



## Finland

### Identification and registration

#### Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is mandatory within 3 months of birth, or before first transfer of ownership if earlier.

Dogs must be registered in the national **database** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. There are five more databases for voluntary registration: Turvasiru (all animals), the Finnish Kennel Club database (pure-bred dogs), Kissalitto (pure-bred and domestic cats) and two databases connected to veterinary clinics. There is no database linked to EuroPetNet

**Microchipping** of dogs and cats is regulated insofar as only vets or those trained and certified can perform the insertion.

#### Cats

Permanent identification of **cats** is not currently mandatory. However from 2026, all **cats** will need to be microchipped.

### Regulation of breeding

#### Dog breeders

Professional or large-scale **dog 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. Applications must comply with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act and regulations based on this.

Breeders must register with the State Provincial Office. The Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) has a **database** (Elite) in which Regional State Administrative Agencies register the data of breeders.

**Inspections** are not mandatory and take place if there is a suspected violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

The use of **breeding** methods which may cause distress or significant damage to the health or welfare of animals is prohibited. An animal can only be kept for production purposes if it can be reasonably assumed on the basis of its **phenotype** or **genotype** that this will not cause harm to health or welfare.

There are no compulsory **guidelines** for breeding or **Codes of Practice**.

#### Cat breeders

Professional or large-scale **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. Applications must comply with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act and regulations based on this.

### Sales and advertising

#### Dog and cat traders

There is no legislation outlining the minimum age in which a **puppy** or **kitten** can be sold.

Professional or large-scale dog and cat **traders** must notify the State Provincial Office before they start their activity or when they change or terminate their activity.

The sale of dogs and cats is banned in **pet shops, in markets or on the street**.

**Surgical operations** to modify the appearance of dogs and cats or for other non-curative purposes (e.g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing) is prohibited. Dewclaw removal is permitted for hunting dogs.

There is not specific regulation of **online advertising** of dogs and cats for sale, however cats and dogs can legally only be bought directly from the breeders or from registered traders.

**Legislation:** Animal Welfare Act; Animal Welfare Decree; Identification and registration