



Italy

Identification and registration

Dogs

Permanent identification of **dogs** is compulsory. Identification must be by microchip and before the age of 2 months. Once microchipped, the dog must be registered in the regional canine database.

Cats

It is not nationally compulsory for **cats** to be identified and registered, but the regions Lombardia and Puglia, and some cities, have made it compulsory. Owners can voluntarily identify and register their cat in the National Pet Registry, or in the national vet organisation's National Feline Registry.

Each region has established a **regional canine database**, which is connected to the **national registry of companion animals**, created by the Ministry of Health in March 2013. It is not connected to an EU-wide database.

Microchipping of dogs and cats is regulated. The microchip must contain the country code and only vets can perform the insertion.

Regulation of breeding

Dog breeders

Only **professional dog breeders** owning 5 or more breeding bitches who give birth to at least 30 puppies per year (regional laws can set different limits for their territories) must be registered and licensed, which requires compliance with requirements for the premises, equipment and competence of staff.

Cat breeders

There is no requirement for **cat breeders** to be registered and licensed. If breeders wish to have cats certified as pedigree, they must register with an official Breeding Association. These Associations also set Technical Standards for breeders and can carry out controls.

There is no central, State-owned **database** of licensed breeders.

Inspections are carried out by the local health authorities prior to licensing, and subsequently at an undefined frequency.

There is no legislation preventing the **breeding** of dogs which have **genetic conditions** such as inherited diseases or exaggerated conformations.

Aside from the requirements for licensed breeders above, there is a no compulsory **code of practice** that amateur breeders must abide by.

Sales and advertising

Dog and cat traders

There is legislation on the minimum age at time of sale: 2 months for **puppies** and **kittens**.

All **professional dog traders** must be **registered** and must comply with requirements for the premises, equipment and competence of staff. As part of the registration process, they are inspected by local health authorities.

Sales in **pet shops**, at **markets** and **on the street** are permitted.

Surgical operations to modify the appearance of dogs and cats or for other non-curative purposes (e.g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalisation, declawing) are prohibited, except for tail docking of some dog breeds (with a veterinary certification) due to their sporting or hunting activity.

Online adverts for dogs or cats for sale must include the microchip number. For puppies or kittens, the advert must include the mother's microchip number and they must hold a veterinary certificate.

Legislation: 6 August 2008 Ordinance (I&R) & 24 January 2013 Agreement with the regions; 28 January 1994 Decree (breeding activities); 6 February 2003 Agreement with the regions (companion animal well-being and pet-therapy); 4 November 2010 (ratification of European Convention) & Guidance on surgical mutilations; 5 August 2022 Decree no.135 (sales)