

Italian Ministry of Health
Department of Veterinary Public Health, Food Safety and Collegial Bodies for Health Protection
Directorate General of Animal Health and Veterinary Drugs
Animal Protection Operative Unit

Subject: Guidelines for the movement of animals and their registration in the registry of companion animals in compliance with *Agreement 24 January 2013 between the Government, the regions and the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano, the provinces, municipalities and mountain communities in relation to identification and registration of companion animals.*

These guidelines are aimed at establishing standardised procedures for the movement of dogs and cats, and for their registration in the companion animal register when they are moved permanently from one region to another.

The procedures relate to the animals' sanitary requirements, to documentation and transportation requirements, and to the reporting requirements between the different competent authorities. Furthermore, with these Guidelines, as defined at point 2, letter c) of the above-mentioned Agreement, information is provided for the establishment of a single system of identification and registration of dogs and cats.

1. Owned animals

- The owner/keeper of a companion animal identified by microchip and registered in the regional register, even where this is on a voluntary basis, must within 10 days communicate any change of residence to another region, by providing the certificate of registration to the competent authority (Official Veterinary Service/Municipality) of the place of destination. This authority must register the animal in its regional register.
- Where the ownership of the animal is transferred between private citizens, the new owner must provide, in addition to the animal's registration certificate, a declaration signed by the previous owner, together with a copy of his/her identity document, based on Art. 76 of Presidential Decree (DPR) 28/12/2000 n°445.
- The regions and autonomous provinces, pending the activation of the web service that will ensure effective interoperability of registers, shall update the national register of companion animals by sending a record of all their entries at least at monthly intervals, as required by point 1, letter f) of the 23/01/2013 Agreement. The national database accepts the latest update by replacing the data from the registry of origin, to which it shall send a monthly update.

2. Stray and companion animals housed in public or private shelters, or other facilities

- Movement from one region to another of stray animals picked up in the territory, and of companion animals housed in shelters and refuges, both public and private, or in other shelter facilities (including boarding establishments) shall take place in compliance with the requirements indicated in the Annex.
- The requirements of the Annex also apply in the case of the transfer of animals for the purpose of adoption that includes a stay in temporary accommodation with private citizens or with animal protection associations. It must be remembered that when companion animals arrive at the establishments (shelters/refuges) and temporary accommodation (place of first destination), they must be enrolled in the regional register of the destination.
- Within 10 days prior to the movement of the animals, the owner/responsible person at the place of departure shall notify the destination veterinary service of the arrival of the animals using *Form A*, which will remain with them during the journey.
- If the transfer outside the region relates to animals that are subject to legal confiscation, *Form B* is used.
- For movements between shelters/refuges, authorisation issued by the veterinarian service (ASL) of the destination is required. Such authorisation will certify the suitability and availability of places at the recipient establishment.

3. Guidelines on the system of identification and registration for dogs and cats

Following the application of the transponder (microchip) and the accompanying entry of data in the companion animal register, the veterinarian who has carried out these procedures issues an identification and registration card, which must contain at least the following information:

– Microchip and date of registration

– Information describing the animal:

- a. Species
- b. Breed
- c. Date of birth
- d. Size
- e. Sex
- f. Coat
- g. Biter

– Owner's personal data:

- a. Name and surname
- b. Taxpayer code
- c. Residential address, and domicile if different

– Keeper's personal data:

- a. Name and surname
- b. Taxpayer code
- c. Residential address, and domicile if different

The document above may also contain non-mandatory information such as:

- a. Sterilisation
- b. Prophylactic vaccination
- c. Treatment against endo- and ectoparasites.

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Annex

Animals' health requirements

The animals must:

- be identified by microchip and registered in the regional register;
- be treated against internal and external parasites;
- be over eight weeks of age (exceptions are allowed for puppies travelling with their mother and/or in case of necessity as certified by a veterinary doctor);
- be sterilised (exceptions are allowed for puppies and animals suffering from conditions that necessitate performing the sterilisation at a later stage);
- be vaccinated against infectious diseases typical of the species;
- be subjected to accredited diagnostic tests (if over the age of six months): dogs for leishmaniasis and ehrlichiosis in the preceding 30 days – cats for FIV/FeLV

Document requirements

Animals must be accompanied by a document corresponding to *Form A*, stamped and signed by an official veterinarian, stating:

- microchip number and date of registration in the regional register;
- complete description (species, breed, gender, date of birth, coat, etc.);
- vaccinations, antiparasitic treatments and diagnostic tests carried out;
- details of the establishment of origin, and of its general manager;
- details of the destination establishment, and of its general manager;
- fitness for transportation and state of good health, on the basis of certification issued by the veterinarian responsible for the establishment of origin;
- details of sterilisation, or the reasons for its postponement;
- details of the person responsible for the transportation, and the vehicle number plate.

The certificate may be cumulative, in the case of animals coming from and destined for the same establishment.

Requirements for the means and modes of transport

The transportation of animals must comply with existing laws and regulations:

- Traffic Law and subsequent amendments – in particular paragraph 6 of Article 169 that states: *“the transportation of domestic animals only is permitted, whether one or more, on condition that they are kept in a special cage or container or in the space behind the driving seat, expressly separated by a net or other similar suitable means which, if installed permanently, must be authorised”*.
- Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 in the case of transportation for economic purposes – this definition includes transportation carried out not only by professional commercial companies, but also by volunteers and animal protection associations, either directly or through third parties, if there is an economic consideration of any kind.

Transportation must always take place in accordance with the ethological needs of the species, and of the animal's welfare and of safety. Therefore, regardless of the economic purposes, in all animal transportations the general provisions of Regulation No. 1/2005 must be respected, in order to prevent any conditions that might put transported animals in danger of injury or avoidable suffering; in the case of long journeys, stops must be provided for walking, physiological needs, the administration of water and – possibly – food.

Form A

DECLARATION OF THE ANIMALS' ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

REGION Local Health Authority

The undersigned, born in..... on / /,
Town of residenceStreet Postcode ..Province,
ID Document No., in his/her capacity as owner/keeper, declares that the animals
come from shelter/refuge.....

Identification

MICROCHIP 3800000000000000
DATE OF REGISTER ENTRY
SPECIES
BREED
SEX: M / F
DATE OF BIRTH*
COAT
STERILISED: YES / NO**
ACCREDITED SEROLOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS TESTS/EXAMINATIONS***
Date of sample Result

* Age permitted for movement: over eight weeks. Exceptions are allowed for puppies travelling with their mother and/or in case of necessity as certified by the veterinary surgeon

** Exceptions are permitted for puppies/diseases that necessitate performing the sterilisation at a later stage

*** Dogs: leishmaniasis and ehrlichiosis – Cats: FIP/FeLV

Destination

The animals are destined for: dog pound/shelter/other private citizens for adoptions/Associations
Name of the establishmentAddress.....
Details of the recipient.....

Transport

Vehicle Number plate..... authorization no. (where applicable)
driver of vehicle

Date departure time expected duration of journey

Date The keeper of the animals

Fitness for transportation and health certificates (compiled by the official veterinarian)

I, the undersigned, having visited the animals/acquired the certifications issued by the health manager, affirm that the animals are in good health and fit for transportation and have been given:

- a) antiparasitic treatments
- b) vaccinations

Date The Official Veterinarian

Signature of acknowledgement of Veterinarian Service of destination:

Date..... Signature

Form B

MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS SUBJECT TO LEGAL SEIZURE OR CONFISCATION PROVISION BASED ON THE ANIMAL PROTECTION LAW

REGIONVeterinary service (ASL)

The undersigned born in..... on / /,
Resident in Street Postcode..... ..Province,
ID Document No.. in his/her capacity as the legal guardian declares that the animals
come from shelter/refuge/establishment.....
Provision of the judiciary authority No.of (date)

Identification

MICROCHIP 3800000000000000
DATE OF REGISTER ENTRY
SPECIES
BREED
SEX: M / F
DATE OF BIRTH*
COAT
STERILISED: YES / NO**
ACCREDITED SEROLOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS TESTS/EXAMINATIONS***
Date of sample Result

* Age admitted for movement: over eight weeks. Exceptions are allowed for puppies travelling with their mother and/or in case of necessity and certificated by the veterinarian – exceptions permitted in the event of urgent relocation for police purposes

** Exceptions are permitted for puppies/diseases where it is necessary to perform the sterilisation at a later stage – exceptions permitted in the event of urgent relocation for police purposes

*** Dogs: leishmaniasis and ehrlichiosis – Cats: FIP/FeLV – exceptions permitted in the event of urgent transfer for police purposes

Destination

Animals are destined for: dog pound/shelter in judicial custody private citizens in judicial custody/adoption

Name of the establishment.....Address.....
Details of recipient.....

Transport

Vehicle Number plate..... Authorization No. (where applicable)
driver of vehicle.....
Date..... departure time expected duration of journey

Date The keeper of the animals

Fitness for transportation and sanitary certifications (compiled by the official veterinarian)

I, the undersigned, having visited the animals/acquired the certifications issued by the health manager, affirm that the animals are in good health and fit for transportation and have been given:

- a) antiparasitic treatments
- b) vaccinations

Date The Official Veterinarian

Signature of acknowledgement of Veterinarian Service of destination:

Date..... Signature