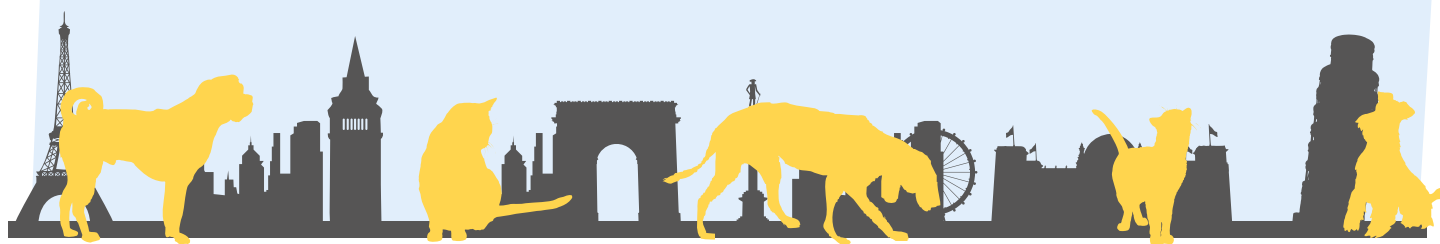


# Lithuania



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

According to the new law on animal welfare, from 1st January 2016 dogs will have to be permanently identified with a microchip. Dogs will also have to be registered in a central database, which will be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and managed by the State enterprise Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre and the State Food and Veterinary Service.

### Cats

According to the new law on animal welfare, from 1st January 2016 cats will have to be permanently identified with a microchip. It will also be compulsory for cats to be registered in the official database.

At present, pet animals are registered in several databases in Lithuania e.g. the Animal Registration Centre ([www.registracija.lt](http://www.registracija.lt)) which is a member of Europetnet, thus linked to the EU Database. The Lithuanian Small Animal Veterinary Association (LSAVA) is also a member of Europetnet and manages another database: <http://regivet.betaintelligence.lt/>



## Regulation of dog and cat breeders

In Lithuania, pet breeders must have a permit issued by the State Food and Veterinary Service. As soon as cats and/or dogs are bred commercially, an authorisation is required.

To get the permit, breeders must apply for registration of the establishment by providing the pet species and breeds, the number of animals intended to be kept at the same time, the number of litters produced per year, the address where the activities will take place. The breeding place and conditions must be approved by an official veterinarian following an inspection.

The State Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for controlling the implementation of these rules. They manage a database of breeders which is publicly available. Inspections are conducted on the basis of risk analysis: high risk breeders: once per year; middle risk: once every other year; minimal risk: once every four years (this is the case for breeders who keep one female which has one litter per year and is kept in living premises).

The order on veterinary requirements for pet breeder approval includes detailed requirements that breeders must comply with concerning the facilities, and concerning the keeping and breeding of pets, as follows:

- Breeders must hire sufficient competent staff and plan the breeding activities over time, ensuring that the mating does not have negative impacts on the animals' health and welfare. They must also provide sufficient time for breeding females to recover between two litters,
- They must ensure that only animals with no genetic diseases, birth defects or pathologies reproduce.,
- They must keep detailed records concerning the breeding activities and the sale of pets, including information on the purchaser,
- For the breeding facilities, detailed requirements cover the buildings and the equipment, including space and maintenance, microclimate (temperature, humidity etc.) security and disinfection among other aspects,

- Animals must have sufficient space to be able to move freely and to hide if necessary. A specific place must be available to rest. Suitable equipment to allow animals to satisfy their behavioural and physical needs must be available too. Animals must be inspected twice a day,
- Sick or injured animals must be kept separated from other animals,
- Females who have given birth must be separated from the other animals, in the same room or a different room,
- Particular attention must be given to meet the pet's environmental behaviour needs and to ensure their socialization through daily contacts with people from birth until their transfer to another pet keeper. Standard operating procedures for breeders include tests to check whether dogs and cats are socialised (show no fear and aggression).

The general law on the protection of animals specifically prohibits the breeding of genetically inferior pets with evident genetic diseases, malformations or pathologies. Art 7 (5) of the pet breeder regulations also mentions the prohibition to reproduce animals with genetic diseases.

### **Requirements for breeding dogs**

Dogs must not be kept permanently indoors, except if specific space requirements are met and dogs are taken for walks regularly. In this case dogs must be taken for a walk at least once per day for at least one hour, or twice per day for at least 30 minutes. Dogs must be kept in suitable groups. Puppies cannot be separated from their mother before the age of two months.



**Requirements for breeding cats**

Cats should be kept in groups. Cats housing must be equipped so that they are able to sharpen claws and to climb. Kittens cannot be separated from their mother before the age of three months.

Regulation of dog and cat traders There are specific regulations for pet traders. Cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops, for which there are detailed rules. Cat and dog traders and their premises must be licensed to be allowed to trade in animals. The licence is issued by the State Food and Veterinary Service. To apply, traders must provide the information on: the species which they plan to trade, the procedures for the intake, keeping and care of the animals, record keeping, pest control programme, programme of cleaning and disinfection of the premises.

The rules include:

- Detailed requirements concerning the pet shop facilities, equipment and maintenance.
- Requirements concerning the conditions for keeping animals, which must correspond to the animals' physical and behavioural needs, such as temperature, lighting, enrichment.
- An annex includes minimum space requirements and temperature ranges for different species, including cats and dogs.
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- Sufficient competent staff must be available.
- The animals must be inspected at least twice a day. Records of these inspections must be kept. Traders must keep detailed electronic records of the species and breed of animals sold, the number, sex, pet provider, contact details of buyer, date of sale, veterinary treatments, among others.

- From 1st January 2016, before being sold, cats and dogs will have to be identified with a microchip and registered.

The sale of cats and dogs is allowed at approved markets but not in the street. The sale of cats and dogs over the internet is not regulated.

Neither cats nor dogs can be sold before the age of eight weeks. They cannot be sold to people less than 16 years old without the consent of parents. There are no specific rules concerning the commercial transport of cats and dogs other than the provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and a general provision in the animal protection law. Commercial transporters must be authorised and are controlled by official veterinarians. There are no specific provisions concerning education and training, nor concerning inspections of traders, although they need the approval of an official veterinarian.

Standard operating procedures are approved for pet breeders as well as pet traders.

**Surgical mutilations**

Veterinary procedures aimed at altering the appearance or physiological functions of animals, including cats and dogs, such as clipping of ears and tails, mutilation or removal of vocal chords and claws, are prohibited.

**Links to legislation**

Law on welfare and protection of animals:

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_e?p\\_id=455524&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_e?p_id=455524&p_tr2=2)

Order on health requirements for pet breeders:

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=454514&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=454514&p_query=&p_tr2=2)

Pet traders regulations:

[http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=378586&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=378586&p_query=&p_tr2=2)