

EN

P-000282/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.3.2025)

The proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability¹ contains a broad obligation of identification and registration of dogs and cats that are supplied in the EU market, with the exemption of occasional supplies of dogs and cats carried out by natural persons, by means other than online platforms. In addition, the proposal does not include obligations for identification and registration for pet owners that would have a litter and keep the puppies and kittens as their own pets without placing them on the market.

It is not excluded that Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union could be used as a legal basis for the mandatory identification and registration of all dogs and cats. However, this would require that there is evidence showing that such all-encompassing obligation would be necessary to ensure the good functioning of the internal market. To that end, proof is notably needed that the two cases not covered by the proposal to identify and register dogs and cats, as mentioned in the first paragraph would facilitate illegal cross-border trade in dogs and cats in the EU, especially once the new traceability requirements are in place. The Commission is not aware that there is such evidence available so far, hence its proposal on the identification and registration obligation. Member States retain the possibility to require identification and registration of all dogs and cats if this is deemed necessary.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0769>