

Basic information	
<b>2023/0447(COD)</b> COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Awaiting committee decision
Welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability  <b>Subject</b> 3.10.04.02 Animal protection	

Key players				
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">AGRI</span> Agriculture and Rural Development		VRECIONOVÁ Veronika (ECR)	24/07/2024
			Shadow rapporteur DE MEO Salvatore (EPP) NARDELLA Dario (S&D) KRIŠTOPANS Vilis (PfE) WIEZIK Michal (Renew) METZ Tilly (Greens/EFA) HAZEKAMP Anja (The Left)	
	<b>Former committee responsible</b>		<b>Former rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">AGRI</span> Agriculture and Rural Development		VRECIONOVÁ Veronika (ECR)	25/01/2024
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">ENVI</span> Environment, Climate and Food Safety		RIPA Manuela (EPP)	05/12/2024
	<b>Former committee for opinion</b>		<b>Former rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">ENVI</span> Environment, Climate and Food Safety			
	Council of the European Union			
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>		

European Economic and Social Committee

## Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/12/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0769 	Summary
25/01/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
13/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		

## Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/0447(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 114 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	<a href="#">European Economic and Social Committee</a>
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting committee decision
Committee dossier	AGRI/10/00301

## Documentation gateway

## European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE766.982</a>	10/01/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE768.089</a>	07/02/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE768.088</a>	07/02/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE768.250</a>	10/02/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE768.231</a>	10/02/2025	

## European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0769 	07/12/2023	Summary

## National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">ES_PARLIAMENT</span>	<a href="#">COM(2023)0769</a>	18/03/2024	

Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0769	25/03/2024	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2023)0769	15/04/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_SENATE	PE761.175	03/06/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_SENATE	PE761.176	10/07/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_CHAMBER	PE761.177	10/07/2024	
<b>Other institutions and bodies</b>				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
ESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0532/2024	20/03/2024	

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
VRECIANOVA Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	17/02/2025	Adevinta AS OLX Global BV
VRECIANOVA Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	12/02/2025	AnimalhealthEurope Eurogroup for Animals Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
NARDELLA Dario	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/02/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	30/01/2025	European Pet Organization
NARDELLA Dario	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	29/01/2025	Fondazione Capellino
NARDELLA Dario	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	27/01/2025	Four Paws
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	22/01/2025	Adevinta AS
DE MEO Salvatore	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	16/01/2025	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	15/01/2025	Eurogroup for Animals
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	14/01/2025	Adevinta AS
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	13/01/2025	Four Paws International
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	13/01/2025	European Pet Organization
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	06/01/2025	Erna-Graff-Stiftung
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	12/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	11/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
METZ Tilly	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	11/12/2024	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	10/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	05/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
DE MEO Salvatore	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	05/12/2024	Eurogroup for Animals

WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/12/2024	European Pet Organization
DE MEO Salvatore	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	02/12/2024	Four Paws International
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	18/11/2024	Classifieds Marketplaces Europe
VRECIANOVA Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	13/11/2024	VIRBAC
VRECIANOVA Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	06/11/2024	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
WIEZIK Michal	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	23/10/2024	Four Paws International
VRECIANOVA Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	23/10/2024	Merck Sharp & Dohme Europe Belgium SRL
RIPA Manuela	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	26/09/2024	Deutscher Tierschutzbund - German Animal Welfare Federation
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	10/04/2024	FVE FECAVA
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	10/04/2024	Virbac
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/04/2024	Europetnet
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	05/03/2024	FACE - European Federation for Hunting and Conservation
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	05/03/2024	MSD Animal Health
MORTLER Marlene	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	29/02/2024	Eurogroup for Animals
VRECIANOVA Veronika	Rapporteur	AGRI	27/02/2024	FOUR PAWS

### Other Members

Name	Date	Interest representatives
CĂRCIU Gheorghe	24/01/2025	European Pet Organization
ROTH NEVEALOVÁ Katarína	14/01/2025	European Pet Organization
FRIGOUT Anne-Sophie	18/12/2024	Fondation 30 Millions d'Amis
PENNELLE Gilles	15/10/2024	fédération des associations de chasse et conservation de de la faune sauvage de l'UE
HAYER Valérie	05/09/2024	World Dog Alliance

## Welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability

2023/0447(COD) - 07/12/2023 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** establish minimum harmonised rules that ensure the proper functioning of the internal market while ensuring a high level of welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** around 44% of households in the EU have a pet animal. Trade in dogs and cats has grown considerably in recent years, with an annual value of EUR 1.3 billion. However, animal welfare standards for professional breeding, keeping and selling dogs and cats very much diverge between Member States. There is also extensive evidence of sub-standard practices and abuse.

In addition, the illegal trade in dogs and cats has soared, accelerated by a growing online market which now accounts for 60% of all dog and cat sales in the EU.

Currently, there is no EU legislation on the welfare of dogs and cats while the situation within Member States is extremely variable and uneven, both in terms of welfare standards or traceability. In absence of common framework, individual action of Member States has limited effect and cannot address key issues while dogs and cats are traded freely in the EU. In addition, in absence of common rules on traceability, illegal trade from third countries is facilitated.

CONTENT: the objective of this proposal is to **regulate the trade in dogs and cats in the internal market**, including imports from third countries, to ensure the rational development of the sector and avoid barriers to trade and **combat illegal trade** in cats and dogs while ensuring a high level of protection of animal welfare. It lays down minimum animal welfare requirements for the breeding, keeping and placing on the Union market of dogs and cats.

More specifically, the proposal:

- covers the breeding and keeping of dogs and cats in establishments (including pet shops and animal shelters) and their placing on the market or their offer for adoption at no cost. It does not apply to small establishments;
- covers the **traceability** of dogs and cats placed on the market or supplied in the Union. It excludes dogs and cats kept for scientific purposes;
- introduces the principles of animal welfare based on the concept of the "five domains", i.e. the needs of animals in terms of nutrition, environment, health, behaviour and mental state;
- establishes an obligation for operators to **notify their activities** to the competent authorities as well as to inform customers on responsible ownership.
- sets out requirements for the competence of animal caretakers and requires establishments to have veterinary visits;
- defines technical requirements on feeding and watering, housing, health, behavioural needs and painful practices, for breeding establishments, pet shops and shelters (however a number of provisions are not required for shelters). In addition, it requires breeding establishments to be approved by the competent authorities. Provisions on housing, health and the approval of breeding establishment have a deferred application of 5 years;
- obliges establishments keeping dogs and cats and suppliers of dogs and cats in the Union to identify the concerned animals by **microchip** and to register them in a database;
- requires suppliers of dogs or cats to provide **evidence of identification and registration**. In addition, **online platforms** where dogs or cats are offered for supply are required to enable suppliers to provide **proof of the identification and the registration** of dogs or cats offered on those platforms. It requires the Commission to ensure the development of a system publicly available free of charge verifying the authenticity of the identification and registration of a dog or cat;
- requires competent authorities to offer **training** for animal caretakers on animal welfare and to approve training programmes on animal welfare;
- requires Member States to establish a **database** for dogs and cats identified by microchip;
- contains rules on **stricter national measures**. Member States are allowed to maintain such rules that apply when the Regulation enters into force. Furthermore, Member States are allowed to adopt new legislation which establishes stricter national provisions as regards housing conditions, enrichment, mutilations and breeding strategies, provided that they are consistent with the Union's respective rules and that they do not restrict the free movement and placing on the market of products not complying with the stricter national requirements;
- requires the Commission to publish a monitoring report every 5 years on the welfare of dogs and cats placed on the market. Member States may put in place effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties, and to notify these to the Commission.

#### ***Budgetary implications***

The proposal will require additional human resources for managing the implementation of the legislation and the development of interoperable databases for the identification and registration of dogs and cats.

In parallel, an operational budget of EUR 1.5 million is estimated to be needed for the development and initial operation of the system of verification of the authenticity of this identification and registration for offerings via online Platforms and ensuring the interoperability of national databases and then, EUR 300 000 per year for its maintenance and operation.