

Basic information	
2023/0447(COD)	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	
Welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability	
Subject	
3.10.04.02 Animal protection	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	VRECIONOVÁ Veronika (ECR)	24/07/2024
		Shadow rapporteur DE MEO Salvatore (EPP) NARDELLA Dario (S&D) KRIŠTOPANS Vilis (PfE) WIEZIK Michal (Renew) METZ Tilly (Greens/EFA) HAZEKAMP Anja (The Left)	
	Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	VRECIONOVÁ Veronika (ECR)	25/01/2024
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety	RIPA Manuela (EPP)	05/12/2024
	Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety		
Council of the European			

Union		
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Health and Food Safety	KYRIAKIDES Stella
European Economic and Social Committee		

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/12/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0769 	Summary
25/01/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
13/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
03/06/2025	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
10/06/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0104/2025	
19/06/2025	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0135/2025	Summary
19/06/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/06/2025	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
12/01/2026	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2025)005958	

Forecasts	
25/03/2026	Indicative plenary sitting date, 1st reading

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/0447(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 114 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading
Committee dossier	AGRI/10/00301

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE766.982	10/01/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE768.231	10/02/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE768.250	10/02/2025	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE766.664	08/04/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE774.355	03/06/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0104/2025	10/06/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T10-0135/2025	19/06/2025	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2025)005958	10/12/2025	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0769 	07/12/2023	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2023)0769	18/03/2024	
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0769	25/03/2024	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2023)0769	15/04/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_SENATE	PE761.175	03/06/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_SENATE	PE761.176	10/07/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_CHAMBER	PE761.177	10/07/2024	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0532/2024	20/03/2024	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	26/11/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	23/09/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	17/09/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	18/07/2025	Euractiv
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	10/06/2025	Eurogroup for Animals FOUR PAWS International
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	24/04/2025	Deutscher Tierschutzbund - German Animal Welfare Federation
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	04/04/2025	EuroPetNet
HAZEKAMP Anja	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	27/03/2025	Eurogroup for Animals VIER PFOTEN International
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	19/03/2025	CAS International
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	12/03/2025	MSD Pharma
VRECIONOVÁ Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	17/02/2025	Adevinta ASA OLX Global BV
VRECIONOVÁ Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	12/02/2025	AnimalhealthEurope Eurogroup for Animals Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
NARDELLA Dario	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/02/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	30/01/2025	European Pet Organization
NARDELLA Dario	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	29/01/2025	Fondazione Capellino
NARDELLA Dario	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	27/01/2025	Four Paws
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	22/01/2025	Adevinta ASA
DE MEO Salvatore	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	16/01/2025	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	15/01/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	14/01/2025	Adevinta ASA
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	13/01/2025	European Pet Organization

WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	13/01/2025	Four Paws International
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	06/01/2025	Erna-Graff-Stiftung
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	12/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	11/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	11/12/2024	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	10/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
DE MEO Salvatore	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	05/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	05/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/12/2024	European Pet Organization
DE MEO Salvatore	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	02/12/2024	Four Paws International
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	18/11/2024	Classifieds Marketplaces Europe
VRECIONOVÁ Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	13/11/2024	VIRBAC
VRECIONOVÁ Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	06/11/2024	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	23/10/2024	Four Paws International
VRECIONOVÁ Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	23/10/2024	Merck Sharp & Dohme Europe Belgium SRL
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	26/09/2024	Deutscher Tierschutzbund - German Animal Welfare Federation
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	10/04/2024	Virbac
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	10/04/2024	FVE FECAVA
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/04/2024	Europetnet
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	05/03/2024	FACE - European Federation for Hunting and Conservation
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	05/03/2024	MSD Animal Health
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	29/02/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
VRECIONOVÁ Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	27/02/2024	FOUR PAWS

Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
NOICHL Maria	15/07/2025	AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection
HAYER Valérie	18/06/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
LUENA César	15/05/2025	Policías por los animales
NOICHL Maria	23/04/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
CÂRCIU Gheorghe	24/01/2025	European Pet Organization

ROTH NEVEĎALOVÁ Katarína	14/01/2025	European Pet Organization
FRIGOUT Anne-Sophie	18/12/2024	Fondation 30 Millions d'Amis
PENNELLE Gilles	15/10/2024	fédération des associations de chasse et conservation de la faune sauvage de l'UE
HAYER Valérie	05/09/2024	World Dog Alliance

Welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability

2023/0447(COD) - 19/06/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 457 votes to 17, with 86 abstentions, **amendments** to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability.

The matter was referred back to the relevant committee for interinstitutional negotiations.

Purpose and scope of application

The regulation will apply to the breeding, keeping, placing on the market and entry into the Union of dogs and cats. It will not apply to natural persons who keep dogs or cats for personal or family pet purposes and who allow these animals to reproduce, up to a maximum of one litter per species and per household, per period of eighteen months, without placing them on the market.

In order to exclude from the scope of the regulation **occasional and irregular donations** of small numbers of dogs and cats by natural persons, Members clarified the definition of 'placing on the market', which only operators responsible for a breeding establishment, selling establishment or a shelter will be able to carry out.

Regarding exemptions from the obligations, Members proposed distinguishing between establishments based on their size. A breeding establishment in which a **maximum of two litters per calendar year** are produced for marketing would only be subject to certain obligations.

Obligations of establishment operators

Animal operators and carers would be **responsible for the welfare of dogs or cats** kept in their establishments and under their control and for minimising risks to their welfare. In the case of **foster homes**, the responsibility would lie with the operator on whose behalf the dogs or cats are kept. Operators must not commit any acts of cruelty, abuse, or mistreatment of dogs or cats and must not abandon dogs or cats.

Obligations regarding breeding strategies

Members insisted on **banning crossbreeding** between cats or dogs from the same family, to avoid inbreeding. They also call for a ban on breeding dogs or cats with **excessive conformational traits** that could have a negative impact on their welfare. Members specified that such practices could be allowed in exceptional and duly justified cases to preserve local breeds with limited genetic heritage. The Commission will be empowered to adopt delegated acts regarding extreme conformations by 2030.

It would also be prohibited to use animals with extreme conformational traits - as well as mutilated animals - in **shows, exhibitions and competitions**.

Approval of breeding establishments

Operators of breeding establishments should place dogs or cats on the market only after obtaining approval for their establishment from the competent authority. The competent authorities will carry out **on-site inspections** to verify that the establishment meets the requirements of the regulation.

Obligation to provide information on responsible possession

Operators should provide the purchaser of a dog or cat with information on responsible ownership and the specific needs of the dog or cat in terms of diet, care, health, housing conditions and behavioural needs, as well as information on its health, including its vaccination status. Where the relinquishment of dogs and cats is advertised online, **the warning** should specify that caring for an animal requires financial resources and that abandoning the animal once it is in the care of the owner is forbidden.

Accommodation, health, painful practices

Operators and keepers should ensure that **feeding and drinking facilities** are clean and constructed and installed to ensure equal access for all dogs and cats. It is specified that the keeping or sale of dogs or cats in **pet stores** will be prohibited. Euthanasia of a dog or cat in animal shelters as a population control measure would also be prohibited.

Mutilation practices, such as ear cropping, tail docking, claw removal, or any other partial or total amputation of digits, would be prohibited unless medically indicated. **Sterilisation** should only be performed under anaesthesia and prolonged analgesia by a veterinarian. The veterinarian may consider non-surgical sterilisation instead of castration.

Also prohibited would be the prolonged use of muzzles, except if necessary for health reasons, the use of **prong collars** and the use of **choke collars** without a safety top.

To prevent pregnancy-related complications and avoid compromising their welfare, Members proposed allowing up to **three litters within a two-year period**, followed by an adequate recovery period, which should not be less than one year for bitches and queens that have had three litters. Dogs and cats should be **exposed to light** for at least 7 hours a day and dogs should be walked daily for at least one hour a day in total.

Identification and registration of dogs and cats

Members called for all dogs and cats kept in the European Union to be identified by means of a **subcutaneous transponder containing a microchip**, implanted under the supervision of a veterinarian. Operators of establishments should ensure that dogs and cats born in their establishments are individually identified within **three months** of their birth and, in any case, before the date of their placing on the market.

Members also called for microchipped dogs and cats to be registered in **interoperable national databases**. The microchip identification number and information relating to the relevant national database should be centralised in an index database managed by the Commission.

Imports from third countries

The amended text distinguishes between the importation of dogs and cats for the purpose of placing them on the Union market and non-commercial movements, with a view to preventing fraud and improving the traceability of dogs and cats.

Dogs and cats entering the Union for the purpose of being **placed on the Union market** must be identified, prior to entry, by a veterinarian and registered in a national database within two working days of their entry into the Union. The entry of dogs and cats into the Union in the form of a **non-commercial movement** must be notified in advance by their owners in an online Union database of moving pet animals at least five working days before their arrival in the Union.

Data protection

Members have introduced data protection provisions to ensure the protection of personal data contained, for example, in dog and cat databases or in information transmitted by establishments.

Welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability

2023/0447(COD) - 07/12/2023 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: establish minimum harmonised rules that ensure the proper functioning of the internal market while ensuring a high level of welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: around 44% of households in the EU have a pet animal. Trade in dogs and cats has grown considerably in recent years, with an annual value of EUR 1.3 billion. However, animal welfare standards for professional breeding, keeping and selling dogs and cats very much diverge between Member States. There is also extensive evidence of sub-standard practices and abuse.

In addition, the illegal trade in dogs and cats has soared, accelerated by a growing online market which now accounts for 60% of all dog and cat sales in the EU.

Currently, there is no EU legislation on the welfare of dogs and cats while the situation within Member States is extremely variable and uneven, both in terms of welfare standards or traceability. In absence of common framework, individual action of Member States has limited effect and cannot address key issues while dogs and cats are traded freely in the EU. In addition, in absence of common rules on traceability, illegal trade from third countries is facilitated.

CONTENT: the objective of this proposal is to **regulate the trade in dogs and cats in the internal market**, including imports from third countries, to ensure the rational development of the sector and avoid barriers to trade and **combat illegal trade** in cats and dogs while ensuring a high level of protection of animal welfare. It lays down minimum animal welfare requirements for the breeding, keeping and placing on the Union market of dogs and cats.

More specifically, the proposal:

- covers the breeding and keeping of dogs and cats in establishments (including pet shops and animal shelters) and their placing on the market or their offer for adoption at no cost. It does not apply to small establishments;
- covers the **traceability** of dogs and cats placed on the market or supplied in the Union. It excludes dogs and cats kept for scientific purposes;
- introduces the principles of animal welfare based on the concept of the “five domains”, i.e. the needs of animals in terms of nutrition, environment, health, behaviour and mental state;
- establishes an obligation for operators to **notify their activities** to the competent authorities as well as to inform customers on responsible ownership.
- sets out requirements for the competence of animal caretakers and requires establishments to have veterinary visits;

- defines technical requirements on feeding and watering, housing, health, behavioural needs and painful practices, for breeding establishments, pet shops and shelters (however a number of provisions are not required for shelters). In addition, it requires breeding establishments to be approved by the competent authorities. Provisions on housing, health and the approval of breeding establishment have a deferred application of 5 years;
- obliges establishments keeping dogs and cats and suppliers of dogs and cats in the Union to identify the concerned animals by **microchip** and to register them in a database;
- requires suppliers of dogs or cats to provide **evidence of identification and registration**. In addition, **online platforms** where dogs or cats are offered for supply are required to enable suppliers to provide **proof of the identification and the registration** of dogs or cats offered on those platforms. It requires the Commission to ensure the development of a system publicly available free of charge verifying the authenticity of the identification and registration of a dog or cat;
- requires competent authorities to offer **training** for animal caretakers on animal welfare and to approve training programmes on animal welfare;
- requires Member States to establish a **database** for dogs and cats identified by microchip;
- contains rules on **stricter national measures**. Member States are allowed to maintain such rules that apply when the Regulation enters into force. Furthermore, Member States are allowed to adopt new legislation which establishes stricter national provisions as regards housing conditions, enrichment, mutilations and breeding strategies, provided that they are consistent with the Union's respective rules and that they do not restrict the free movement and placing on the market of products not complying with the stricter national requirements;
- requires the Commission to publish a monitoring report every 5 years on the welfare of dogs and cats placed on the market. Member States may put in place effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties, and to notify these to the Commission.

Budgetary implications

The proposal will require additional human resources for managing the implementation of the legislation and the development of interoperable databases for the identification and registration of dogs and cats.

In parallel, an operational budget of EUR 1.5 million is estimated to be needed for the development and initial operation of the system of verification of the authenticity of this identification and registration for offerings via online Platforms and ensuring the interoperability of national databases and then, EUR 300 000 per year for its maintenance and operation.