



Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.

OVERVIEW: LEGISLATION ON THE BREEDING OF DOGS AND CATS IN EU MEMBER STATES

Please note: This table provides an overview of the legal requirements and breeder registration mandates set by the government for each EU Member State. The data presented here was gathered by independent researchers taken from official responses from the Ministry, from the European Commission’s “Commission Staff Working Document: Summarising evidence supporting the legislative proposal on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability” and further sources. If updates are required, please kindly notify us at office@four-paws.org. Latest update: 22.11.2024

The document supports 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.

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
Austria	No law regarding how many litters a female may have in a specific time frame, there are only rules in breeding organisations.	Any person who has a litter, including those who have accidental litters, must report themselves as a breeder to the authorities. ¹	According to § 31 (4), hobby breeders with up to two litters per year are obligated to register, but do not need to obtain a special permit. TSchG §24 and §31 stipulate that inspections by the competent authority are	Breeders with three litters or more per year must apply to the authorities for a permit. § 4 no 14 TschG breeding definition: reproduction of animals is the responsibility of the owner and should be managed by keeping sexually mature animals of different sexes together, allowing targeted or unprevented mating, or the use of a specific animal for mating or through	§ 31 TSchG: obligation for breeders to register with the competent authority. § 8 no 2 TSchG: it is prohibited to import, acquire, broker, pass on, exhibit or advertise animals with extreme breeding characteristics or to depict them in advertising.	§ 23 TSchG: there are no publicly accessible registers; data collection and breeder registration processes take place (inconsistently, without uniform rules/regulations) at the federal state level. Due to official secrecy, no data may be passed on to citizens. § 4 TSch-KVO: according to the Austrian Ministry, breeders do not currently receive a registration number, at least not from the federal government. With the amendment to the Animal Welfare Act, associations (with a permit according to	No.

¹ § 4 No 14,16 TSchG included

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			permitted but not mandatory.	<p>the use of reproductive medicine.</p> <p>No 16: 'other economic activity' is any activity consisting of offering goods or services on a specific market and which is neither a trade nor a business, regardless of whether the activity is carried out for profit or not for profit.</p> <p>Controls are mandatory once a year by the competent authority.</p>	<p>Ordinance 70/2016: specific registration obligations for breeders of extreme breeds.</p> <p>§ 23 TSchG: The authority responsible for granting authorisation is the local authority within the district where the keeping, participation, or use of animals subject to authorisation takes place, or is to take place.</p>	<p>§31 (1) TschG) that place dogs from abroad in Austria must report the number of dogs they have placed (from abroad) on a quarterly basis to the relevant district administrative authority (see §31 a (3) TschG) with effect from 01.01.2025.</p>	
Belgium / Flanders	According to the Flemish Animal Welfare Council, the number of litters per female dog must be limited to a maximum of three litters per 24 months. ²	If breeding fewer than three litters per year, formal recognition is not required as this is considered 'occasional breeding'. ³	<p>A hobby breeder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produces a maximum of five litters of dogs or cats per year. • breeds no more than three different breeds. • sells only dogs or cats from their own breeding facility.⁴ <p>(Flemish Government, (3.5.2024) Animal</p>	<p>A professional breeder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produces more than five litters of dogs or cats per year. • or breeds more than three different breeds. • sells only dogs or cats from their own breeding facility. <p>A breeder-trader:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produces at least 10 litters per year from their own breeding. • sells dogs or cats from their own breeding facility. 	<p>A recognition (HK number) from Animal Welfare Flanders is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breeds cats. • breed three or more litters of dogs per year. <p>The above need to be registered and authorised.⁷</p>	<p>The competent authority manages breeder registration.</p> <p>Breeding establishments and commercial establishments must be registered.</p> <p>List of breeders in Flanders.⁸</p>	Yes, (see list in previous column); however, occasional breeders are not covered.

² https://assets.vlaanderen.be/image/upload/v1614942771/Opinion_-_Breeding_and_trading_of_companion_animals.pdf

³ <https://www.vlaanderen.be/honden-en-katten-kweken#q-45f4084b-4c06-433e-ac86-0ddcfbce895>

⁴ <https://www.vlaanderen.be/honden-en-katten-kweken#q-45f4084b-4c06-433e-ac86-0ddcfbce895>

⁷ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

⁸ https://assets.vlaanderen.be/image/upload/v1702630446/Erkende_Honden_Kwekerijen_elzmmmt.pdf

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			Royal Decree: cats must be sterilised (2018))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may sell dogs or cats purchased from within the country. may sell dogs or cats purchased from abroad, provided that the animals come from a recognised breeder or from a recognised country.⁵ Transport and import of dogs and cats must comply with regulations.⁶ 			
Belgium / Wallonia	Decree, Art. 86: Breeding is permitted only from the age of two years and not beyond eight years. A female may produce a maximum of one litter per year, and up to five litters in her lifetime. ⁹	Occasional breeders are limited to a single litter.	Amateur breeders are permitted between two and five litters.	Professional breeders produce more than five litters. Only dogs or cats from their own production and born in the territory of the Walloon Region can be given or sold by an approved breeder.	All dog and cat breeders must be registered and authorised. In Wallonia, breeders are permitted to breed only two different breeds at the same time. ¹⁰	List of dog breeders. ¹¹	Yes, but the latest list on the left seems not to cover occasional breeders, whereas older lists did collect the occasional breeders on a separate list, which are no longer available
Belgium / Brussels	Breeders are restricted to a maximum of two litters per female dog per year. This restriction applies to registered breeders but not to owners without	Sterilisation of dogs is not compulsory, and individuals are allowed to have up to a maximum of two litters a year	Amateur/hobby breeder (Hobbykwekeri): anyone who, at the same postal address, holds at least two breeding females and does	Professional breeders keep more than five breeding females at the same postal address, and markets more than ten litters of dogs or cats per year from their own breeding. Since 2021, professional breeders are	All breeders of cats must be registered and authorised, while only dog breeders with three or more litters per year are required to register. ¹³	The list of approved breeders in the Brussels Region can be found on the Brussels Environment website. ¹⁴	See list in previous column, however some breeders are not covered.

⁵ https://assets.vlaanderen.be/image/upload/v1720097645/Erkende_landen_en_kwekers_bijlage_3_KB_270407_gytkxu.pdf

⁶ <https://www.vlaanderen.be/honden-en-katten-kweken#q-45f4084b-4c06-433e-ac86-0ddcfbfc895>

⁹ <https://bienetreanimal.wallonie.be/conditions-agreement>

¹⁰ EC Working Staff Document, https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

¹¹ <https://bienetreanimal.wallonie.be/files/documents/Animaux-Compagnie/BEA-elevages-chiens-agrees.pdf>

¹³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

¹⁴ https://app.bruxellesenvironnement.be/listes/?nr_list=BEA_002

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	breeder approval (occasional breeders).	without having to apply for approval. Occasional breeders produce and market a maximum of two litters of dogs or cats per year from their own kennel. ¹²	not market more than ten litters of dogs or cats per year from their own breeding.	required to give a two-year guarantee. A commercial breeder (Kweker-handelaar) markets litters obtained from other breeders.			
Bulgaria	Dog owners who keep animals for breeding purposes must register under Article 137 of the Veterinary Act and pay a fee to the municipality. "For breeding purposes" means breeding the animal at least once per year.	No definition	No definition	No definition According to the current legislation, there is no minimum amount of breeding litters for which registration is mandatory.	General rules about keeping conditions are outlined in Art. 150 ff. Vet. Practice Act and Art. 151 which specifies prohibited practices. For example, surgical intervention such as tail docking, ear cropping, and teeth modifications are prohibited (Art. 177 Vet-Pract. Act). Bulgaria has national legislation regulating the requirements for facilities where dogs are raised and bred for commercial purposes. These facilities must be registered in accordance with Art. 137 of the Law on Veterinary Medical Activity and must meet the requirements of Ordinance No. 41 of 10.12.2008, which covers requirements for facilities where pets are bred, offered	All breeders must be registered and authorised. ¹⁵ Art. 35 (5) Animal Protection Act and Art. 137 Veterinary Practice Act requires individuals who register as breeders to pay a fee to the municipality. Breeders who are members of a Bulgarian National Canine Federation, or other Bulgarian or international canine federations engaged in purebred dog breeding, are exempt from paying a fee.	The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) maintains an up-to-date public register of registered dog kennels in Bulgaria. There is cooperation with national NGOs on enforcement by the BFSA.

¹² Source: response from ministry.

¹⁵ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

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					for trade, boarding houses, and animal shelters.		
HR Croatia	Before mating, female dogs must be at least 15 months old, and female cats must be at least 10 months old, as stipulated by the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture ordinance on the conditions to be met by breeding of pets intended for sale. ¹⁶	Animal Protection Act (2017 Art. 52) controlled reproduction		Art. 54	Art. 54: All breeders must be registered and authorised. ¹⁷	There is a register of breeders, and this must be published on the website of the Competent Authority.	Yes. (Information by Ministry)
Cyprus					All professional breeders must register and obtain authorisation. ¹⁸ In addition, when acquiring a female dog for breeding, owners must notify the Competent Authority within ten days of the dog's transfer of ownership or placement in their care. The owner or the keeper of a female dog must report each litter to the Competent Authority, along with the number of puppies born, the names and addresses of the persons to whom the puppies have been given, as well as the date on which they were given. ¹⁹		
Czech republic	No female dog may produce more than three			Under the Act on Veterinary Care (Act No. 166/1999, § 4, paragraph 4), breeders who	Prohibition of breeds with genetic anomalies.	Inspections by the Competent Authority.	Information by the Ministry: "The central dog registry

¹⁶ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2022_07_76_1121.html

¹⁷EC Working Staff document

¹⁸EC Staff Working Document

¹⁹ [welfare-of-DC.pdf \(esvce.org\)](#) page 26

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	litters within any 24-month period. ²⁰			<p>breed 3 or more female dogs over 12 months of age must notify authorities, providing information on the number bred and their place of rearing. However, no authorisation process for breeders currently exists.²¹</p> <p>Information by the Ministry: "That is true statement. The central dog registry is currently under development and will be launched during 2025. The central register will then be managed by the State Veterinary Administration."</p>	Stricter rules for breeders in effect from 1.2.2022.	<p>There is currently no central register of dogs and their breeders in the Czech Republic. No legislation in the Czech Republic mandates the State Veterinary Administration to keep a register of dog breeders or their number.</p> <p>A limited form of registration of dogs and their breeders exists through the municipal dog tax reporting requirement.</p> <p>Every breeder who is registered or resident in the Czech Republic, and who is also the owner of a dog older than 3 months, must report their dogs to the local municipal authority and pay the prescribed dog tax (the municipal authority of the municipality is responsible).²²</p> <p>Additional information by the Ministry: "That is true statement. The central dog registry is currently under development and will be launched during 2025. The central dog registry will then be managed by the State Veterinary Administration."</p>	is currently under development and will be launched during 2025."
Denmark	A female cat may not have more than three litters in 24 months.	Not directly		<p>Dog breeders with three or more breeding females, breeding at least three litters per year. For cats, five litters or more per year.²³</p> <p>According to the Danish Administrative Order on Minimum Animal Welfare Requirements for the Keeping</p>	<p>Professional breeders must be registered and licensed with (authorised by) the State Veterinary Administration.</p> <p>To be licensed, a breeder must be compliant with the commercial trade and</p>	The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration issues permits for breeding establishments where dogs are bred commercially. However, it does not maintain a database for registered breeders and cannot extract data regarding the number of issued permits	N/A

²⁰ <https://mze.gov.cz/public/portal/-q324681--zGhSOPBp/zakon-c-246-1992-sb> (page 12)

²¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

²² Information via FOI

²³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

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				of Dogs (§ 2, Clause 4), commercial dog breeding is defined as: "Breeding establishments where three or more bitches breed three or more litters of puppies per year." Such breeding establishments require a permit, whereas establishments that do not meet this definition do not require a permit.	breeding of dogs in kennels and dog shelters legislation. Breeding establishments that do not meet the definition of the minimum litter threshold do not require a permit.	for registered establishments or small-scale breeders without permit. ²⁴	
Estonia	Female dogs used for breeding should not be mated too often. When determining the frequency of mating, it is necessary to ensure the health and well-being of the dog, taking into account the age, breed, state of health of the dog, and the condition of the previous litter. If necessary, a veterinarian is consulted to determine the most suitable time for mating. ²⁵	No definition, but rules of Animal Health Law (regulation (EU) 2016/429) apply. Registration becomes mandatory, if breeder exports dogs and/or cats.	No definition, but rules of Animal Health Law (regulation (EU) 2016/429) apply. Registration becomes mandatory, if breeder exports dogs and/or cats.	No definition, but rules of Animal Health Law (regulation (EU) 2016/429) apply. Registration becomes mandatory, if breeder exports dogs and/or cats.	Dog and cat breeders must register by submitting an Economic Activity Report to the Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB) before commencing activities. They must submit their name and address, location and description of facilities, species kept and number and type of establishment. ²⁶ There is no formal authorisation of breeders. ²⁷ The Animal Protection Act (31.12.2014) § 4 (1) prohibits the breeding of dogs and cats where it can be foreseen that breeding	Dog and cat breeder information is stored in the ARIB database but is not publicly accessible. ²⁹	Registered breeder information is not linked to registries used by municipalities. Pet registries record information on private persons keeping pets, not establishment details. ³⁰

²⁴ Information from Ministry Reply

²⁵ <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/13199887>

²⁶ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/70/61/706106a6-d9bf-4765-8614-7e71ab8c41c9/estonia.pdf

²⁷ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

²⁹ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/70/61/706106a6-d9bf-4765-8614-7e71ab8c41c9/estonia.pdf

³⁰ All information was checked and updated by the Ministry.

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					activities will cause suffering to the animal. ²⁸		
Finland			Under the Animal Welfare Act (693/2023), registration is required for breeders producing at least three litters per year. This legislation has been effective since 1.1.2024. ³¹		<p>All professional or large-scale breeders must register although no authorisation is required.³²</p> <p>Professional or large-scale dog and cat breeders must notify the State Provincial Office at least 30 days before they start their activity or 14 days before they change it or stop it.</p> <p>Applications must comply with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act and regulations based on this.</p> <p>The use of breeding methods which may cause distress or significant damage to the health or welfare of animals is prohibited.³³</p> <p>An animal may not be used for breeding if: 1) breeding is likely to cause the offspring illness or other characteristics that cause significant harm to the offspring's welfare.</p>	Breeders producing at least three litters per year must register in the animal keeper and establishment register and report all breeding activities. However, this register does not include information about the number of puppies bred, nor does it specify whether the operator works as a breeder, a hobbyist, or a professional. ³⁵	

²⁸ <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013045/consolide>

³¹ Information from Ministry

³² https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

³³ [Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry](#)

³⁵ Information from Ministry

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					2) the animal is unable to reproduce naturally due to an inherited characteristic or illness; or 3) the breeding is likely to cause significant harm to their welfare. ³⁴		
France	<p>Female dogs may not produce more than three litters within a two-year period.³⁶</p> <p>In addition, breeders who sign the French Kennel Club charter agree to additional rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to not breed a female dog before the age of 15 months and their second heat. - to not breed a female dog may after her ninth birthday. - to breed no more than 8 litters in a female dog's lifetime (SCC).³⁷ 	No direct definition.	<p>Breeders producing only one litter per year per tax household are exempt from declarations to the Chamber of Agriculture, provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They only breed pedigree dogs and cats registered in the official origin registry, - Each litter is documented in the registry with a unique registration number of the litter in the herd book to which the animal belongs, and declaration of appointment of an authorised veterinarian to the veterinary services. 	Breeders producing two or more litters must register with the Chamber of Agriculture to obtain a Siret/Siren number and declare their activities to the veterinary services.	<p>A breeder owns a breeding female (dogs or cats) who gives birth to one or more litters a year, and of which at least one puppy or kitten is sold for a fee.</p> <p>All professional or large-scale breeders must register with the Competent Authority and be authorised.³⁹</p> <p>The following rules apply to all professional breeders (i.e. small-scale or large-scale breeders):</p> <p>Reporting obligations linked to breeding activity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Submitting to the National Operators Base a declaration of the number of animals held by species within the breeder's facility, and the capacity to accommodate these animals. b) A declaration of appointment of an 	The National Operators Base, launched in December 2023, aligns with the European Animal Health Law regulations requiring breeder registration.	The French Kennel Club is expected to maintain a registry of breeders affiliated with the club. Meanwhile, registration of all breeders in the National Operators Base is ongoing but is not yet complete and or publicly accessible.

³⁴ [Law on Animal Welfare, Statute 693/2023.](#)

³⁶ Section II, chapter II of the appendix to the decree of 3 April 2014, laying down the animal health and protection rules with which activities related to companion animals must comply: [Annexes AM 03042014 anx compagnie_modifié par AM07072016 publication BO-agri \(1\).pdf](#)

³⁷ [Charte d'Elevage | Société Centrale Canine \(centrale-canine.fr\)](#)

³⁹ EC Staff Working Document: https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en?filename=aw_awp_leg_dog-cat_sw_d-2024-88.pdf

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			<p>Small-scale breeders are considered professional breeders under the law.³⁸ Article L 214-6 of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code states: "Dog or cat breeding means the activity of keeping at least one breeding female from which at least one dog or cat is sold for consideration". Anyone who carries out this activity is considered a professional breeder.</p>		<p>authorised veterinarian to the veterinary services. c) Establishment of a Health regulation with the authorised veterinarian. d) Keeping of an animal movement register and animal health monitoring. e) Compulsory training (professional certification or proof of training)</p> <p>Obligations when selling a puppy/dog:</p> <p>a) Puppies and kittens must not be sold before 8 weeks of age. b) Dogs must not be sold to a minor without parental consent. c) Mandatory I&R d) Compliance with information requirements when selling online. e) The purchaser must sign a certificate of commitment and knowledge of the specific needs of the species. f) Delivery of a certificate of transfer to the buyer. g) Delivery of a veterinary certificate issued within the last three months.</p>		
Germany	There is no official regulation on the number of litters a female dog or	No direct definition.		All professional breeders must obtain a licence (authorisation).	Under the Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance, Paragraph 3, (effective 25.11.2021):	At the national level a breeder requires a public certificate according to Section 11 II of the Animal Welfare Act.	Only via the German section of the Fédération

³⁸ https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article_lc/LEGIARTI000044394021

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	cat can have within a given period.			<p>The requirements for professional breeding are generally met if a housing unit reaches the following size or output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs: three or more breeding females or three or more litters per year; - Cats: five or more breeding females or five or more litters per year. <p>A housing unit includes all animals kept by a keeper, even if they are housed at different facilities. If multiple keepers share premises, enclosures, or similar spaces, these also count as a single housing unit.</p> <p>Under the Animal Welfare Law, Article 11, any person intending to breed or keep vertebrates, other than farm animals, on a commercial basis, must apply for authorisation.^{40,41}</p>	<p>(1) Breeders must provide a whelping box at least three days before the female dog's expected delivery until the puppies are weaned. The whelping box must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + be appropriate for the size of the mother and the expected number and size of the puppies; in particular, the mother must be able to lie stretched out on her side in the whelping box. + be designed in such a way that the health of the mother and her puppies, as well as the air temperature, can be monitored, + be equipped with spacers on the inside of the side walls, + have surfaces that are easy to clean and disinfect. <p>A whelping box does not have to be provided if the mother and puppies are kept outdoors and the shelter (in accordance with § 4, paragraph 1, sentence 1, number 1) fulfils the requirements specified in paragraph 2, and</p>	The Dog Welfare Ordinance of 25.11.2021 outlines specific requirements, but each of Germany's 16 states have varying regional regulations and maintains its own breeder registry, except Hamburg which does not maintain a registry.	Cynologique Internationale (FCI).

⁴⁰ <https://www.animallaw.info/statute/germany-cruelty-german-animal-welfare-act>

⁴¹ (§ 11 Absatz 1 Nr. 8a Tierschutzgesetz) and EC Staff Working Document

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					<p>additionally meets the requirements in sentence 2.</p> <p>(2) A mother with puppies must be kept in such a way that she can withdraw from her puppies.</p> <p>(3) Within a whelping box or shelter, the breeder must ensure an air temperature in the puppies' laying area to prevent hypothermia or overheating, considering breed-specific characteristics. To prevent puppies from becoming hypothermic, the air temperature must not drop below 18 degrees Celsius during the first two weeks of life.</p> <p>(4) If puppies are kept indoors, the breeder must allow them to run outside at least once a day for an appropriate period from the age of five weeks. The exercise area must be safe, free from health risks, and prevent puppies from accessing electrical devices. The enclosure must be appropriate in size for the number and size of puppies. (5) Commercial breeders must ensure that a caretaker, trained and approved by the Competent Authority, is available for up to five breeding dogs and their puppies. One caretaker</p>		

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					can be responsible for no more than three breeding females with puppies simultaneously.		
Germany / Baden-Württemberg						The lower administrative authorities/veterinary offices systematically record dog breeders (with a permit).	
Germany / Bavaria						The veterinarian authorities are responsible for issuing permits.	
Germany / Berlin				In Berlin, only qualified individuals, including breeders, are permitted to transfer a dog under one year of age to another person, as stipulated under the Animal Welfare Law Article 11.			
Germany / Hamburg						In Hamburg, these permits are issued by the district authority (Bezirksamt).	
Germany / Lower Saxony						In Lower Saxony, the responsibility for issuing permits to commercial breeders lies with the districts and independent cities in Lower Saxony. This permit requirement is not linked to official registration in a register. Requesting a list of breeders with a §11 permit from the relevant authorities would involve disproportionate effort and would be detrimental to the authorities to fulfil their legally mandated duties.	
Germany /						Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz has a record of permitted dog breeders.	

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
Saarland							
Germany / Saxony-Anhalt						According to the Saxony-Anhalt office, the districts and independent cities ("Landkreise und kreisfreien Städte") are responsible for monitoring animal welfare and animal disease control regulations.	
Germany / Thüringen						According to Section 2, Paragraph 11 of the Thuringian Ordinance on Competencies in the Area of Animal Welfare Law, ⁴² the veterinary and food inspection offices (VLÜÄ) of rural districts and independent cities, as lower animal welfare authorities, are responsible for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act. This includes its associated legal ordinances, and applicable European Union animal welfare regulations, unless otherwise specified.	
Greece	Female dogs may not be impregnated before the second oestrous cycle and at least 9 months must pass between litters. Dogs and cats may no longer be used for breeding once they reach nine years of age.	Dog or cat owners can breed their pet once in the dog's lifetime. ⁴⁴	Amateur breeders may breed up to two female dogs or cats in a year. ⁴⁵		All breeders require registration and authorisation. ⁴⁶ All dog and cat breeders must be registered in the Government's database and licensed. Breeding establishments must comply with the rules on animal welfare, safety	The Sub-Register of Professional and Amateur Breeders has been operational since 2023. ⁴⁸	

⁴² Including Horse Shoeing Law, and on the Transfer of Authorisation under the Horse Shoeing Act (Thuringian Animal Welfare Competence Ordinance - ThürTierSchZVO-)

⁴⁴ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

⁴⁵ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

⁴⁶ EC Staff Working Document

⁴⁸ [greece.pdf \(dogandcatwelfare.eu\)\)](#)

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
	No animal may be bred more than six times in their lifetime. ⁴³				<p>rules, and rules on providing adequate veterinary care.</p> <p>Legislation prohibits the breeding of dogs and cats whose anatomical and physiological or behavioural attributes may prove to be harmful for the health and well-being of the breeding female and her offspring.</p> <p>Although inspections are compulsory, there is no competent authority assigned to inspect. For amateur breeders (two litters of dogs or one litter of cats per year), inspections are conducted by breeding associations.⁴⁷</p>		
Hungary					<p>All breeders must be registered but not licenced.⁴⁹</p> <p>The Code of Practice under Government Decree No 41/2010 on the keeping and marketing of pet animals:⁵⁰</p> <p>The breeding of any animal suffering from a hereditary disease is considered cruelty and is prohibited.</p>	There is no publicly accessible database of registered breeders. ⁵²	

⁴³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en based on <https://www.kodiko.gr/nomothesia/document/747098/nomos-4830-2021>

⁴⁷ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/c3/b9/c3b96560-ddf3-4ab8-9842-425ac17f3f0d/greece.pdf

⁴⁹ [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en](https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a1000041.kor)

⁵⁰ <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a1000041.kor>

⁵² https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/f4/67/f4670a0f-f82f-46d7-a719-300bbd2d04af/hungary.pdf

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
					<p>A person keeping pets for sale must also prevent the reproduction of animals with abnormal conformations or behaviour that would cause the offspring to suffer or would have detrimental effects on their health.</p> <p>There is a compulsory code of practice for breeders which includes compliance with the provisions of Act XXVIII on the protection of animals, which applies to all animal keepers, as well as to animals bred and used for economic purposes.⁵¹</p>		
Ireland	<p>Under the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010, Section 15, operators of dog breeding establishments must ensure that:</p> <p>(a) dogs are at all times kept in accommodation suitable as respect to construction, size of quarters, number of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness,</p> <p>(b) dogs are—</p>			<p>“Dog breeding establishment” means a premises where female dogs are kept, not less than six of who are—</p> <p>(a) more than six months old, and</p> <p>(b) capable of being used for breeding purposes.⁵⁴</p>	<p>Only dog breeders keeping six or more breeding females must be registered with the Local Authority and authorised.</p> <p>There is no legislation prohibiting the breeding of dogs and cats where it can be foreseen that they or their descendants will suffer because of it.</p> <p>There are guidelines for dog breeders which accompany</p>	<p>The Minister shall establish and maintain a register (to be known as “the Register of Sellers and Suppliers of Pet Animals”) of persons who sell or supply pet animals.⁵⁶</p> <p>A list of authorised dog and cat breeding establishments is held by Local Authorities.⁵⁷</p> <p>Sellers/suppliers of six or more pet animals in a calendar year must apply to be entered into the Register of Sellers and Suppliers of Pet Animals. Premises used in connection with the sale or</p>	

⁵¹ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/f4/67/f4670a0f-f82f-46d7-a719-300bbd2d04af/hungary.pdf

⁵⁴ <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2010/act/29/section/2/enacted/en/html#sec2>

⁵⁶ ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE (SALE OR SUPPLY OF PET ANIMALS) REGULATIONS 2019 pdf

⁵⁷ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/30/f6/30f64a06-863a-4a71-8970-5e65d4e86952/ireland.pdf

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
		amateur breeders. ⁵⁹		impose varying limits depending on the area. ⁶⁰	premises, equipment and competence of staff. There is no legislation preventing the breeding of dogs who have genetic conditions such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations. ⁶¹		
Latvia	<p>According to Article 17.1 of the Animal Protection Law (effective July 2024)^{63,64} a pet animal must be bred in a manner that does not harm their health, in line with their natural behaviour, and only when they have reached sexual maturity.</p> <p>A pet animal - a female dog, cat or ferret - may not have more than one litter during a year.</p> <p>Sick pet animals, animals with congenital pathologies, as well as physiological and genetically incompatible</p>	<p>The following requirements apply to anyone with a dog litter:</p> <p>Through the e-service platform, individuals can view and manage online records for pets registered in their name. This includes updating information such as changes in the address where the animal is kept, reporting lost or found animals, transfer of ownership, and</p>		All breeders must register but do not require a licence/authorisation. ⁶⁷	<p>Under the Law on Animal Breeding and Breeding,⁶⁸ registered pet breeding organisations are responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) maintaining a herd book; 2) issuing pedigrees of purebred pet animals; 3) conducting evaluations, examination and selection of pet breed animals; 4) organising the participation of pet breed animals in animal exhibitions; 	<p>Pet breeding organisations must register with the Agricultural Data Centre.</p> <p>In accordance with Paragraph 12 of Cabinet Regulation No. 10⁶⁹ "Procedures for the Registration and Recognition of an Organisation of Pet Breed Animal Breeders, as well as the Procedures for Keeping a Breeding Book of Pet Breed Animals, for Issuing Pedigrees and for Approval of a Breeding Programme", registered breeding organisations must submit an updated list of kennels and any changes to their breeding regulations to the Agricultural Data Centre by 1 February each year.⁷⁰</p>	

⁵⁹ https://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/ca/f2/caf2c2c6-7edb-4ee4-acb9-5fee3311a49d/italy.pdf

⁶⁰ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

⁶¹ https://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/ca/f2/caf2c2c6-7edb-4ee4-acb9-5fee3311a49d/italy.pdf

⁶³ 14.03.2024. in the version of the Law that comes into force on 01.07.2024. <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/14940-dzivnieku-aizsardzibas-likums/redakcijas-datums/2024/07/01>

⁶⁴ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/14940-dzivnieku-aizsardzibas-likums>

⁶⁷ EC Staff Working Document [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en)

⁶⁸ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/302457-dzivnieku-audzinas-un-ciltsdarba-likums>

⁶⁹ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/304162-skirmes-majas-istabas-dzivnieku-audzetas-organizacijas-registresanas-un-atzinasanas-kartiba-ka-ari-skirmes-majas-istabas-dzivnie...>

⁷⁰ Pet organisations and kennels | Agricultural Data Center <https://www ldc.gov.lv/lv/majdzivnieku-organizacijas-un-audzetavas>

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	<p>their state of health after the birth of each litter;</p> <p>7.5. use only clinically healthy animals for breeding, without obvious genetic diseases, birth defects or pathologies.</p>				diseases, birth defects or pathologies pets are used for breeding ⁷³).		
Luxembourg	There are no national guidelines or codes of practice for breeders to adhere to in Luxembourg. ⁷⁵	Under the Law of 27 June 2018 on the protection of Animals, all dog and cat breeders, as well as any activity for the purpose of marketing animals (with the exception of animal markets and agricultural activity), must obtain authorisation from the Minister. ⁷⁶			<p>Breeders must be authorised, and there is no minimum threshold for the number of puppies / litters.</p> <p>Every commercial trader must obtain a licence from the Minister of Agriculture to trade in pets.</p> <p>To obtain a licence, the husbandry conditions must have been inspected by the Luxembourg Veterinary and Food Administration (ALVA) and a positive opinion must have been issued by the Director of the ALVA.</p> <p>The applicant must submit an application for an establishment licence⁷⁷ to the Ministry of the Economy.</p> <p>Breeders must document all entries and exits of animals and both the origin of the</p>	The Luxembourg Veterinary and Food Administration maintains a database of authorised breeders.	

⁷³ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/53/ed/53ed4c6d-374f-455f-8b46-48f96c50bc2f/lithuania.pdf

⁷⁵ welfare-of-DC.pdf (esvce.org) page 66

⁷⁶ <https://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2018/06/27/a537/jo>

⁷⁷ <https://guichet.public.lu/de/entreprises/creation-developpement/autorisation-etablissement/autorisation-honorabilite/autorisation-etablissement.html>

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
					<p>animals, and the new owner must be noted.⁷⁸</p> <p>The competent authority assesses the application which includes a detailed description of the activity, number of animals and planned capacity for the breeding of each species, professional competence, facilities and equipment, and description of the conditions.⁷⁹</p> <p>There is legislation prohibiting the breeding of dogs and cats who have genetic conditions, including anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics that could put health and welfare of either the offspring or the female parent at risk.⁸⁰</p>		
Malta	No person shall mate a bitch which is less than twelve months old; whelp more than six litters from one bitch; whelp two litters within a period of twelve months from the same bitch; sell a puppy	Dog breeders breeding four or more litters per year are required to apply for a licence. Those breeding fewer are		Breeders producing four or more litters per year must be licensed. ⁸³	<p>Key provisions under the Animal Welfare Act 2002/2023:⁸⁴</p> <p>Art. 9 prohibits surgical operations unless medically necessary</p>	There is no database of registered breeders in Malta. ⁸⁷	

⁷⁸ [Handel und Tierpensionen - Landwirtschaftsportal - Luxembourg](#)

⁷⁹ [Demande en vue de l'obtention d'une autorisation pour un élevage de chiens - Landwirtschaftsportal - Luxembourg](#)

⁸⁰ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/3d/79/3d792f36-b5a3-408f-b483-0780716ad158/luxembourg.pdf

⁸³ [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en](https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/439/eng)

⁸⁴ <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/439/eng>

⁸⁷ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/f5/ce/f5ce71a1-7bc9-4537-a43e-858a7515180d/malta.pdf

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
	before it is at least eight weeks old. ⁸¹	not required to register. ⁸²			<p>Art. 20 establishes the basis for breeder authorisation by the Ministry.</p> <p>Art 21 prohibits the sale, offer for sale, leasing, or delivery for trade of animals when Art. 20 applies.</p> <p>Art 43 (1) prohibits the breeding, importation or sale of aggressive animals in Malta.</p> <p>The Dogs Act provides general regulations regarding the keeping of dogs in Malta.⁸⁵</p> <p>Breeders shall keep accurate breeding records, including the whelping date, name of sire, sexes of the puppies born, number of puppies born and deaths, if any.⁸⁶</p>		
Netherlands	A female dog must not produce more than one litter within a period of twelve consecutive months. ^{88,89}			Individuals who sell, deliver, shelter/board or breed 20 or more dogs or cats within a 12-month period must register as commercial breeders with the	All dog breeders must register and obtain a unique business number. Both one-time and commercial breeders must report new	There is a national database of dog and cat breeders managed by the RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency). ⁹⁴	

⁸¹ <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/437.101/eng/pdf>

⁸² https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/f5/ce/f5ce71a1-7bc9-4537-a43e-858a7515180d/malta.pdf

⁸⁵ <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/312/eng/pdf>

⁸⁶ <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/437.101/eng/pdf>

⁸⁸ Besluit houders an Dieren, Art 3.4 sub 3 https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0035217/2024-07-01#Hoofdstuk3_Paragraaf1_Artikel3.4

⁸⁹ <https://esvce.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/welfare-of-DC.pdf> page 73

⁹⁴ <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/dieren-houden-verkopen-verzorgen/bedrijfsmatig-huisdieren-houden>

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				Competent Authority and hold an official proof of competence. ^{90,91}	litters; however, only commercial breeders are required to register their facilities, designate a manager with proof of competence, and show compliance with housing, care and breeding rules. ⁹² Legislation prohibits the breeding of dogs and cats who have genetic conditions, including serious hereditary defects and diseases, external characteristics that are harmful to the young, and serious behavioural abnormalities. ⁹³		
Poland	While breeding associations have their own rules, there is no compulsory code of practice for dog or cat breeders. ⁹⁵	N/A	N/A	There are no national regulations in place that set the minimum number of puppies or litters that requires an individual to register as a breeder. ⁹⁶ All breeders of purebreds must be registered (breeding of mix and crossbreeds is prohibited) ⁹⁷	Breeders of purebred dogs and cats must be registered with nationwide social organizations whose statutory purpose is to breed purebred dogs and cats. Each association has its own regulations regarding the conditions of breeding. The current law does not specify detailed	There is no national database of dog and cat breeders. ⁹⁹ There is no national database of dog and cat breeders. However, in accordance with the Act of 29 January 2004 on the Veterinary Inspection ¹⁰⁰ , the Veterinary Inspection has supervision over compliance with animal protection regulations and the right to carry out inspections. Moreover,	

⁹⁰ <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/dieren-houden-verkopen-verzorgen/bedrijfsmatig-huisdieren-houden#wanneer-bedrijfsmatig%3F>

⁹¹ Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Besluit houders van dieren, <https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0035217/2018-07-01>

⁹² <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/dieren-houden-verkopen-verzorgen/bedrijfsmatig-huisdieren-houden#voorwaarden>

⁹³ Rules about breeding: <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/dieren-houden-verkopen-verzorgen/huisdieren-fokken>

⁹⁵ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/6a/e3/6ae30963-6910-4bbb-a31d-136b965796d0/poland.pdf

⁹⁶ Answer from Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

⁹⁷ [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en](https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/6a/e3/6ae30963-6910-4bbb-a31d-136b965796d0/poland_en)

⁹⁹ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/6a/e3/6ae30963-6910-4bbb-a31d-136b965796d0/poland.pdf

¹⁰⁰ Act on Veterinary Inspection of 29 January 2004 (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 12); Ustawa o Inspekcji Weterynaryjnej z dnia 29 stycznia 2004 r. (Dz. U. z 2024 r. poz. 12), Information provided by the Ministry

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					<p>conditions for keeping purebred dogs and cats in breeding farms. In this respect, the general provisions of the Act of 21 August 1997 on the Protection of Animals¹) apply, which provide legal protection for vertebrate animals. (Information by the Ministry)</p> <p>Surgical operations to modify the appearance of dogs and cats, or for other non-medical purposes (e.g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing) are prohibited, with no exemptions.</p> <p>There is no legal requirement for inspections, but the Animal Protection Act requires cooperation between the competent authorities (Veterinary Inspection) and the breeder. In case of suspected violations, inspections are carried out by the District Veterinary Officer, sometimes in cooperation with NGOs, or by the local municipality.</p> <p>As only breeders can sell dogs and cats, it follows that traders (i.e. breeders) must be registered with a breeding association in order to sell animals. However, this legislation is</p>	<p>in accordance with art. 34 a sec. 3 of the Act of 21 August 1997 on the Protection of Animals¹), social organizations whose statutory goal of activity is the protection of animals may cooperate with the Veterinary Inspection in supervising compliance with animal protection regulations. (Ministry Information)</p>	

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					not strictly enforced as there are few restrictions on who can register as a breeding. ⁹⁸		
Portugal		see definition of professional breeders	see definition professional breeders	There is no minimum number of animals that breeders need to own to be obliged to be licensed, but all breeders have to be licensed. ¹⁰¹	All breeders of dogs and cats have to be registered and authorized. ¹⁰² There is no legal requirement for inspections of all dog and cat breeders. There is no legislation prohibiting the breeding of dogs and cats which have genetic conditions. The code of practice for dog or cat breeders is set out in the licensing requirements: breeders must comply with specific requirements regarding space, equipment, lighting and temperature, provision of shelter, food and water, hygiene requirements, daily inspections, enrichment and ability to exercise. ¹⁰³	DL No. 276/2001, of 17 October, APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PET ANIMALS. Art. 3., Procedure for carrying out the activity of operating accommodation and commercial breeding of companion animals: 12 - The DGAV publicises on its website the names of commercial pet breeders and their respective municipality of activity and identification number. DL No. 276/2001, of 17 October. ¹⁰⁴	CHAPTER XI, Article 71a Administrative co-operation. The competent authorities participate in administrative cooperation, within the scope of procedures relating to providers from another Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area, in particular through the Internal Market Information System. ¹⁰⁵
Romani a	Keepers of animals selecting an animal for breeding are required to			Kennels - defined as fenced units, with facilities and areas equipped for housing,	All dog breeders must be registered and authorised. They must submit a	There is no national database of registered breeders. Inspections of breeders are the responsibility of the	

⁹⁸ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/6a/e3/6ae30963-6910-4bbb-a31d-136b965796d0/poland.pdf with updates by the Ministry

¹⁰¹ <https://esvce.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/welfare-of-DC.pdf>

¹⁰² https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

¹⁰³ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/df/2f/df2f0d82-fcfb-489a-8a49-0db4e94a5a12/portugal.pdf

¹⁰⁴ https://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?nid=347&tabela=leis

¹⁰⁵ https://www.pgdlisboa.pt/leis/lei_mostra_articulado.php?nid=347&tabela=leis

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
	respect the anatomical, physiological, and behavioural characteristics of that species and breed so that the performance, health and well-being of the offspring are not compromised. ¹⁰⁶			<p>husbandry, reproduction and selection of pure-bred dogs destined for public services or marketing - must be registered under veterinary law. To be registered, the kennel legal representative must submit several documents to the county veterinary and food safety direction or to the veterinary and food safety direction of Bucharest Municipality.</p> <p>Commercial trade in companion animals is only allowed after registration in accordance with the veterinary and sanitary legal provisions, according to Ordinance 31-2008 on the implementation of the Animal Welfare Law.^{107,108}</p>	<p>certificate issued by the Trade Register, a map of the establishment, and proof of ownership/right to use, as well as a declaration that the establishment satisfies the sanitary conditions in the veterinary law.¹⁰⁹</p> <p>Legislation prohibits the breeding of dogs who have genetic conditions that could affect the health and welfare of the offspring.¹¹⁰</p>	Veterinary and Food Safety directorates of the county or Bucharest municipality. ¹¹¹	
Slovakia	No specific regulations regarding female dogs used for breeding. ¹¹²			All breeders must register (but no authorization). ¹¹³	<p>All dog breeders must notify the State Veterinary Authority of their activities and any changes to these.</p> <p>Legislation requires that pet animals used in breeding should not show serious genetic disorders,</p>	Data on dog and cat breeders is held by the State Veterinary Authority, but there is no publicly accessible national database of dog and cat breeders. ¹¹⁶	

¹⁰⁶ [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en](https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/52646) Romanian National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, *Order No. 31 of 31 March 2008*, <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/52646>

¹⁰⁷ <https://esvce.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/welfare-of-DC.pdf>

¹⁰⁸ [Legislație :: RomPetID - Portalul identificării și înregistrării animalelor de companie](#)

¹⁰⁹ <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/9537>

¹¹⁰ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/c3/40/c340e0d7-55d2-4131-8c66-ff7a54f01936/romania.pdf

¹¹¹ https://dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/c3/40/c340e0d7-55d2-4131-8c66-ff7a54f01936/romania.pdf

¹¹² https://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/8b/b6/8bb683cc-20b9-4891-941f-564cbb7817f4/slovakia.pdf

¹¹³ [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en](https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/52646) (europa.eu)

¹¹⁶ [slovakia.pdf](#) (dogandcatwelfare.eu)

Member State	Breeding rules for female dogs. e.g. how many litters are allowed per female within a specific time frame	Definition: Private breeder	Definition: Smaller scale breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Definition: Professional Breeder; e.g. when does registration become mandatory, what controls are required?	Breeder regulations	Registers of breeders; e.g. who issues and holds the information about registered breeders?	Overview of all registered breeders at MS level? Do pet registries interlink? Is there interaction with private organisations?
					<p>problematic behaviour such as aggressiveness or exaggerated timidity. Selective breeding methods should not cause permanent disability.</p> <p>The Decree on pet animal protection sets out a compulsory Code of Practice for breeding establishments covering the facilities, equipment and microclimate, as well as dog- and cat-specific requirements with regards space, equipment, space and tethering. There is no training or education obligation for dog and cat breeders.¹¹⁴</p> <p>A person who breeds animals must keep records, and keep these for at least three years.¹¹⁵.</p>		
Slovenia	The period between two consecutive births for the same female dog or cat must be at least 290 days. A shorter period between births is permitted only if the female produced one or two pups or kittens. ¹¹⁷		Defined as those breeding less than five dogs. ¹¹⁹	Defined as those keeping up to ten adult dogs. The specified conditions for keeping dogs are laid down in the Policy on the Protection of Pets Chapter V.	<p>Only dog breeders breeding more than five dogs or cats are required to be registered and authorised.¹²¹</p> <p>To obtain a licence, they must hold a valid certificate</p>	There is no breeder registry in place yet, but Slovenia plans to introduce the breeding licence according to AHL in next national veterinary legislation amendments. ¹²³	Dogs must be registered in the central database set up by the Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant

¹¹⁴ [slovakia.pdf \(dogandcatwelfare.eu\)](#)

¹¹⁵ <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2020/283/20201015#paragraf-3>

¹¹⁷ Slovenian government, [Regulations on the protection of pets.](#)

¹¹⁹ [caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹²¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en

¹²³ Information provided by the Ministry

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	Additionally, breeding a female dog or cat before the age of 14 months is considered overbreeding. ¹¹⁸			For the rearing of 11 or more adult dogs, the living quarters for dogs must, in terms of size, materials, temperature, lighting and ventilation, comply with the conditions laid down in the Rules governing the conditions for shelters for abandoned animals. ¹²⁰	of training, certified by the veterinary administration. Legislation prohibits the breeding of dogs and cats who have genetic conditions, including hereditary defects that will affect the welfare of the offspring or behaviour problems. For breeders of up to 10 dogs or cats, there is a compulsory code of practice covering the facilities, space, surroundings, cleaning and tethering. There are additional requirements for breeders of more than 10, which includes spaces for food storage, grooming, and sick or injured animals. ¹²²		Protection. Owners can voluntarily register their cat in this database, too. It is not linked to an EU database. ¹²⁴
Spain	Breeding animals shall have all physical, physiological and ethological needs met: daily physical exercise, adequate social contact, exploratory behaviour and absence of chronic stress states. The conditions for	Breeding can only be carried out by registered breeders, with veterinary supervision mechanisms, to ensure that it is carried out in a			All breeders must register in the Registry of Pet Breeders ¹²⁷ , but do not require authorisation.	The activity of breeding pets may only be carried out by individuals registered in the Register of Pet Breeders. Registration in the Register of Pet Breeders shall entail the official acquisition of the status and shall constitute, once validated by the competent Administration, the	

¹¹⁸ [Regulations on the protection of pets.](#)

¹²⁰ [Pravilnik o zaščiti hišnih živali \(PISRS\)](#)

¹²² https://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/df/e5/dfe5e9b6-67aa-4c10-be21-baed7e1dbe2/slovenia.pdf

¹²⁴ [slovenia.pdf \(dogandcatwelfare.eu\)](#)

¹²⁷ <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2023-7936>

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	breeding animals shall be developed by regulation. ¹²⁵	responsible and moderate way. ¹²⁶				<p>authorisation for the development of their activities.</p> <p>The Register shall be of regional competence in its execution, within the framework of the bases established by regulation by the State, without prejudice to the fact that each entry must be reported to the General State Administration for the purposes of the necessary coordination, so that, from the moment of incorporation into the General Register of the entry in the regional register, the corresponding registrations take effect throughout Spain.</p> <p>In the case of breeders of non-commercial categories, such as occasional breeders or others determined by regulation, registration as a breeder in the Register of Breeders of Companion Animals shall be carried out automatically at the time of transfer to the name of the owner of the first animal registered as breeding, or after the registration as a breeder of the first animal of which he was already the owner, as set out as mandatory for breeding animals in Article 51.3, and without prejudice to the obligations that correspond to them according to their category.¹²⁸</p>	

¹²⁵ [BOE-204_Codigo_de_Proteccion_y_Bienestar_Animal.pdf](#)

¹²⁶ [BOE-A-2023-7936_Law_7/2023_of_28_March_on_the_protection_of_animal_rights_and_welfare.](#)

¹²⁸ [BOE-A-2023-7936_Law_7/2023_of_28_March_on_the_protection_of_animal_rights_and_welfare.](#)

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Sweden	<p>Female dogs must be 18 months old before they are used for breeding.¹²⁹</p> <p>If a female dog has two litters within 12 months, at least 12 months of rest must be allowed before the next whelping.¹³⁰</p> <p>A female dog who has given birth twice by caesarean section is not allowed to be used for further breeding.</p> <p>Certain dogs and cats may not be used for breeding. For example, dogs and cats with behavioural disturbances in the form of an exaggerated fear reaction or aggressive behaviour in unprovoked or everyday situations or dogs and cats which have diseases, lethal predispositions, defects or other characteristics that may cause suffering to their offspring or may</p>	<p>Those who keep less than ten dogs older than 12 months of age or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breed two litters a year or less - Do not sell dogs from more than two litters of own breeding or from another person's breeding a year.¹³² 		<p>Those who breed three or more litters per year, sell dogs or cats from those three or more litters per year, or sell three or more dogs or cats per year from another person's breeding.¹³³</p> <p>All dog owners must be registered and those breeding on a professional basis (as stated above) must be authorised by the authorities and hold a permit. The Competent Authority assesses the applicant's ability to conduct the activities and the suitability of the premises prior to granting a permit.¹³⁴</p>	<p>Swedish national legislation on breeding is applied uniformly, regardless of whether breeding once or multiple times per year.</p> <p>The following rules apply to all breeding activities, not just professional breeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female dogs must be a minimum age of 18 months before they are bred. - Certain dogs and cats may not be used for breeding. For example, dogs and cats with behavioural disturbances in the form of an exaggerated fear reaction or aggressive behaviour in unprovoked or everyday situations or dogs and cats which have diseases, lethal predispositions, defects or other characteristics that may cause suffering to their offspring or may prevent the offspring to behave naturally.¹³⁵ 	County Administrative Board. ¹³⁶	<p>A central database is maintained for Swedish animal welfare control, containing information on companies involved with animals. Breeders with permits (as required by chapter 6, section 4 in the Animal Welfare Act) are registered in this database. The database is managed by the Swedish Board of Agriculture, but is accessible to the county administrative boards.¹³⁷</p>

¹²⁹ Ministry information.

¹³⁰ [welfare-of-DC.pdf \(esvce.org\)](#) page 99

¹³² [Breeding dogs in Sweden \(skk.se\)](#) p.13

¹³³ <https://jordbruksverket.se/languages/english/swedish-board-of-agriculture/animals/identification-and-registration-of-animals/identification-and-registration-of-dogs#h-Questionsandanswers>

¹³⁴ https://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/media/filer_public/ec/c6/ecc6e14a-52b1-415b-b8a0-5263c777b4c7/sweden.pdf and information updated by Ministry

¹³⁵ Swedish Board of Agriculture, [Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations and general guidelines on the keeping of dogs and cats](#), SJVFS 2020:8. and information updated by Ministry.

¹³⁶ [Breeding dogs in Sweden \(skk.se\)](#)

¹³⁷ [welfare-of-DC.pdf \(esvce.org\)](#) and information updated by Ministry.

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	prevent the offspring to behave naturally. ¹³¹						

¹³¹ Swedish Board of Agriculture, [Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations and general guidelines on the keeping of dogs and cats](#), SJVFS 2020:8, and Ministry information.