



# **Welfare of Dogs and Cats**

December 2023

## Pet population in the EU:



**72.7 million**Dogs

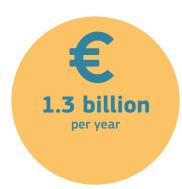


**83.6 million** Cats



44% of EU citizens own a pet (Eurobarometer 2023)

## Value of dogs and cats trade in the EU





74% of Europeans favour stronger animal welfare standards for cats and dogs (Eurobarometer 2023)



## Risks from poor traceability and welfare in dogs and cats

#### Public Health:

Risk of rabies, antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases.

#### **Economic:**

Risk of unfair competition for honest and legitimate breeders and sellers.



#### Animal Health:

Risk of diseases and defects linked to poor breeding and care.

## Consumer Protection:

Risk of pets with behavioural problems.

## Proposed rules for breeders, shelters and pet-shops

### Common Welfare Standards

Uniform requirements for the housing, breeding and care of dogs and cats.

## Responsible Ownership

Buyers must be made aware of proper pet care, nutrition and veterinary needs.

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# Competent Animal Caretakers

Animal caretakers in breeding establishments, pet shops and shelters must be properly trained in the care and welfare of animals.

#### Traceability

All dogs and cats must be microchipped and registered before they can be sold in the EU. All breeding establishments must be authorised.

## Imports

Imported pets must meet the same welfare standards as those bred and raised within the EU.

# Online advertisement

Identification and registration of dogs and cats supplied via online platforms can be checked.

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