

Act amending the Veterinary Act and other related actss

§ 1. Amendment to the Veterinary Act

The Veterinary Act is amended as follows:

1) in the text of the Act, the words ‘register of farm animals’ are replaced by the words ‘animal register’ except for § 117, in the appropriate grammatical case;

2) Section 2(4) is amended and worded as follows:

"(4) *The health inspection of a person participating in the handling of terrestrial animals and equine animals normally kept for the purpose of obtaining animal products and germinal products (hereinafter farmed animal) and products of animal origin other than animal by-products is subject to the Act on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.*";

3) section 3¹ is added to the Act to read as follows:

“§ 3¹. Pet animal

The provisions regulating identification of the pet animal using an injectable electronic means of identification (hereinafter *microchip*), registration in the animal register and record keeping of the pet animal shall also apply to keeping an animal normally kept as a pet animal for commercial or special purposes.”;

4) In section 9 clause 2, the text ‘in Articles 33-35’ is replaced with ‘in Articles 33 and 34 and Article 35(1)(a) and (b) and (2)’;

5) Section 19(1)8) is amended and worded as follows:

"8) add their first name, surname and professional activity licence number to their signature when issuing a certificate concerning a veterinary procedure performed on an animal;"

6) The Subsection 1¹ shall be added to Section 21, worded as follows:

"(1¹) The statute of the Register of Veterinarians shall lay down the procedure for keeping the register, including:

- 1) more precise data composition;
- 2) data providers and the data they provide;
- 3) the responsibilities of the controller;
- 4) the procedure for accessing the data;
- 5) more specific terms for data retention;
- 6) other organisational issues."

7) The following subsection 5¹ is added to section 21, worded as follows:

"(5¹) The controller shall have the right to use the contact details of a person registered in the register of veterinarians to send that person a notification related to the controller's activities, a notification of the threat of an animal disease, and a notification of the need to provide assistance in carrying out an animal disease control operation.. Provided the consent of the individual, their contact details may also be used for monitoring or conducting surveys in the field of animal health."

8) Section 21(6) (3) is amended and worded as follows:

"3) details of the place of work, including details of all animal establishments and other places where veterinary services are permanently provided by a veterinarian;"

9) the following clause 3¹ is added to Section 21(6):

"3¹) details regarding the competence of the authorised veterinarian;"

10) Section 21(8) is amended and worded as follows:

"(8) Data collected on the veterinarian in accordance with subsection 6 of this section and entered in the Veterinarians' Register shall be kept for 5 years from the date of the decision to refuse or revoke the authorisation to carry out a professional activity or from the date the authorisation ceases to be valid. The logs shall be kept in accordance with the provisions of the statute of the Veterinarians' Register.";

11) Section 21(9) is amended and worded as follows:

"(9) The person who submits data is responsible for the correctness of the data entered in the register of veterinarians. In the event of a change of the data entered in the register of veterinarians, a request for a change of the data must be submitted without delay.";

12) Section 21 shall be supplemented with subsections 11 and 12 worded as follows:

"(11) The controller shall publish for public use the following data related to professional activity licence in the register of veterinarians for the purpose specified in clause 1 of subsection 2 of this section:

- 1) the first name and surname of the veterinarian;
- 2) the number of the veterinarian's professional activity licence;
- 3) information on the location of the service provision sites where the veterinarian provides veterinary services on a permanent basis: county or local government;
- 4) the term for suspension of the veterinary professional activity permit.

(12) The controller shall publish for public use for the purposes specified in section 2 (1) of this section the following data relating to the granting of the rights of an authorised veterinarian contained in the register of veterinarians:

- 1) contact details of the authorised veterinarian: telephone number and e-mail address;
- 2) the date of commencement of the authorisation;
- 3) the date of expiry of the authorisation;
- 4) the supervisory area of the authorised veterinarian: county and specific details of the supervisory area.";

13) Section 30 shall be supplemented with subsections 1¹–1³ in the following wording:

"(1¹) The keeper of dogs, cats and ferrets, including those keeping animals of this type for commercial or specialised purposes, shall arrange for their animals to be identified by means of a microchip.

(1²) A pet animal of a species other than those specified in subsection 1¹ of this section may be identified with a microchip approved by the Agriculture and Food Board for the marking of that species in accordance with subsection 2 of this section.

(1³) The microchip used to identify the animal shall be installed by a veterinarian.";

14) Section 30(2) is amended and worded as follows:

"(2) The Agriculture and Food Board shall approve an electronic means of identification which complies with the requirements laid down in the relevant European Union legislation.";

(15) subsection (2¹) is added to section 30 in the following wording:

"(2¹) For the approval of an electronic means of identification used for marking kept terrestrial animals, the manufacturer or distributor of that means of identification shall submit an application to the Agriculture and Food Board.";

(16) subsection (3¹) is added to section 30 in the following wording:

"(3¹) The Agriculture and Food Board shall publish on its website the list of electronic means of identification approved in accordance with subsection (2) of this Section, broken down by producers and distributors.";

17) Section 30 (4) is amended and worded as follows:

"(4) the means of identification used to mark the kept terrestrial animal shall be issued by a person who has entered into an administrative contract with the Agriculture and Food Board for that purpose upon application and at the expense of the applicant. The microchip used to mark an animal shall only be issued to a veterinarian.";

18) Section 30(6) is amended and worded as follows:

"(6) To conclude the administrative contract specified in subsection 4 of this section, the Agriculture and Food Board announces a competition of means of identification for marking of a farmed animal with the issuer A competition notice is published on the website of the Agriculture and Food Board.";

19) The following section 30¹ is added to the Act:

"§ 30¹. Exemptions from identification requirements

(1) The approval of the competent authority for a derogation from the requirements for the identification of farm animals provided for in Articles 39, 47, 53, 54 and 61 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 of the European Parliament and of the Council shall be granted by the Agriculture and Food Board.

(2) The decision to grant or refuse consent referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be made by the Agricultural and Food Board within 30 days of receipt of the relevant application.";

20) in the title of Section 31, the words 'Agriculture' are replaced by the words 'kept terrestrial-';

21) Section 31 (4) is amended and worded as follows:

"(4) The minister in charge of the policy sector may establish, by means of a regulation, the procedure for the application of the derogations referred to in Articles 41, 48, 59, 60 and 62 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, as well as the procedure for requesting and resolving the application for the application of the exemption.";

22) Section 32 is amended and worded as follows:

"§ 32. Maintenance of records on pet animals

(1) A record of dogs, cats and ferrets, including animals kept for commercial or specialised purposes, shall be kept in the animal register.

(2) Dogs, cats and ferrets imported from a Member State of the European Union or brought to Estonia shall be registered in the animal register within the following period:

- 1) within one month of the date of arrival of the keeper of the animal on the basis of a residence permit in Estonia or from the date of notification of the decision to grant him a residence permit if he is a foreign national within the meaning of the Aliens Act;
- 2) the keeper, if he or she is a national of a Member State of the European Union, of a Member State of the European Economic Area or of the Swiss Confederation, or a member of the family of such a national, within three months of the animal's date of entry into Estonia;
- 3) immediately, but no later than two working days from the date of arrival at the place of destination, if the animal has been moved to Estonia for commercial purposes.

(3) Records of pet animals of a species other than those specified in subsection 1 of this section shall be kept in the animal register if the pet animal keeper wishes to register their pet animal in the animal register.

(4) The keeper of a dog, cat and ferret and the keeper of a pet animal referred to in subsection 3 of this section shall submit the information specified in § 35(1)7) or 8) of this act concerning themselves and the animal that they keep in the animal register in accordance with the procedure provided for in this Act and legislation adopted on the basis thereof.

(5) *A person who keeps an ownerless animal or which has escaped from the keeper of animals (hereinafter a stray) within the meaning of Section 37(2) and (4) of this Act shall submit data for the purpose of registration in the animal register of a dog, cat and ferret kept during the period specified in Section 5(2) of the Animal Protection Act and of an animal specified in subsection 3 of this Section in a designated place for the purpose of keeping stray animals (hereinafter referred to as shelter).*

(6) The registration in the animal register of the change of keeper of a dog, cat and ferret and the keeper of a pet animal referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall be ensured by each subsequent animal keeper or pet animal keeper.

(7) The veterinarian shall immediately arrange for the data to be submitted to the animal register:

- 1) the first entry of a dog, cat, ferret and pet animal specified in subsection 3 of this section and of its keeper after the implantation of a microchip in the animal;
- 2) to make an entry regarding the veterinary examination of a stray animal referred to in subsection 5 of this section and the treatment provided to the animal after the examination or treatment.

(8) The detailed conditions and procedure for the marking and registration of a dog, cat, ferret and pet animal specified in subsection 3 of this section which are to be identified with a microchip and registered in the animal register, the requirements for the provision and maintenance of data and the requirements for the replacement of a microchip shall be established by a regulation of the minister responsible for the area.

(9) A state fee is paid for the registration of a dog, cat, ferret and pet animal specified in subsection 3 of this section in the animal register and for the modification of data in the event of a change of animal keeper or pet animal keeper at the rate specified in the State Fees Act.";

23) The title of section 33 is amended and worded as follows::

"§ 33. **Pet animal passport**";

24) Section 33 (1)-(5) are repealed;

(25) subsection (6¹) is added to section 33 in the following wording:

"(6¹) The veterinarian shall, when issuing a pet animal passport, add the professional activity licence number to his signature and enter the particulars relating to the pet animal passport in the animal register in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Act and in the legislation adopted on the basis thereof.";

26) In section 33(8), "The Agriculture and Food Board" is replaced by the text "The Agriculture and Food Board or with it";

27) the introductory sentence part of § 34(2) is amended and worded as follows:

"The purpose of the animal register is to ensure the traceability of animals and, in order to ensure effective veterinary supervision and veterinary inspection, to keep records of the following persons and their activities:";

28) Clause 4 is added to § 34(2), worded as follows:

"4) keeper of dogs, cats and ferrets, and keeper of pets referred to in § 32(3) of this Act.";

(29) subsection (3¹) is added to section 34 in the following wording:

"(3¹) The Statute of the animal register shall lay down the arrangements for keeping the register, including:

- 1) more precise data composition;
- 2) data providers and the data they provide;
- 3) the responsibilities of joint controllers and controllers;
- 4) the procedure for accessing the data;
- 5) more specific terms for data retention;
- 6) other organisational issues.";

30) Section 34(4) is amended and worded as follows:

"(4) The controller of the animal register within the meaning of Section 43⁴ (1) of the Public Information Act and clause 7 of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, pp. 1-88) is the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture.";

31) Section 34 is supplemented by subsections 5 and 6 worded as follows:

"(5) The controller of the register within the meaning of Section 43⁴ (2) of the Public Information Act is a joint controller within the meaning of Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The controller shall be designated in the statutes of the animal register.

(6) The processor of the animal register shall be entitled to use the contact details of a person registered in the animal register for the purpose of sending an animal health hazard notification and information relating to the animal register to the person.";

32) Clauses 7 and 8 are added to subsection 35(1), worded as follows:

"7) in the case of a natural person who keeps a pet animal, their name, personal identification code or, in the absence thereof, date of birth, telephone number, e-mail address, residential

address and information necessary for identifying the pet kept by them, as well as information concerning any change in the name of the pet owner and their death;

8) in the case of a legal person or a self-employed person who is an animal keeper, the name, registration code or, in the absence thereof, the relevant identification code, telephone number, e-mail address, name of the representative, personal identification code, telephone number, e-mail address and address of the business, and the information necessary for identifying the dog, cat, ferret or animal referred to in § 32(3) of this Act kept by the keeper, as well as information on any change in the name of the keeper and on the liquidation of the keeper.";

33) Sections 35 (3)-(5) of the draft Act are amended to read as follows:

"(3) The Agricultural Registers and Information Board shall refuse to record an animal in the register if the person has knowingly submitted false information or if the person has been deprived of the right to keep an animal of that species by a court decision.

(4) Data shall be submitted to the animal register via the e-service environment of the Agricultural Registers and Information Board- or via another e-service environment that communicates with the animal register via the data exchange layer of state information systems.

(5) The person who submits information to the animal register is responsible for the correctness of the information entered in the register.";

34) Section 35 shall be supplemented with subsections 5¹-5³ in the following wording:

"(5¹) An application to amend the data entered in the animal register concerning a person keeping farm animals and their place of activity, as well as farm animals and their movements, shall be submitted immediately, but no later than seven days after the change in the data.

(5²) An application to change the data entered in the animal register concerning a dog, cat, ferret or pet referred to in section 32 (3) of this Act and the contact details (telephone number and e-mail address) of its keeper shall be submitted without delay, but no later than two working days after the change in the data.

(5³) If a stray animal is kept in a shelter, upon expiry of the period specified in section 5 (2) of the Animal Protection Act, an application shall be submitted without delay for the amendment of the data entered in the animal register concerning the animal and its keeper referred to in sections 32 (1) and (3) of this Act, but no later than two working days after the expiry of the said period, if the owner of the animal has not been identified by that time or if it has not been decided to euthanise the animal in accordance with the procedure provided for in § 18 of the Animal Protection Act.";

(35) subsection (6¹) is added to section 35 in the following wording:

"(6¹) The data collected on an animal and on its keeper entered in the animal register pursuant to subsections 1(7) and (8) of this Section, and the supporting documents thereof, shall be kept for three years from the date of entry of the death of the animal or for 20 years from the date of birth of the animal entered in the register. Logs shall be kept in accordance with the provisions of the animal register regulations.";

36) In Section 49, subsections 3-5 are amended and worded as follows:

"(3) The veterinarian shall notify the Agriculture and Food Board, the animal keeper and the pet animal keeper of the diagnosis of a notifiable animal disease specified in subsection 2 of this section or of another animal disease included in the list of notifiable animal diseases to the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter: *an animal disease included in the WOAHP List of Animal Diseases*), or of a zoonotic agent.

(4) The laboratory shall inform the Agriculture and Food Board of the laboratory finding of an animal disease subject to notification referred to in subsection (2) of this Section, of an animal disease included in the WOAHP list of animal diseases or of a zoonotic agent, shall keep records of the laboratory findings of those diseases and pathogens and shall submit a report on those findings to the Agriculture and Food Board.

(5) The list of zoonoses, the discovery of which must be notified to the Agriculture and Food Board, and the list of zoonotic agents, the finding of which must be recorded by a laboratory, shall be established by the minister responsible for the area by a regulation.";

37) Section 50(2) is supplemented with the words "at their request" after the words "Member States";

38) act is supplemented by Section 55¹ worded as follows:

"§ 55¹. Other animal disease control measures

(1) In case of suspicion or outbreak of other epizootic diseases, the Agriculture and Food Board shall apply the relevant principles, methods, recommendations and guidelines developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health to prevent the spread of the disease.

(2) In order to prevent the spread of other animal diseases, the animal keeper shall implement appropriate biosecurity measures and comply with the instructions of the Agriculture and Food Board for disease control.

(3) Specific measures for the prevention and control of other epizootic diseases may be laid down by a regulation of the minister responsible for the area."

39) Section 92 (10) is amended and worded as follows:

"(10) The reference laboratory shall operate on the basis of an action plan submitted to the minister responsible for the field and updated regularly. The implementation of the action plan shall be financed from funds allocated from the State budget to the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture.";

40) the text "§ 99" shall be replaced with "§ 100" in Section 107(1);

41) The following section 117¹ is added to the Act:

"§ 117¹. Animal register

The animal register referred to in § 34 of this Act shall be deemed to be the register of farm animals referred to in the same section of the version of this Act in force before 1 June 2027.";

42) the following §§ 121¹ and 121² are added to Division 1 of Chapter 8 of the Act:

"§ 121¹. Identification and registration of dogs, cats and ferrets

(1) Keepers of dogs, cats and ferrets shall, by 1 January 2028 at the latest, arrange for the microchipping and registration of the animal in the animal register which, as at 1 June 2027, are older than 12 weeks, not identified with a microchip and not registered in the database used for record keeping in accordance with the procedure in force before 1 June 2027.

(2) By 1 January 2028 at the latest, the keeper of a dog, cat and ferret, via a veterinarian, shall arrange for the registration in the animal register of his or her animal over 12-weeks of age as at 1 June 2027 identified by a microchip and not registered in the database used for record keeping in accordance with the procedure in force before 1 June 2027.

§ 121². Transfer of data

(1) The transfer to the Agricultural Registers and Information Authority of the data collected as of 31 May 2027 on pet animals and pet animal keepers collected in the database used to keep records in accordance with the procedure in force before 1 June 2027 shall be organised by the local government in machine-readable form no later than 7 June 2027.

(2) The Agricultural Registers and Information Board shall publish more detailed instructions for the transfer of data in machine-readable form on its website by 1 March 2027 at the latest."

§ 2. Amendment of the Animal Protection Act

In § 20²(4), § 40(3) and § 65 of the Animal Protection Act, the words 'in the register of farm animals' are replaced by the words 'in the animal register'.

§ 3. Amendment of the Act on the Breeding of Farm Animals

In § 6(4) and § 11(5) of the Act on the Breeding of Farm Animals, the words 'in the Register of Farm Animals' are replaced by the words "in the animal register".

§ 4. Amendment of the State Fees Act

The following amendments shall be made to the State Fees Act:

1) Section 51⁴ is added to the Act, worded as follows:

"§ 51⁴. Exemption from payment of state fees for the operation of the animal register

(1) The state authority and the local authority shall be exempt from the payment of state fees for the operation of the animal register necessary for the performance of the task for which they are responsible.

(2) A non-profit association which keeps ownerless animals or animals that have escaped from the keeper within the meaning of Section 37(2) and (4) of the Veterinary Act shall be exempt from the payment of state fees for the registration of dogs, cats, ferrets and pets referred to in Section 32(3) of the Veterinary Act, marked with a microchip in the animal register.";

2) Chapter 10¹ of the Act is supplemented by Division 5 worded as follows:

"Division 5

Operations of the Agricultural Registers and Information Board

Subdivision 1
Actions performed based on the Veterinary Act

§ 261³³. Actions in the animal register

(1) A State fee of EUR 12 shall be paid for the registration in the animal register of dog, cat, ferret and pet animals referred to in Section 32(3) of the Veterinary Act.

(2) A State fee of EUR 12 shall be paid for changes to the data entered in the animal register in connection with the change of keeper of a dog, cat, ferret and pet animal referred to in Section 32(3) of the Veterinary Act".

§ 5. Amendment of the Food Act

In § 7(4)3) of the Food Act, the words "in the register of farm animals" are replaced by the words "in the register of animals".

§ 6. Amendment of Specific Marking of Liquid Fuel Act

The following amendments shall be made to the Amendment of Specific Marking of Liquid Fuel Act:

1) In Section 3²(1)3), the words "the register of farm animals" are replaced by the words "the register of animals",

2) In section 3⁷(2)3), the words "in the register of farm animals" are replaced by the words "in the register of animals".

§ 7. Entry into force of the Act

(1) This act enters into force on 1 July 2026.

(2) Sections 1(1), (3), (13-18), (22-25), (27-35), (41) and (42) and sections 2-6 of this Act shall enter into force on 1 June 2027.

Lauri Hussar
President of the Riigikogu

Tallinn, 2025

Initiated by the Government of the Republic in202x

on behalf of the Government of the Republic

(digitally signed)