any further registration data, thus cannot compare the new registrations to the annual demand.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		60 breeders in Saarland. 188 permits issued for the breeding and keeping of vertebrates in Berlin, but the figures do not differentiate species or the activity. As the figures represent only a fraction of the country, we will use the FCI data for the calculation.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	60.253	60.253 puppies in 2023
Imports	92.102	92.102 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	584	584 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>769.932</b>	According to the German NGO Tierschutzbund <sup>9</sup> , 629 dogs were confiscated, as they were illegally transported in 2023, most of them pedigree dogs such as Maltese, Pomeranians and French bulldogs. Unlike a few years ago, now more often single animals were smuggled and disguised as private sales. The animals came mostly from Eastern European countries, primarily Romania. Comment FOUR PAWS: Numbers about confiscated animals are usually only the tip of the iceberg, of an undetected majority.

Greece	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand</b>	56.957	

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.tierschutzbund.de/ueber-uns/aktuelles/presse/meldung/illegaler-heimtierhandel-bleibt-grosses-tierschutzproblem>



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<b>for dogs, MINUS:</b>		
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	7.973	7.973 puppies 2022, 2023 data not available
Imports	1.584	1.584 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	2.153	2.153 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>49.553</b>	

Hungary	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment:
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	243.478	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		We did not receive any data about registered Hungarian breeders
Number of puppies	21.780	21.780 puppies, 2023.



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bred by FCI breeders		
Imports	1.188	1.188, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	31.555	31.555 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries). We are aware that in this export number might include rescue dogs.
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>252.065</b>	The result for puppies from unknown sources is higher than the demand. If breeder data was available, this figure would of course be lower. Given the lack of data we will use in our sum for the annual demand in the whole EU the basic average demand figure of 243.478 dogs.

Ireland	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	45.217	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		237 Establishments according to the 2024 list, with a minimum of 6 breeding bitches, with one litter per year maximally by law, multiplied with 5,4 average puppies per litter = 7.679, plus 724 pet suppliers, with a minimum of 6 animals = 4.344, in total 12.023 puppies.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	17.182	No recent data available, the latest figure from FCI partner Irish Kennel Club is from 2018: 17.182, and we will use this figure as it is higher than the calculated breeder figure.
Imports	1.443	1.443 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).



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Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	2.315	2.315 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>28.907</b>	(rounded up with one dog according to calculation result)

Italy	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	761.304	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	157.626	157.626 puppies in 2023, notably with 1.578 individual members (people), which means each member breeds ~100 puppies a year. Figures from 2022 have comparable data, so the data seems to be accurate.
Imports	10.356	10.356 dog, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	7.253	7.253 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>600.575</b>	<b>Remark:</b> Italy seems to have an enormous puppy production alone by its FCI breeders.



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Latvia	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	23.304	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	3.265	3.265 puppies in 2022, 2023 data not available
Imports	350	350 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	238	238 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>19.927</b>	

Lithuania	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	50.435	Currently there are 289.093 dogs registered in the Lithuanian pet registry, which covers all dogs. 36.619 dogs were newly registered in 2023, thereof 22.278 puppies. The overall pet registration figure divided by both 11,5 or 10 years indicates that a lot of dogs in Lithuania seem not to be registered.
Number of puppies		Data not available



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bred by registered breeders		
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	7.633	7.633 puppies in 2023
Imports	2.468	2.468 dogs, thereof 462 puppies, were imported in 2023 (data from Lithuanian pet registry)
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	2.228	2.228 dogs, thereof 838 puppies, were exported in 2023 (data from Lithuanian pet registry)
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>42.562</b>	<b>Remark:</b> In Lithuania, dog registration rates compared to the estimated dog population appear very low.

Luxembourg	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	7.178	Base for calculation: 82.550 dogs, <a href="http://www.fci.be/en/statistics/ByYear.aspx?year=2022">www.fci.be/en/statistics/ByYear.aspx?year=2022</a> "Approximate TOTAL number of DOGS (PURE-BRED OR NOT)"
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	470	87 registered puppy breeders, every breeder has to be authorised, there is no minimum number of puppies/litter for authorization. 87 x 5,4 = 470 (We assume each breeder has at least one litter per year)
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		177 puppies, 2022 (these will be included in the above, as every breeder must register)
Imports	495	Intratrade to Luxembourg data only, data by Ministry, 2023: 495 dogs, thereof 112 puppies



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Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	<b>41</b>	Export data was not delivered by the ministry. 41 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>6.254</b>	

Malta	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	8.348	Base for calculation: 96.000 dogs, as stated in <a href="http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2023-07-16/blogs-opinions/More-open-spaces-for-dogs-6736253356">www.independent.com.mt/articles/2023-07-16/blogs-opinions/More-open-spaces-for-dogs-6736253356</a>
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		Data not available
Imports	96	96 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	<b>190</b>	190 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>8.442</b>	The result for puppies from unknown sources is higher than the demand. If breeder data was available, this figure would of course be lower. Given the lack of data, we will use in our sum for the annual



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		demand in the whole EU the basic average demand figure of 8.348 dogs.
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Netherlands	Number of puppies / dogs	
Average demand for dogs, MINUS:	159.130	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	140.586	Professional dog breeders with a UBN number, which are currently active: 2.228. Hobby dog breeders with a UBN number which are currently active: 18.153. Assuming each of the hobby breeders breeds at least a litter per year, which is the minimum number to be registered $18.153 \times 5,4 = 96.026$ puppies a year, and the professional breeders breed at least 20 puppies per year, the minimum to register in this category, $2.228 \times 20$ puppies = 44.560. In total: 140.586 puppies.  The below figures were delivered without a time frame, but assumed to be covering 2021 until October 2024: 338.058 puppies born by people with a business UBN number, which might be more persons than the above described dog breeders (might be a "general" UBN from e.g. pig farmers or a horse riding school, which occasionally also breed puppies; hobby breeders with a business UBN.). 161.968 puppies are born by non-business UBN (private UBN holders). In total: 500.026 puppies bred in the assumed time frame (2021 – Oct 2024). (data from the Ministry).
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		30.358 puppies in 2023
Imports	13.084	13.084 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries). We use the data from the TRACES set, as these were dogs from known sources; we cannot be sure that the dogs who are registered in the pet registry as imported are coming from known sources.





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		<p>14.174 dogs were registered as imported in 2022; thereof 7.778 puppies with a date of birth starting from the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 until the end of 2022, based on the puppies being maximally 4,5 months old.</p> <p>According to the data provided from the ministry, 10.790 dogs were registered as imported in 2023; thereof 5.677 puppies with a date of birth from the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 until the end of 2023, based on the puppies being maximally 4.5 months old. (based on pet registry RVO data)</p>
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	1.141	254 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries). 1.141 dogs were exported in 2023 according to Ministry data taken from the pet registry (based on pet registry RVO data). We used the export data provided by the ministry.
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>6.601</b>	The Netherlands have a very good result, and only the ministry themselves can estimate whether our calculation based on the assumption of the bred minimum litters per year is too favourable. The 500.026 puppies bred by the UBN holders divided by 4 years count up to or roughly 125.006 pups per year, this is 15.579 puppies lower than our calculation (2024 data lacking some days of October, the whole November and December). Furthermore, it needs to be considered that this calculation is about filling the demand in the country and cannot access how many puppies might be trafficked via the Netherlands.

Poland	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	705.130	
Number of puppies bred by		Data not available



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registered breeders		
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	58.841	58.841 puppies, 2023
Imports	5.020	2023: 5.020 dogs imported, Ministry data
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	6.101	Export data was not delivered by the ministry. 6.101 dogs were the 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>647.370</b>	

Portugal	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	246.957	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	14.183	14.183 puppies in 2023
Imports	1.903	1.903 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).



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Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	3.930	3.930 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>234.801</b>	

Romania	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	369.043	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		Data not available
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		No data available
Imports	195	195 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
Exports	63.244	63.244 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries). We are aware that this figure might include many rescue dogs.



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<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>432.092</b>	The result for puppies from unknown sources is higher than the demand. If breeder data was available, this figure would of course be lower. Given the lack of data we will use in our sum for the annual demand in the whole EU the basic average demand figure of 369.043 dogs. The amount of exports in Romania is very high.
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Slovakia	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	79.217	
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	11.399	11.399 puppies, 2023
Imports	1.018	1.018 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	15.395	15.395 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>82.255</b>	The result for puppies from unknown sources is higher than the demand. If breeder data was available, this figure would of course be lower. Given the lack of data we will use in our sum for the annual demand in the whole EU the basic average demand figure of 79.217 dogs.



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Slovenia	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	26.000	251.702 dogs are currently registered in the pet registry, which amounts to an annual demand of 21.887, which might show that not all animals are registered in Slovenia. New registrations in 2023 in the pet registry are 19.524, thereof 19.254 puppies (no. of dogs, born between 1.1. and 31.12 of year)
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders		The ministry referred to the FCI for this data.
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	3.670	3.670 puppies in 2023
Imports	204	204 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	22	22 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>22.148</b>	

Spain	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	809.826	
Number of puppies		Data not available



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bred by registered breeders		
Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders	46.819	46.819 puppies in 2023
Imports	9.078	9.078 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	26.935	26.935 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>780.864</b>	<b>Remark:</b> Spain has considerable exporter.

Sweden	Number of puppies / dogs	Comment
<b>Average demand for dogs, MINUS:</b>	91.391	67.536 dogs in total have been newly registered in the pet registry in 2023, thereof 39.450 puppies (maximally 140 days old), and 1264 dogs with unknown age.  Total number of registered dogs 2023-12-31: 1.126.000, dog max 140 days old: 5.531, dogs of unknown age: 108.846. The total registered dogs divided by 11,5 years would point to an annual demand of 97.913 dogs.
Number of puppies bred by registered breeders	42.025	Ministry pointed to the FCI. 42.025 puppies in 2023



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Number of puppies bred by FCI breeders		
Imports	5.886	No information by the ministry. 5.886 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
Privately bred puppies		Data not available
<b>PLUS Exports</b>	228	Ministry only has information on exported registered dogs. If the dog is exported before it is registered, we don't have any information (dogs must be registered before they are 4 months old). 228 dogs, 2022 data from reduced TRACES set (lacking some third countries).
<b>= Animals from unknown sources</b>	<b>43.708</b>	

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