

# **Lithuanian experience of pet breeders registration**

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# Legal base

New Law on animal welfare and protection came in force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

The Law set up the responsibilities of animal keepers, breeders and empowered State Food and Veterinary Service to prepare the rules for pet animal breeders and carry out the control of them.

# Legal provisions

## Article 6. Keeping of Animals

All animals must be kept and cared for under conditions suitable for an animal's species, age, physiology and behaviour in accordance with the legal acts regulating animal keeping, ensuring that the animal's freedom of movement is not constrained and that the animal is not subjected to discomfort, pain or suffering.

# Legal provisions

## Article 10. Breeding of Animals

1. Pet breeding must be **targeted, planned and intentional**.
2. The persons breeding pets for **commercial purposes** must ensure the observance of requirements set forth by legal acts and hold a **veterinary certificate** when so required by legal acts.
3. Pet owners, except for the persons breeding pets for commercial purposes, must ensure that their pets **would not reproduce** unless they ensure the transfer of pet offspring to new owners (except for their transfer to an animal carer) or take care of them themselves.
4. When transferring cats, dogs or ferrets and offspring of these animals to another owner, these animals must be **identified with a microchip and registered in the database of the Pets Registry**.
5. The breeding of **genetically inferior** pets with evident genetic diseases, malformations or pathologies **shall be prohibited**.
6. The **crossbreeding** of wild animals of different species and species of wild animals and **pets shall be prohibited**, except where such crossbreeding takes place in accordance with approved experimental research programmes.

# Requirements for the breeders

- To be registered, if they keep animals in the personal living facilities (indicate species, breed, number of animals to be kept and number of litter expected per year).
- To get a veterinary approval if the special facilities are used.
- Minimal space requirements are set up
- Dogs and cats must be kept in the premises with the natural day light and artificial light
- Socialization of pet animals must be performed
- Animal welfare requirements are set up

# Types of breeders

- **Breeders registered by LKD (member of FCI) or Bubaste (cat breeders organization)**
  - breed animals that receive pedigree documents (with some exceptions) /trade via the clubs, exhibitions/Internet/export
- **Breeders of crossbreed pets**
  - no pedigree documents/trade on Internet, markets/export
- **Accidental breeders**
  - not competent, not responsible ownership/trade via Internet, markets or animals end up in the street or shelters

# Control problems

- The requirements to register or get approval is applied to business operators (breeders claim that they have no income...)(legal provision)
- Control of personal facilities can be carried out only with the permission from court or with the support of police (Constitutional provisions)
- The permission to trade in animals on markets is issued by municipality (legal provision)
- The decision to confiscate the animals is taken by court
- Administrative measures are not adequate (less than 10 euros)



Thank you