



Outcomes of the event : **Responsible Pet Ownership** & EU regulation proposal for the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats

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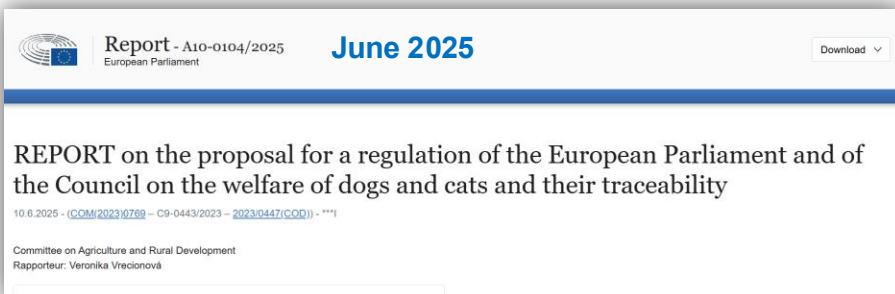
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for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

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Animal
Fundada como OIE



- **Minimum standards for breeding, housing and care of dogs in professional establishments:** housing, care, training, information to buyers on responsible ownership
 - Requirements **include** for commercial imports **from third countries**-
- **Traceability requirements to avoid illegal trade and fraud:**
 - Microchipping and registration in inter-operable databases for dogs and cats (1st marketed animals, 2nd owned ones)
 - Verification system to check online advertisements
 - Registration** of dogs and cats **entering the EU** should be done in one of the Member States' databases



Regulation published in the course of 2026, applying 2028



Responsible Pet Ownership: From Legislation to Action: Fostering Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership and Welfare in Europe

Date: November 19-20, 2025

Location: Hotel Westin, Zagreb

[Link to article](#)

Effective Identification and registration (I&R) systems & measures to fight against illegal trade

Key Outcomes

- **Regulation as a starting point:** need of empowering competent authorities, veterinarians, shelters, and breeders with knowledge, digital tools, and strong networks.
- **Cross-border cooperation:** clear communication as essential for effective capacity building. Better border controls– Digitalisation
- **Public awareness & Education**
- **Stronger Penalties & Enforcement**
- **Challenges identified:**
 - Shortage of veterinarians in field and administrative roles
 - Rising numbers of companion animals
 - Limited interoperability between different national database systems

Thank you!

Now it is time for
some reflections...

Пришло время для размышлений...

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Let's discuss and identify common elements for dog population management programmes

Divided in 2 groups – 10 min per set of questions

1. Legislation framework:

- Are these aspects covered by the current legislation in your country?
 1. Registration & identification of dogs and breeders
 2. Rabies vaccination + other measures against zoonotic diseases
 3. Dog movement control
 4. List of potentially dangerous dogs.
 5. Dog shelters
 6. Animal welfare obligations for owners and authorities
- Is it applied? Which sanctions and penalties are provided?

2. Free-roaming dogs:

- Are sources identified?
- How is the removal and handling procedure, Trap–neuter–return (TNR), rehoming, euthanasia?

3. Identification and Registration:

- What is the procedure for the identification and registration of dogs in your country: Electronic/paper based, mandatory, linked to rabies vaccination or sterilization campaigns?

