



DRAFT ROYAL DECREE XXI/2026 OF XX APPROVING THE REGULATIONS OF LAW 7/2023 OF 28 MARCH 2023 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMAL RIGHTS AND WELFARE.

The explanatory note to Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2007 on the protection of animal rights and welfare sets out the need to adapt the rules to new social sensitivities with regard to animals and, in particular, with regard to pets and wild animals in captivity.

Following approval of the law, which includes important new provisions regarding the keeping of pets and wild animals in captivity, it is necessary to develop regulations for numerous aspects defined therein, in order to shape and integrate the new legislation into the body of State law.

Similarly, the preamble to Law 50/1999 of 23 December 1999 on the legal regime governing the keeping of potentially dangerous animals, states that there are breeds of dogs that could subjectively be classified as 'dangerous', but which are perfectly suited to peaceful coexistence with people and other animals, including their own kind, provided that they have been taught appropriate behaviour patterns and that the selection practised in their breeding has been aimed at minimising their aggressive behaviour.

Therefore, the integration of pets into society, the fight against abandonment and the need for population control make it necessary to include in this royal decree certain issues that require greater precision in order to achieve the objectives set, while always respecting the basic nature of State legislation and the spheres of competence of the autonomous communities and local authorities, and taking into account the content of the Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability approved by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament.

This royal decree is structured into an explanatory memorandum, a single article, a single additional provision, four transitional provisions and six final provisions.

The single article provides for approval of the regulation of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, while the single additional provision establishes the deadline by which the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla must adapt their registration systems so that they are interoperable with SICERPA. On the other hand, the first transitional provision determines the transitional nature of the application of regional and state legislation on zoos, the second and third transitional provision respectively establish the deadlines for contracting civil liability insurance and for obtaining a course on keeping dogs and the fourth transitional provision determines the deadlines for accrediting the training required of members of the governing bodies of animal protection entities and behavioural professionals.

Finally, the first final provision amends Royal Decree 558/2001 of 25 May 2001 regulating the official recognition of pedigree dog breeder organisations or associations, bringing it into line with the new state regulations on pets.

The second final provision amends Royal Decree 287/2002 of 22 March 2002 implementing



Law 50/1999 of 23 December 1999 on the legal regime governing the keeping of potentially dangerous animals, in order to replace the current breed classification system with a classification system based on aptitude tests.

The third final provision modifies the composition of the State Council for Animal Protection, the fourth final provision establishes the scope of competence, the fifth final provision determines the power to modify the annexes, and the sixth final provision regulates entry into force.

The Regulation implementing Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 consists of 49 articles, grouped into a preliminary title and six titles.

The preliminary title sets out the object, purpose and scope of application of the implementing regulation, as well as the definitions. Title I establishes the basic conditions for keeping pets. It provides for the need to carry out annual veterinary check-ups, in the case of dogs, cats and ferrets; and such checks as are established by the Scientific and technical committee for the protection of animals for the other species included in the lists covered in the regulation; it regulates the use of invasive tools, limitations on the euthanasia of pets, civil liability insurance requirements for keepers of dogs and responsible ownership training for keepers of dogs as well as of other pets.

Title II addresses local animal protection management with regard to the characteristics of public animal protection centres and temporary and specific spaces for community cats, in order to guarantee their welfare and safety. It also provides for the possibility of public administrations and animal protection entities collaborating with foster homes for the temporary custody, care, attention and maintenance of animals in their charge. Finally, this title regulates all aspects of municipal management of cat colonies, in particular the conditions applicable to the removal of community cats from public spaces and the exceptional relocation or displacement of cat colonies.

Title III establishes the basic functioning of the Central system of registers for animal protection, its access and interoperability conditions and the minimum data to be recorded in the registers of animal protection entities, animal behaviour professionals, pet zoological units and pet breeders, without prejudice to referral of the minimum information regarding pet animals subject to compulsory identification to the system's specific regulation for their registration in the pet registry, as well as provisions on information relating to administrative and criminal disqualifications, so that they may be known to all competent administrations; the title also provides for support for inspection and surveillance by the competent bodies with the assistance of specific veterinary experts and the development of animal protection statistics and reporting on the status and progress of animal rights and protection.

Title IV develops aspects relating to the obligations of animal protection bodies.

Title V deals with the transfer and marketing of pets, establishing traceability requirements for their sale, transfer or adoption. In particular, it sets limits on the minimum age for the adoption of dogs, cats and ferrets and requires that the purchaser be informed of the animal's characteristics and its hygiene, health and behavioural needs.

Finally, Title VI regulates the breeding of pets, establishing general conditions for the breeding of dogs, cats and ferrets and the types of breeding thereof. It also covers general



conditions for keeping other pets.

This royal decree respects the principles of good regulation referred to in Article 129 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October 2015 on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

Specifically, it serves the principles of necessity and effectiveness, as it is the most appropriate instrument to ensure that the legislation is applied uniformly throughout national territory, which guarantees the general interest and meets the obligations of regulatory implementation set out in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023. Furthermore, it respects the principle of proportionality, since there is no alternative that is less restrictive of rights or that imposes fewer obligations on the recipients. This is because, despite imposing administrative burdens on citizens, these are considered essential to establishing a common framework for the protection, welfare and rights of pets in all autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, developing essential aspects of the public management of pets, particularly with regard to public animal protection centres and the management of cat colonies.

As regards the principles of legal certainty, transparency and efficiency, this regulation respects them because it is consistent with the rest of the legal framework, it involved stakeholder participation and it avoids any unnecessary or additional administrative burden. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla were consulted during the processing of this royal decree.

Furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of Law 50/1997 of 27 November 1997 on the Government, the regulation has been subject to the prior public consultation procedure, as well as to the public consultation and information procedure.

It has also been subject to the information procedure in the area of technical rules and regulations relating to information society services provided for in Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 9 September 2015, laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services, as well as that set out in Royal Decree 1337/1999, of 31 July, regulating the transmission of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of regulations on information society services.

By virtue thereof, at the proposal of the Minister for Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda, with the prior approval of the Minister for Digital Transformation and the Civil Service, in agreement with the Council of State and after deliberation by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on XXXXXX

THE FOLLOWING IS DECREED

Sole article. Approval of the regulation.

The regulation implementing Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 on the protection of animal rights and welfare, the text of which is set out below, is hereby approved.



Single additional provision. *Central system of registers for animal protection.*

Within a maximum of twelve months from the entry into force of this royal decree, the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 shall take the necessary steps to enable the regional registers to interconnect with SICERPA.

The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall have a period of 12 months to adapt the regional registers once interconnection has been enabled.

First transitional provision. *References to zoological units.*

In the case of specialised breeding, the provisions of Article 29(1)(b) shall not apply until such time as a specific State regulation on pet zoological units has been approved that provides for home-breeding zoological units. In any case, a statement of compliance must be submitted to the competent authority, in which the keeper or proprietor is identified, as well as the location, species, breed and number of animals.

Second transitional provision. *Time limits for contracting or adapting civil liability insurance for the keeping of dogs.*

Persons who, on the date of entry into force of this royal decree, are keepers of dogs shall have a period of six months to take out or, where applicable, adapt their insurance to the provisions of this royal decree.

Third transitional provision. *Deadlines for obtaining the responsible dog ownership course.*

Six months after the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 makes the online teaching platform available for the responsible dog ownership course, individuals will not be able to acquire, adopt or accept a dog on loan, nor register as its keeper, unless they have previously obtained the document certifying that they have passed the responsible dog ownership course established under Article 30(1) of Law 7/2023 of 8 March 2023.

Fourth transitional provision. *Professional certificates.*

Persons forming part of the governing organs of animal protection bodies required to hold qualifications, as well as animal behaviour professionals, shall have a period of 18 months from the entry into force of this royal decree to acquire documentation proving to the competent authority that they are adequately qualified, in accordance with the provisions of this royal decree.

First final provision. *Amendment of Royal Decree 558/2001 of 25 May 2001 regulating the official recognition of pedigree dog breeder organisations or associations.*

Royal Decree 558/2001 of 25 May 2001 regulating the official recognition of pedigree dog breeder organisations or associations is amended as follows:

One. Article 2(5) is amended to read as follows:

'5. Breeder: a person who breeds pedigree dogs for the purpose of improvement,



selection, and reproduction and who is the keeper of the mother of all of the puppies that are to be registered at the time of the litter declaration.'

Two. Article 4(c) is amended and a new point (m) is added, reading as follows:

'(c) Have a sufficient number, at the discretion of the competent authority, of breeders and animals to develop the breeding and/or conservation programme, as well as the capacity to carry out the necessary controls for the genealogical register. To this end, they must have in place a system for checking the veracity of the data communicated by breeders.

In the event of any doubt as to the veracity of the documents, it shall be compulsory to carry out parentage tests to ensure the compatibility of the litter with its parents. Paternity tests must be carried out using genetic markers (DNA), in accordance with internationally recognised criteria.'

'(m) Promote moderate and responsible breeding, with a view to protecting, as a priority, the physical and mental health of pedigree dogs and maintaining their functionality in accordance with official standards for the breed.'

Second final provision. Amendment of Royal Decree 287/2002 of 22 March 2002 implementing Law 50/1999 of 23 December 1999 on the legal regime governing the keeping of potentially dangerous animals.

Royal Decree 287/2002 of 22 March 2002, implementing Law 50/1999 of 23 December 1999 on the legal regime governing the keeping of potentially dangerous animals is hereby amended as follows:

One. A point (d) is added to Article 1, worded as follows:

'(d) Establish aptitude tests to determine whether a dog should be considered potentially dangerous.'

Two. Article 2 is amended to read as follows:

'1. For the purposes set forth in Article 2(2) of Law 50/1999 of 23 December 1999, all dogs of the breeds and their cross-breeds listed in Annex I to this royal decree that are at least 12 months old and have not passed the aptitude tests set forth in this royal decree shall be considered potentially dangerous dogs.

2. In any case, even if not included in the previous paragraph, animals of the canine species that are highly aggressive or which have attacked humans or other animals shall be considered potentially dangerous dogs.

3. In the scenarios provided for in the previous paragraph, the potential danger must be assessed by the competent authority on the basis of objective criteria. This assessment may either be made ex officio, given the animal's markedly aggressive nature, or as a consequence of administrative proceedings to that effect, the imposition of an administrative penalty or a court ruling arising from the attack.

In any case, the potential danger assessment shall require a prior report from a professional collegiate veterinarian designated or authorised by the competent authority of the autonomous community or municipality.



4. Dogs classified as potentially dangerous in accordance with (2) may be re-trained and will no longer be considered as such if they pass the aptitude tests set out in this royal decree.'

Three. Point (e) and the last paragraph of Article 3(1) are amended as follows:

'e) evidence of having contracted civil liability insurance for damage to third parties in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of Royal Decree XX implementing Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 on the protection of animal rights and welfare.'

Compliance with the requirement set out in (b) of this paragraph shall be certified by means of a negative certificate issued by the relevant registry. Compliance with the requirement set out in (c) of this paragraph shall be demonstrated by means of a sworn declaration by the applicant. Physical capacity and psychological aptitude shall be accredited by means of certificates obtained in accordance with the provisions of this royal decree.'

Four. Article 8(4) is amended and a new paragraph is added, reading as follows:

'4. Keepers of potentially dangerous dogs kept at a farm, country house, villa, plot of land, terrace, patio or any other enclosed area must have physical means, in optimal condition, to ensure that these dogs cannot come into contact with other animals or people passing near these premises.

7. Only dogs that have passed the aptitude tests may be used as breeding animals.'

Five. A new Article 10 is added, reading as follows:

'Article 10. *Aptitude tests.*

1. Aptitude tests may be carried out on potentially dangerous dogs defined as such on the basis of the provisions of Article 2(1).

2. These tests must be carried out by professionals registered in the corresponding register of pet behavioural professionals, without prejudice to the health assessment carried out by veterinary professionals.

3. All aptitude tests carried out must be registered in the relevant pet register, indicating the result thereof, the date on which they were performed and the identity of the professional certifying them.

4. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 shall, subject to a prior report from the Scientific and technical committee for animal rights and protection, approve the content, requirements and frequency of each type of aptitude test and the content of the qualification required to perform them by ministerial order.'

Six. Annex II is deleted.

Third final provision. *Composition of the State Council for Animal Protection.*

Article 5(1)(c), 3. of Order PJC/549/2025 of 29 May, regulating the composition and functioning of the State Council for Animal Protection and the Scientific and technical committee for animal rights and protection, is amended to read as follows:

'3. Two members representing pet breeder associations, one representing professional breeding and the other representing specialised breeding.'



Fourth final provision. *Title of competence.*

1. This Royal Decree is issued pursuant to the authority conferred by Article 149(1), (13), (16) and (23) of the Spanish Constitution, which respectively reserve the State exclusive competence over bases and coordination of general planning of economic activity, bases and general coordination of health matters, and basic legislation on environmental protection.
2. The following are excluded from this basic regulatory character:
 - a) Article 39(8) is issued pursuant to the provisions of Article 149(1), (6) of the Spanish Constitution, which grants the State exclusive competence over commercial legislation, and 149(1)(8) of the Spanish Constitution, which grants the State exclusive competence over civil legislation.
 - b) Articles 41 and 42 and Article 39(3)(4) and (5) are issued pursuant to Article 149(1), (6) of the Spanish Constitution, which grants the State exclusive competence over commercial legislation.
 - c) Article 39(1), (2), (6) and (7), which are issued pursuant to Article 149(1) (8) of the Spanish Constitution, which grants the State exclusive competence over civil legislation.
 - d) Article 34, which is issued pursuant to the provisions of Article 149(1)(31) of the Spanish Constitution, which grants the State exclusive competence over statistics for State purposes.
3. Articles 17, 18, 19 and 35 are not basic provisions and apply only at State level.

Fifth final provision. *Power to amend the annexes.*

The head of the Ministry responsible for the welfare and protection of pets shall be authorised to amend the content of the annexes to reflect the regulations approved by this royal decree.

Sixth final provision. *Entry into force.*

This royal decree shall enter into force six months after its publication in the Official State Gazette.

REGULATION IMPLEMENTING LAW 7/2023 OF 28 MARCH 2023 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMAL RIGHTS AND WELFARE.

PRELIMINARY TITLE General provisions

Article 1. *Object and purpose.*

1. The purpose of this royal decree is to implement part of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 on the protection of animal rights and welfare, in order to establish minimum and uniform content regarding the following matters:



- a) basic conditions applicable to the breeding, keeping, transfer and marketing of pet animals;
 - b) organisation of the Central system of registers for animal protection;
 - c) basic conditions applicable to animal protection entities, the collection of abandoned animals and the management of cat colonies.
2. The end purpose of this royal decree is to guarantee the protection of animal rights and welfare and, in particular to:
- a) establish minimum welfare standards for pets, regardless of where they are located;
 - b) establish mechanisms to reduce animal abandonment and uncontrolled breeding;
 - c) [regulate] the transfer and marketing of pets;
 - d) compile statistics and produce the report on the state and progress of animal rights and protection.

Article 2. Scope of application.

This royal decree shall apply to pets falling within the scope of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.

Article 3. Definitions.

1. For the purposes of this royal decree, the definitions laid down in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall apply.
2. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) Dog trainer or educator: a person who holds a professional certificate in basic dog training and education corresponding to the professional qualification SEA531_2 'Adiestramiento de base y educación canina' included in the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications and who trains, educates and/or modifies undesirable behaviour in dogs. In the latter case, behavioural modification will require a prior veterinary diagnosis to rule out any pathological cause for the behaviour.
 - b) Choke collar: a dog restraint device consisting of a fixed main section and a movable or adjustable section, such that it is possible to effect controlled partial closure by applying tension.
 - c) Relocation of cat colonies: a method whereby, under the exceptional conditions set out in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, a cat colony is gradually moved from one location to another, without the need to capture the cats, with the aim of transferring it to a location close to its place of origin, under the supervision of a veterinary professional and respecting the welfare and health of the cats. The movement of feeding points within the camping area or territory of the colony shall not be considered to constitute displacement.
 - d) Hybrid: any descendant of the first to fourth generations following the crossing of a wild species with a pet, or between such crosses and wild species, pets or other crossings.



- e) List of domestic pet species: list of domestic animals that should be considered pets for the purposes of application of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
- f) Specific housing space for community cats: a space that is the responsibility of a public animal protection centre, intended to accommodate exclusively community cats that, due to exceptional circumstances provided for in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, cannot be returned to their original location.
- g) Temporary accommodation space for community cats: a space intended for the temporary accommodation of community cats that are to be returned to their colonies of origin.
- h) Pedigree dog: is considered a pedigree dog as defined in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of Royal Decree 558/2001 of 25 May 2001 regulating the official recognition of pedigree dog breeder organisations or associations.
- i) Destruction: death caused to an animal for reasons of human or animal safety, or due to a risk to public health, and which is duly justified by the competent authority, using humane and painless methods and under veterinary supervision.
- j) University graduate with accreditation in animal behaviour: a person with a university degree other than veterinary medicine and with complementary training in ethology through a specific Master's degree or postgraduate course taught by a university centre, who trains, educates and/or modifies behaviour in pets, identifies behavioural problems and designs non-pharmacological intervention protocols. In the case of behavioural change and identification of behavioural problems, following a veterinary diagnosis that rules out a pathological cause.

Title I

Basic conditions for the keeping of pets

CHAPTER I

General provisions

Article 4. Basic conditions for the keeping of pets.

1. All dogs, cats (except community cats) and ferrets shall be subject to at least one annual veterinary check-up, which shall be recorded in the Register of pets. The check-up may coincide with the compulsory annual vaccination, if applicable.
2. In the case of pets other than dogs, cats and ferrets that are included in the List of domestic pet species or in the Positive list of pet animals, the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, at the proposal of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Protection of Animals, shall determine the following where appropriate:
 - a) the minimum conditions for keeping them;
 - b) the requirements for veterinary check-ups;
 - c) the minimum age for sale;



- d) whether the keeper needs to complete responsible ownership training.
3. Regarding aquarium animals, in compliance with the provisions of Article 24(2)(a) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, animals must only be held or kept in fish tanks, aquariums or the like if the latter have biological filtration mechanisms in place, so that the values of the excretion products of the aquatic animals and the derivatives of those products are maintained at appropriate values for all of the species they contain. Outdoor ponds with running water or self-purification through aquatic or marsh plants shall be exempt from the above requirement.
 4. Only pets that are considered as such under Spanish regulations may be kept on Spanish territory, whether temporarily or permanently. Should this rule be breached, the competent authority may decide to seize the animal, temporarily or permanently, or to take other measures in the interests of the welfare of the animal.
 5. For the purposes of the provisions of Articles 3(e), 3(f) and 22(4) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 in the event that the competent authority has sufficient evidence that an animal may be in a situation of abandonment or neglect because its basic needs have not been met by its keeper or guardian, or is in a situation of helplessness or illness without receiving care or assistance and remains inside premises or property that do not constitute a residence, its transfer to an animal protection centre suitable for the species may be adopted as a provisional measure so that it can be cared for while the animal abandonment or neglect proceedings are resolved.
 6. In accordance with Article 71(4) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the competent authority may decide on the destination of the animal prior to resolution of the corresponding penalties procedure, if this is necessary in order to ensure animal welfare.

Article 5. Use of invasive tools.

1. In the case of dogs, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 25(b) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the use of half-choke collars shall be permitted for registered animal behaviour professionals who train assistance dogs and for users, provided that they receive adequate training and that the collars are used to the minimum degree necessary to be effective.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 27(ñ) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the use of electric, shock, punishment or choke collars shall be prohibited.

Article 6. *Euthanasia of pets.*

1. Euthanasia of pets will only be performed following assessment by a veterinary professional, who will consider whether there is an irreversible condition that seriously compromises the animal's quality of life, and with the consent of the keeper or authorised responsible person. In cases where it is not possible to locate the keeper or authorised person responsible for the animal and it is not advisable to postpone euthanasia, the decision shall be taken by the veterinary professional, without prejudice to the responsibility of the keeper or person responsible.
2. 'Irreversible condition' means a pathology that leads to a limited life expectancy for the animal or a high probability that it will persist over time without any possibility of cure or



appreciable improvement, and for which it is not feasible to apply existing palliative or curative treatments.

3. The assessment shall be recorded in a veterinary report to which shall be attached, where appropriate, the self-declaration of the keeper regarding the circumstances determining the non-viability of the treatments.
4. The euthanasia procedure shall be performed by the veterinary professional in a quick and painless manner under prior sedation and with the application of authorised euthanasia medicinal products.

CHAPTER II

Civil liability insurance for the keeping of dogs

Article 7. Insurance cover.

1. Any person who keeps one or more dogs shall be required to have civil liability insurance throughout the animal's life, with coverage of no less than EUR 100 000 per insurance year, except in the case of keeping a potentially dangerous dog, for which coverage shall be EUR 150 000.

If the keeper does not have insurance, it must be contracted within seven days of registering ownership in the relevant registry.

2. The insurance contracted must cover the possible damage caused by the dog to third parties, whether being led and handled by its holder or by the responsible persons defined in Article 3(bb) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023. Neither the keeper of the animal nor the responsible persons, or persons who are part of their family unit, in accordance with the provisions of Article 60 of Royal Legislative Decree 8/2004 of 29 October 2004 approving the consolidated text of the Law on civil liability and insurance in the circulation of motor vehicles, can be considered an injured third party.
3. Household insurance whose civil liability guarantee includes cover for damage caused to third parties by dogs kept by the policyholder or the insured person, under the terms established in this royal decree, shall be valid for the purposes of meeting the obligation set out in Article 30(3) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
4. Animal keepers from other countries who change their residency to Spain or who remain on Spanish territory for more than four months must take out insurance within seven days of their registration in the corresponding register.
5. The sum insured under the insurance regulated in this article shall be updated in line with the consumer price index, which shall be reviewed at least every five years. This review shall be carried out by ministerial order of the head of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030.

CHAPTER III

Responsible ownership training

Article 8. General criteria for the responsible dog ownership course.



1. Individuals who wish to become keepers of a new dog shall be required to complete a responsible dog ownership course, which shall be free of charge. The following are exempt from this obligation:
 - a) persons with a degree in veterinary medicine;
 - b) persons registered in the register of animal behaviour professionals for the corresponding animal;
 - c) persons registered in the corresponding register of breeders, except for one-off breeders.
2. The course only needs to be passed once and is valid indefinitely throughout the entire country.
3. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 shall make an online platform available to the public to provide the course and issue the corresponding pass certificate, without prejudice to the possibility for any public authority or body authorised by it to issue such a certificate, in accordance with the minimum content set out in Annex I. Local authorities shall provide the means that they have at their disposal to enable persons who do not have such means to access and complete the course.
4. In order to pass the course, students must pass a final multiple-choice questionnaire on the subjects covered.
5. Successful completion of the course will result in them being sent an accreditation document issued by the public administration or authorised issuing body. If issued by an authorised body, the document must identify the authorising public administration.

Article 9. Responsible ownership courses for other pets.

The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 may approve, by ministerial order, the requirements and content of responsible ownership courses for keepers of cats, ferrets or other pets in accordance with Article 26(h) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.

TITLE II

Collection of animals and population control of cat colonies

CHAPTER I

Collection of pet animals

Article 10. Public animal protection centres.

1. Public administrations shall ensure that public animal protection centres, regardless of their form of management, comply with the requirements laid down in the applicable regulations and maintain animal welfare conditions. Public centres shall be located in the territorial area corresponding to the administration to which they are attached.
2. Public animal protection centres and public administrations may rely on the collaboration of foster homes under the terms set out in Article 13.



3. The minimum veterinary requirements and treatments set out in Article 23(1)(b) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall be those approved by the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 on the proposal of the State Council for Animal Protection.

Article 11. Basic characteristics and use of the temporary space for community cats.

1. For community cats that are temporarily removed in accordance with the provisions of Article 39(1)(h) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, municipalities must provide an enclosed space for temporary accommodation due to construction work or other circumstances, the location of which may be modified according to specific needs and circumstances. This space will not require registration as a zoological unit.
2. To ensure the welfare and safety of cats, they must have access to environmental enrichment elements, anti-escape safety measures, hiding places and areas to shelter from inclement weather.
3. In order to ensure the welfare of the animals during their stay, the temporary accommodation space must not, under any circumstances, be less than 10 m³ per cat, considering a height of 2.5 m.
4. Cats should not be kept in these spaces for a period longer than three weeks, unless the space chosen is in the area in which the colony to which the cats belong is located, in which case the period of stay should not exceed the duration of the underlying cause of the need for this action.
5. These spaces must not be used on a transitional basis for the relocation of colonies.
6. Individuals belonging to the same colony shall be housed together. Cats belonging to different colonies should not be housed together.

Article 12. Basic characteristics and use of the specific space for community cats.

1. For the relocation of Community cats as laid down in Article 15(2), a specific space for Community cats shall be available only in case of need and shall not require a zoological unit.
2. This space must be designed to prevent the entry of any animals that could endanger the safety of the cats housed in it, while at the same time allowing the cats to leave after an adaptation period of three weeks.
3. The specific space shall be located in an area that does not present potential conflicts with biodiversity, cat safety, or public health. In addition, it must be staffed and have food and water points.
4. These spaces will have to have closed adaptation zones prepared for the introduction of new individuals. To ensure the welfare and safety of cats, all environmental enrichment measures must be applied in these areas, in addition to visual separations, areas of concealment and protection from inclement weather.
5. The dimensions of the specific space shall be those set out in Article 11(3).

Article 13. Foster homes.



1. Public administrations, public animal protection centres and RAC (animal rescue) and GCOF (cat colony management) type animal protection entities may rely on a network of foster homes for the temporary custody, care, attention and maintenance of animals in their charge. To this end, they shall be required to keep a list of such foster homes, including their location and capacity and the identification details of the animals assigned to them. In the case of neonates whose identification is not advisable because of their age, only the number of animals housed shall be recorded.
2. The animals shall be identified in the name of the public administration or animal protection entity.
3. The foster home shall be responsible for the care and management of the animal, maintaining hygienic and sanitary conditions and adequate living conditions for accommodation of the animals.
4. The public administration, animal protection centre or entity shall be responsible for the suitability of the foster home, for the veterinary care of the animal and for any other expenses that may arise. The rights and obligations of both parties must be reflected in the contract and, in any case, custody of the animal may be withdrawn if compliance with the conditions established in the contract cannot be demonstrated.

CHAPTER II Cat colonies

Article 14. Minimum conditions for the management of cat colonies.

1. All community cats shall be subject to the population control referred to in Article 38(1) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, regardless of their location within the municipality, their integration or not into a registered colony and their degree of socialisation.
2. For the purposes of assessing the destruction of community cats referred to in Article 42 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the lack of socialisation of such cats, or their presence in natural areas, cannot be considered reasons for doing so.
3. The framework protocols laid down in Article 40 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the regional regulations on cat colonies.
4. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 may, at the proposal of the State Council for Animal Protection, draw up guidelines or action protocols with the aim of ensuring the welfare and safety of community cats.
5. The mapping and population count of all community cats in the municipal area referred to in Article 39(1)(f)(1) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall include, as a minimum, the identification codes of community cats and the locations of cat colonies.
6. When community cats are sterilised, they will be ear-marked, identified in accordance with current regulations and given the health treatments established in the corresponding management programme.

Article 15. Removal and relocation of community cats from public space.



1. Socialised cats and kittens of socialisation age may only be removed and housed in public centres, as well as in their foster homes or RAC-type animal protection entities that have a protection centre, or GCOF- or RAC-type entities that have foster homes, in order to preserve their safety or improve their welfare and initiate an adoption process.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 23(1)(i) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the relocation of community cats found in locations or situations where their colony of origin cannot be determined and where they are in danger shall be permitted, on an exceptional basis, to the specific space described in Article 12, provided that it has not been possible to integrate them into another nearby colony.
3. Community cats shall be temporarily removed to the area referred to in Article 11 in those extraordinary or unexpected situations that endanger the safety or welfare of the animals, whether for veterinary treatment or other duly justified situations of need.
4. Animals removed to temporary accommodation spaces or relocated to specific spaces shall be sterilised and identified. They shall be vaccinated and dewormed, and any other measures determined in the health programme will be carried out.

Article 16. Relocation or displacement of cat colonies.

1. Prior to application of the exceptions referred to in Article 42(7) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the possibility of implementing feasible measures that do not involve changes in the location of the colony shall be assessed in each case. If this is not possible, displacement of the colonies shall be prioritised over relocation.
2. In order to proceed with displacement or relocation in all cases provided for in Article 42(7) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the local council must choose a destination location for the colony, the conditions and situation of which must be approved by the person designated in the management programme provided for in Article 39 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, seeking the collaboration of the colony's carers and under the supervision of the responsible veterinary professional.
3. In the case of relocation, the location chosen as the destination for the cat colony must meet the following requirements:
 - a) provide adequate and sufficient conditions to ensure the safety and well-being of cats in the area;
 - b) have enclosed facilities that meet the conditions set out in Article 12(4) and (5);
 - c) have staff and/or carers assigned to cat colonies;
 - d) not present potential conflicts with biodiversity, or public health and safety.

CHAPTER III

Information, control and statistics on animal protection

CHAPTER I

Central system of registers for animal protection

Article 17. General provisions.



1. The Central system of registers for animal protection (Sistema Central de Registros para la Protección Animales, hereinafter SICERPA) is a single information system whose main purpose is to coordinate the information contained in the various registries maintained by the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, as established in Article 9 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
2. SICERPA shall aim to ensure interoperability between the registers of the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, to serve as the basis for the preparation of Animal Protection Statistics and compliance with the obligations laid down in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 and the other applicable legislation in force.
3. SICERPA will draw on the minimum information established in this royal decree, gathered in the registers of the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, relating to animal protection entities, animal behaviour professionals, pet animals, pet zoological units and pet breeders, in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
4. In fulfilment of their respective competences and functions regarding the protection and guarantee of animal rights, the following shall have access to the information in SICERPA that is necessary for the performance of their functions:
 - a) any body of the competent public authorities;
 - b) the Public Prosecutor's Office and the State Security Forces and Bodies, the Regional Police and the Local Police;
 - c) registered animal protection entities, in accordance with the provisions of Article 49(2) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, exclusively for the purpose of consulting information voluntarily provided by the keeper for the purpose of reporting the discovery of lost animals, without prejudice to the provisions of data protection regulations;
 - d) the identifying veterinary professional, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations on the identification of pet animals, through the regional registers and those of the cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Article 18. *Characteristics of SICERPA.*

1. SICERPA shall be developed as an interoperable system that will enable consultation and exchange of information with the various registers under the responsibility of the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla.
2. For statistical purposes, SICERPA shall have disaggregated data available in formats that allow the information to be used, reused and redistributed quickly and easily, with no restrictive conditions on access other than anonymisation of the information.
3. The minimum content available for consultation and data exchange via SICERPA is set out in Annex II, without prejudice to the minimum information on pet animals subject to compulsory identification provided for in the specific regulations.
4. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 shall be responsible for defining, designing and coordinating the model for interoperability with SICERPA of information recorded in the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla.



5. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall be responsible for managing the collection, retention and updating of, and access to, the minimum information included in Annex II, as well as for developing systems that make their information systems interoperable with SICERPA, based on the information communicated by the data holders.
6. Likewise, SICERPA must have a system that permits automated, secure and limited access to digital platforms obliged to check the information included in animal advertisements, in accordance with the provisions of Article 57 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.

Article 19. Data protection.

1. The end purpose of the data transmitted to SICERPA shall be that provided for in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
2. The processing of personal data in SICERPA shall be governed by the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December 2018 on the protection of personal data and the guarantee of digital rights.
3. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 shall be responsible for the processing of the data contained in SICERPA. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall be responsible for the data in their information systems in accordance with the scope of their respective jurisdictions.
4. When a data subject requests access to their personal data, they shall be provided with the information referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 and Article 11 of Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December 2018.
5. Data subjects may exercise the rights referred to in Articles 15 to 22 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 before the administrations of the communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla, as applicable.
6. The security measures to be implemented in the registers making up the SICERPA shall be those determined by the data controller according to the categorisation of the system, the risk analysis and, where appropriate, the impact assessment on personal data protection, of those included in Annex II to Royal Decree 311/2022 of 3 May 2022 regulating the National Security Scheme.

Article 20. Publication of lists.

1. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall adopt the appropriate mechanisms to make public the updated lists of animal protection bodies, animal behaviour professionals, pet breeders and zoological units registered in their respective registers.
2. In the case of dog and cat breeders, the data collected shall be that indicated in the applicable European regulations.



CHAPTER II

Information on animal protection entities

Article 21. *Minimum requirements.*

1. Animal protection entities applying for registration in the registers of the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla relating to animal protection entities shall meet the following minimum requirements, without prejudice to the obligations established for each of the types established in Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023:
 - a) to be legally established as an association or foundation and have the defence and protection of animals as their principal purpose, according to their statutes;
 - b) to have a definitive tax identification number.
2. Animal protection associations or foundations registered in a national register must apply for registration in the register of animal protection entities of the autonomous community in which their registered office is located, indicating that they are national in nature.
3. Failure by entities to comply with any of the requirements set forth in the first paragraph of this article shall entitle the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla to process their removal from the register.

Article 22. *Minimum access data.*

1. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla must permit SICERPA access to the minimum information specified in Annex II(1), without prejudice to the provisions of Article 49(1) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
2. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall register animal protection entities with an identification code with the following structure:
 - a) 'EPA', which identifies the code of an animal protection entity;
 - b) two digits for the autonomous community or cities of Ceuta and Melilla in which the headquarters is located, according to the code assigned by the National Institute of Statistics (hereinafter, INE);
 - c) five digits that uniquely identify the entity.

CHAPTER III

Information on animal behaviour professionals

Article 23. *Minimum requirements.*

1. Animal behaviour professionals who are registered in the registers of the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, in which their tax domicile is located, must meet the following minimum requirements:
 - a) to hold one of the qualifications listed in Annex II(2)(a);
 - b) to keep a register of their professional activity, of the scope and content determined by the competent regional body, where appropriate.



2. Failure by animal behaviour professionals to comply with any of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph shall entitle the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla to process their removal from the register.
3. The purpose of registration is to keep a record of professionals with specific knowledge of animal behaviour, without prejudice to the authorisation granted to qualified veterinarians.

Article 24. Basic professional categories.

1. The basic professional categories of animal behaviour professionals, for the purposes of their registration in the regional registers of animal behaviour professionals, shall be those set out in Annex II(2)(a).
2. In addition to these categories, the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 may, by ministerial order, establish new additional basic categories and corresponding qualifications that enable registration in the existing basic categories, should the need and appropriateness of doing so be demonstrated.

Article 25. Minimum access data.

1. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall permit SICERPA access to the minimum information contained in Annex II(2)(b).
2. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall register animal behaviour professionals with an identification code with the following structure:
 - a) 'PCA', which identifies the code of an animal behaviour professional;
 - b) seven digits that uniquely identify the professional.

CHAPTER IV Information on pets

Article 26. Minimum requirements.

1. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla must register in their pet registers pet animals that have a compulsory individual identification system, in accordance with the current regulations on the identification of pets.
2. The pet registers of the autonomous communities and of the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall make it possible to inform the autonomous community or city of Ceuta or Melilla in which the animal is registered, via SICERPA, of any change in its information so that the latter can update the data in its register.

Article 27. Minimum access data.

The autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla must permit SICERPA access to the minimum information on pets subject to compulsory identification in accordance with the provisions of the specific regulations on the identification of pets.



CHAPTER V Information on pet zoological units

Article 28. *Minimum access data.*

1. The registers of pet zoological units in the autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall include the information contained in the specific state regulation on pet zoological units.
2. The autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla must register pet zoological units with an identification code with the following structure:
 - a) 'NZ', which identifies the code of a zoological unit;
 - b) two digits for the autonomous community or cities of Ceuta and Melilla in which the headquarters is located, according to the code assigned by the INE;
 - c) six digits that uniquely identify the establishment within the municipality.

CHAPTER VI Information on pet breeders

Article 29. *Minimum requirements.*

1. Individuals who register with the autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla as pet breeders must meet the following minimum requirements:
 - d) to have undergone the training laid down in Article 44(2);
 - e) to have one of the zoological units defined as authorised for breeding in the corresponding implementing regulations, except in the case of one-off breeding;
 - f) to be the keeper of at least one breeding female of the species and, where applicable, the breed for which they are registered as a breeder.
2. Failure by breeders to comply with any of the requirements set out in the previous section shall entitle the autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla to process their removal from the register.

Article 30. *Minimum access data.*

1. The autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall allow access to the minimum information contained in Annex II(4), 3.
2. The autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla shall register pet breeders with an identification code with the following structure:
 - a) 'CRA', which identifies the code of a pet breeder;
 - b) seven digits that uniquely identify the breeder.



CHAPTER VII

Administrative and penal disqualifications

Article 31. Checking for administrative disqualifications.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the autonomous communities and cities of Ceuta and Melilla must make information available, via SICERPA, relating to administrative disqualifications from practising a profession, trade or business relating to animals, as well as from owning animals, which are definitive and in force and have occurred in their respective territorial areas, so that they can be checked by the other competent administrations.

Article 32. Accreditation of criminal disqualifications.

When an application is submitted for registration in any of the registers forming part of SICERPA, the system must allow for online checking of the Central Register of Convicted Persons to ensure that the person concerned is not disqualified from practising a profession, trade or business relating to animals, or from keeping animals.

CHAPTER VIII

Inspection and surveillance support

Article 33. Veterinary expertise.

For the purposes of carrying out the inspection and surveillance activities referred to in Article 66(8) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the competent bodies of the autonomous communities, the cities of Ceuta and Melilla and local authorities may seek the assistance of veterinary experts.

CHAPTER IX

Statistics and report on the status and progress of animal rights and protection.

Article 34. Content of the Animal Protection Statistics.

1. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 shall approve the Animal Protection status indicators by ministerial order, following a proposal from the State Council for Animal Protection. In coordination with the INE, and in accordance with the applicable regulations, these statistics may be included in the National Statistical Plan.
2. The autonomous communities, the cities of Ceuta and Melilla and the other public entities and administrations listed in Article 14 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall make available to the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 the information necessary to calculate or determine the aforementioned indicators, except in cases where such information can be obtained directly from SICERPA or any other public register.



Article 35. Report on the status and progress of animal rights and protection.

1. The report on the status and progress of animal rights and protection, regulated under Article 15(2) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, shall be prepared by the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 every three years, starting from the entry into force of this royal decree, and shall include the following:
 - a) evaluation of the results achieved by the main policies adopted in this area;
 - b) a diagnosis of the situation regarding protection of the rights and welfare of pets and captive wild animals;
 - c) a diagnosis of the situation regarding animal mistreatment and abandonment in the last three years.
2. The Report on the status and progress of animal rights and protection shall serve as the basis for creation of the State Animal Protection Plan.
3. For the purposes of creating this report, animal protection centres and animal protection entities shall make available to the competent authority, in the manner determined by the competent authority and before 1 March of each year, an annual report on the previous year, regarding the animals that have been collected at their centres, including the information determined according to the provisions of Article 34(2).

Article 36. Territorial animal protection programmes.

The territorial animal protection programmes referred to in Article 18 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall be approved and implemented in accordance with the provisions issued by the various public administrations within their respective spheres of competence.

TITLE IV
Animal protection entities

Article 37. Obligations of animal protection entities.

1. RAC- and GCOF-type animal protection entities must, if they have foster homes:
 - a) keep a record of animals in care and those given up for adoption with the following information:
 - 1.º entry data: original identification of the animal, if any, or identification by the entity if the animal was not already identified;
 - 2.º data relating to the animal: species, sex, age, breed;
 - 3.º data relating to its origin: cause of arrival at the entity (stray, transfer, seizure, other), health status, date of entry to the entity and the location at which the animal was collected;
 - 4.º exit data: date of departure, destination (adoption, recovery by keeper, partner shops for adoption, transfer, or death, giving the cause) and details of the new keeper.



If the entity has a zoological unit, this register may be replaced by the register of the unit;

- b) keep a register of foster homes, other locations of animals under their responsibility and collaborating pets adoption shops with which they have a collaboration agreement.
2. In the case of RAC-type animal protection entities with a zoological unit and RAD-type [rescue and rehabilitation of production animals], at least one member of the entity's management body must hold the professional certificate corresponding to qualification AGA781_3 'Assistance in animal protection centres' of the National Institute of Qualifications or other equivalent accreditation established by the competent authority. A bachelor's degree or graduate degree in veterinary medicine shall also be valid for the purposes of meeting this requirement.
3. In compliance with the provisions of Article 58(7) and Article 58(8) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the animal protection entity must have at least one veterinary professional who advises the organisation's governing body and assesses the health status of the animals.

Article 38. Administrative authorisations.

The administrative authorisations provided for in Articles 44(l) and 47(c) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 shall be issued by local authorities, without prejudice to the provisions of the relevant regional legislation.

Title V

Transfer and marketing of pet animals

CHAPTER I

Transfer of pet animals

Article 39. General conditions.

1. In accordance with the provisions of Articles 55 to 58 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, pets may be transferred in any of the following ways: sale, transfer or adoption.
2. Regardless of the form of transfer, the identification documentation associated with the animal must be provided if applicable.
3. In compliance with Article 55(2) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, the sale must be formalised by means of a written contract of sale, the content of which must include the minimum clauses set out in Annex III.
4. The seller may request that the buyer provide any information deemed necessary in order to assess their suitability and ability to maintain the animal's welfare, these being considered conditions of purchase for the purposes of Article 9(1) of Law 7/1996 of 15 January 1996 regulating retail trade.
5. The transfer must be formalised by means of a contract that must include the minimum



clauses set out in Annex IV and must not be subject to any financial compensation, in accordance with Article 58(2) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.

6. The adoption must be formalised by means of a contract that must include the minimum clauses set out in Annex V, in accordance with Article 58(4) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
7. In the case of animals not subject to compulsory individual identification, the contracts established in (3), (5) and (6) may refer to a batch of animals, indicating its number.
8. In order to register the animals in the corresponding pet registry under the name of the new keeper, the latter must present the transfer agreement.

Article 40. Adoption of pet animals.

1. No individual of the dog, cat or ferret species aged less than eight weeks shall be given for adoption, unless the professional veterinarian determines that such adoption may take place earlier in order to improve the animal's chances of survival and welfare.
2. The adoption of any pet animal shall meet the following requirements:
 - a) the animal shall be pre-identified in the name of the animal protection entity or the local entity responsible for the public animal protection centre;
 - b) the adopting party shall be informed in writing, via the information in the adoption contract, of the origin of the animal and its characteristics, as well as general guidelines, the care that it should receive and the responsibilities that the adopting party has acquired;
 - c) the adopting party shall receive the certificate issued by the veterinary professional describing the treatments performed.
3. In the case of adoptions from animal protection entities that have protection centres or foster homes, the fee to cover the basic veterinary expenses of the animal being adopted must be displayed in a place visible to the public or announced in the digital media of the entity.

CHAPTER II

Marketing of pet animals

Article 41. Marketing of pet animals subject to compulsory identification.

1. All pets subject to compulsory identification that are sold in Spain must be identified in the breeder's name prior to the transaction, in accordance with the provisions of Article 55.4 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023. In the case of animals acquired in other countries, the keeper must provide the information necessary to determine the origin of the animals.
2. Dogs, cats or ferrets may only be sold on Spanish territory from a zoological unit in the name of a person registered as a breeder. Shops may provide advice on responsible ownership to persons interested in purchasing a pet, as well as information on registered breeders.



3. The zoological units referred to in Article 55(7) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 must be zoological units authorised for breeding.
4. The information contained in the sales contract will serve as proof that the notification required under Article 55(5) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 has been made.

Article 42. Marketing of pet animals not subject to compulsory identification.

1. Pet shops authorised in accordance with Article 55(4) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023 may only be used for the marketing of pet animals not subject to compulsory identification.
2. The animals placed on the market in the shops referred to in (1) must come exclusively from breeders or commercial intermediaries established and registered in Spain or in another Member State of the European Union. Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, commercial operators may import such animals from third countries, provided that they provide documentary evidence of compliance with European Union legislation and the applicable national legislation.

TITLE VI
Breeding of pet animals

CHAPTER I
Breeding of dogs, cats and ferrets

Article 43. General conditions.

1. The breeding of dogs, cats, and ferrets must comply with the following requirements:
 - a) Breeding animals shall be registered in the corresponding regional pet registry, except in the case of the use of semen or of males not resident in Spain.
 - b) The keeper of the female animal shall be registered in the register of pet breeders of the autonomous community in which they reside, in accordance with Article 53(1) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.
2. Breeding between parents and children, between siblings, between half siblings or between grandparents and grandchildren shall be prohibited. In order to improve breeds, the autonomous communities may establish derogations, on the proposal of officially recognised associations, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 558/2001 of 25 May 2001 regulating the official recognition of pedigree dog breeder organisations or associations.
3. Breeding for the purpose of obtaining hybrids shall be prohibited.
4. The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030 may, subject to a prior report from the Scientific and technical committee for animal rights and protection, establish specific conditions, by ministerial order, for the breeding of dogs, cats and ferrets according to their breed, as well as limit or prohibit the breeding of certain breeds or crosses with genotypes or phenotypes that are detrimental to their health.



5. Before each reproduction, the females will be examined by a veterinary professional who will check their suitability for breeding and this will be recorded in the animal's medical record. In the case of males, suitability for breeding may be checked in the annual veterinary review referred to in Article 4(1).
6. Artificial insemination may only be performed by veterinary professionals.
7. Lactating cats and ferrets may not be mated or inseminated.
8. A maximum of two caesarean sections is permitted per breeding female. Once this number has been exceeded, the female cannot be used for breeding.
9. The animals must maintain social contact with other animals and people. Puppies must be handled to get them used to human contact and should live with at least their mother and siblings until they are 8 weeks old in the case of dogs and 12 weeks old in the case of cats.
10. Food, veterinary care and adequate space shall be provided for the female and her offspring during the gestation, perinatal and postnatal periods, until the offspring are weaned and separated from their mother.
11. In the case of dogs, females may be used for breeding from their second oestrus onwards. They must not have more than three litters in two years. In this case, they must have a rest period of at least one year. From the age of 8, in the examination referred to in (5), the veterinary professional must indicate in the clinical record that pregnancy is not contraindicated and, in any case, the animal may not be used for breeding once it has reached the age of 10.
12. In the case of cats, female cats may be mated from the age of 10 months. They must not have more than three litters in two years. From the age of six, in the examination referred to in (5), the veterinary professional must indicate in the clinical record that pregnancy is not contraindicated and, in any case, the animal must not be used for breeding at the age of eight.

Article 44. *Types of breeding.*

1. The following types of breeding are permitted in accordance with the provisions of Article 53(4) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023:
 - a) specialised breeding of dogs or cats;
 - b) professional breeding of dogs, cats or ferrets;
 - c) one-off breeding of dogs.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 53(3) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023, breeders carrying out professional and specialised breeding must have undergone training, the minimum content of which shall be determined by the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, by ministerial order. Persons who hold a degree in veterinary medicine or those who can prove that they have acquired the required knowledge through relevant professional experience shall be exempt from this training.

Article 45. *Specific conditions for the specialised breeding of dogs or cats.*



1. For the purposes of classification, specialised breeding of dogs or cats is defined as breeding carried out at the breeder's usual place of residence and in a family environment.
2. Specialist breeding may only be carried out using breeding specimens registered in the pedigree books of one of the officially recognised associations of pedigree breeders.
3. Dogs or cats may only be used for breeding purposes if the tests determined by order of the Minister for Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, subject to a prior report from the Scientific and technical committee for animal rights and protection, have been performed prior to the first mating.

Article 46. Professional breeding of dogs, cats or ferrets.

1. The following are considered to constitute professional breeding:
 - a) dog or cat breeding that does not comply with any of the requirements set out in Article 45.
 - b) Ferret breeding.
2. In the case of professional breeding using pedigree animals registered in pedigree books, the provisions of Article 45(3) shall apply.

Article 47. Specific conditions for the one-off breeding of dogs.

1. One-off dog breeding means breeding that is limited to one litter throughout the entire life cycle of the breeding female.
2. The breeding animal must be registered as such before the birth of the puppies.
3. A one-off breeder may not register more than one breeding female, nor may they register additional breeding animals until at least five years have passed since the last registration.
4. Classification as a one-off breeder is incompatible with any other classification and is non-commercial in nature.

CHAPTER II

Breeding of other pet animals subject to compulsory identification

Article 48. General conditions.

1. When including the species, subspecies or breed on the List of domestic pet species or on the corresponding Positive list of pets, details shall be given of the breeding conditions, parental health, reproductive limitations, specific training and other aspects.
2. Likewise, where the species, subspecies or breed is included in the lists referred to in the previous paragraph, breeding of the animals shall only be permitted when the registered keepers are registered in the corresponding register of pet breeders, without prejudice to the registration obligations of other legislation applicable to them.
3. Breeders of pets other than dogs, cats and ferrets shall be registered in the Register of



breeders under a single category.

CHAPTER III

Breeding of pet animals not subject to compulsory identification

Article 49. *General conditions.*

1. When including the species, subspecies or breed on the List of domestic pet species or on the Positive list of pets, details shall be given of the breeding conditions, parental health, reproductive limitations, specific training and other aspects.
2. Pet animals not subject to compulsory identification must be bred by breeders registered in the corresponding regional registry in accordance with Article 53(1) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023.



ANNEX I

Minimum content of the responsible dog ownership course

The course shall last a minimum of four teaching hours.

1. Issues to consider before getting a dog:
 - a) introduction to the obligations of dog ownership, including those specific to potentially dangerous dogs;
 - b) financial costs (food, veterinary care, insurance, etc.);
 - c) needs in terms of space and time;
 - d) longevity;
 - e) compatibility with the keeping of other animals in the home;
 - f) the role of the dog in the family.

2. How to choose my future dog:
 - a) specific requirements for adoption and purchase;
 - b) characteristics of the dog: age, size, breed, sex, character, needs and life expectancy;
 - c) coexistence in households with children, the elderly or dependent persons.

3. Health and care:
 - a) physiological needs of dogs;
 - b) vaccinations, deworming and health check-ups;
 - c) veterinary emergencies: common symptoms;
 - d) feeding adapted to each stage of development;
 - e) hygienic care;
 - f) spaces and safety in the home;
 - g) play, exercise and environmental enrichment.

4. Fundamentals of management, integration into society and socialisation:
 - a) basic concepts of canine language;
 - b) adequate bonding, handling and interaction;
 - c) basic education for coexistence with people and other dogs;
 - d) walking and using a lead;
 - e) most common behavioural changes;
 - f) handling during transport.

5. Puppy and senior dog, specific care:
 - a) the puppy,
 - b) the senior dog.

6. Responsibilities and obligations as a keeper:
 - a) obligations and prohibitions;
 - b) my dog in society;
 - c) dogs' access to public and private spaces;
 - d) travel requirements.



ANNEX II

Minimum content for data exchange via SICERPA

1. Minimum information on animal protection entities:
 - a) identification code in the register;
 - b) name, NIF (tax ID No), company name, address and email address of the entity;
 - c) name and NIF/NIE of the legal representative of the entity;
 - d) date of registration in the regional or national register;
 - e) type of entity, in accordance with Article 43 of Law 7/2023 of 28 March 2023;
 - f) code of the zoological unit associated with the entity, if applicable;
 - g) collegiate number of the assessing veterinary professional, if applicable.

2. Categories and minimum information on animal behaviour professionals:
 - a) professional categories:
 - 1.º veterinary professional accredited in animal behaviour: registered individuals must hold a degree in veterinary medicine and one of the following accreditations in animal behaviour:
 - i. specific training accredited by scientific society or collegiate veterinary organisations;
 - ii. a Master's degree or postgraduate course taught by universities offering Bachelor's degrees in veterinary medicine;
 - iii. any other postgraduate certification awarded by centres accredited by the Employment Training System;
 - 2.º a university degree with accreditation in animal behaviour;
 - 3.º dog trainer or educator;
 - 4.º assistant dog instructor: registered persons must hold at least the SSCCI0112 Professional Certificate 'Assistance dog instructor (level 3)' of Royal Decree 990/2013 of 23 December 2013 establishing six professional certificates for the professional family 'Sociocultural services and the Community' that are included in the National Catalogue of Professional Certificates and updating a professional certificate for the professional family of Food Industries established in Royal Decree 646/2011 of 9 May 2011;
 - b) minimum information:
 - 5.º identification code in the register;
 - 6.º name, NIF/NIE, address and email of the professional;
 - 7.º date of registration in the regional register;
 - 8.º qualifications or certification supporting the performance of one or more of the professional activities referred to in Article 10(6)(b) of Law 7/2023 of 28 March



2023;

9.º professional activities carried out in accordance with the classification in Annex II(2)(a);

10.º species of pet animals to which their activity relates.

3. Minimum information on pet zoological units:

- a) identification code in the register;
- b) address or contact details;
- c) type and category of the animal breeding centre in question;
- d) name, tax identification number and email address of the holder of the pet animal zoological unit;
- e) date of registration in the regional register;
- f) in the case of mammals, the species kept at the centre; for other species (birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates), the groups of animals kept;
- g) in the case of mammals, the maximum capacity per species; for other species (birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates), per groups of animals kept;
- h) population count, if applicable.

4. Minimum information on pet breeders:

- a) identification code in the register;
- b) name, NIF, address and email;
- c) date of registration in the regional register;
- d) species and breed to which their breeding activity relates;
- e) type of breeder, in accordance with the classifications established in this royal decree;
- f) pet zoological unit associated with the breeding activity, if applicable.



ANNEX III

Minimum clauses for pet sales contracts

These contracts must include at least the following clauses, without prejudice to the content laid down in the regulations applicable to them:

1. Seller details: breeder and zoological unit registration number or zoological unit shop registration number, as applicable, tax identification number, address, telephone number and contact email address.
2. Purchaser details: first name, surname, tax identification number, address, telephone number and contact email address.
3. Details of the pet animal: identification according to regulations, age, species, breed, sex, vaccinations, deworming, whether or not sterilised, identification of the parents, tests performed on the latter and predisposition to diseases, if applicable.
4. A clause whereby the seller declares that the animal is identified in their name, if identification is compulsory, and authorises the change of keeper of the animal to be recorded in the relevant register.
5. A clause stating that the purchasing party must, at the time of signing the contract, declare that they are not administratively or criminally disqualified from keeping or handling animals and hold a certificate of completion of the training course if so required.
6. An annex containing information on the characteristics of the animal and its care and management needs, including veterinary care, as well as the legal responsibilities acquired by the buyer. This annex must be expressly signed by the buyer, attesting that they have read and understood its content and agree to the content of the text.
7. A clause stating the purchase amount paid.
8. A clause that sets out the seller's obligations regarding the health of the animal and the guarantees offered.



ANNEX IV Minimum clauses of the contract for the transfer of pet animals

Contracts for the transfer of pets must cover at least the following aspects, without prejudice to the content laid down in the regulations applicable to them:

1. details of both signatories to the contract: first name, surname, tax identification number, address, telephone number and contact email address;
2. details of the pet animal: identification according to regulations, age, species, breed, sex, vaccinations, deworming, whether or not sterilised, identification of the parents, tests performed on the latter, if applicable;
3. self-declaration by both parties that the transfer is carried out without any economic exchange;
4. declaration by the transferor that the animal is identified in their name, if identification is compulsory, and that they authorise the change of keeper of the animal to be recorded in the relevant register;
5. self-declaration by the future keeper that they are not administratively or criminally disqualified from keeping or handling animals and that they have a certificate proving that they have passed the training course, if required.



ANNEX V

Minimum content of adoption contracts

These contracts must include at least the following clauses, without prejudice to the content laid down in the regulations applicable to them:

1. Details of the animal protection entity or public animal protection centre placing the animal for adoption: registration number, zoological unit number if applicable, NIF, address, telephone and contact email.
2. Details of the adopting party: first name, surname, tax identification number, address, telephone number and contact email address.
3. Details of the pet animal: identification according to regulations, age, species, breed, sex, whether or not sterilised and identification of the parents, if applicable.
4. A clause stating that the adopting party must, at the time of signing the contract, declare that they are not administratively or criminally disqualified from keeping or handling animals and hold a certificate of completion of the training course if so required.
5. An annex containing information on the origin of the animal, its characteristics, general guidelines, the care that it should receive and the legal responsibilities associated with keeping the animal. This annex must be expressly signed by the adopting party, attesting that they have read and understood its content and agree to the content of the text.
6. A clause indicating the basic veterinary costs to be covered by a fee.
7. A specific contractual obligation may be established to the effect that the transfer of the animal to third parties by the person placing the animal for adoption must be authorised by the public animal protection centre or the corresponding animal protection entity.
8. A clause covering the commitment to sterilise the adopted animal, if necessary.