



Ministero della Salute

DIPARTIMENTO DELLA SANITA' PUBBLICA VETERINARIA, DELLA SICUREZZA ALIMENTARE E DEGLI ORGANI
COLLEGIALI PER LA TUTELA DELLA SALUTE
UNITA' OPERATIVA PER LA TUTELA DEGLI ANIMALI

THE PROTECTION OF CATS UNDER ITALIAN LAW AND THE POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Bruxelles 10 Aprile 2014

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PROTECTION OF ANIMAL WELFARE

- Modern society's moral need
- One of the European Union's political benchmark

Protection of companion animals in Italy: Current legislation

- **Law n. 281 of August 14, 1991** “Framework Law for pet animals and the prevention of stray dog populations”
- **February 6, 2003 Accord** between the Ministry of Health, the Regions and autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano regarding companion animals and pet therapy recognized with Presidential Decree of February 28, 2003
- **Law n. 189 of July 20th 2004:** provisions concerning the prohibition of cruelty to animals, as well as their use in illegal fighting or in unauthorized competitions
- **Law n. 201 of November 4 2010:** ratification and implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, done at Strasbourg on November 13, 1987
- **January 24, 2013 Accord** between the Government, the Regions and autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and Municipalities regarding the identification and registration of companion animals

Law n. 281 of August 14, 1991



Innovations introduced:

- Killing stray dogs and **cats** is prohibited unless the animal is affected by an incurable disease or is a proven danger and can be performed only by a veterinarian; it is forbidden to use stray dogs or cats for scientific purposes
- The canine registry is instituted at a local level and all dogs must be identified with a tattoo
- Stray cat and dog population control must be enacted

February 6, 2003 Accord regarding companion animal welfare and pet therapy

Defines the companion animals and the obligations of animal owners (Art 1, 2)

- Pet animal is an animal kept by man not for commercial or productive purposes, included dogs used for the pet therapy, the activities with disabled people and the advertising.
- A breeding of dogs and cats is an economic activity that provides for the detention of 5 or more mares and 30 puppies in one year.
- The trade of pets includes the sale of animals, the dogs training and the grooming activity.

February 6, 2003 Accord regarding companion animal welfare and pet therapy

The duties of pet animals owners (Art. 2)

- provide food and water in adequate quantities
- assure the health care
- give the possibility to perform physical activity
- prevent the escape of animals
- keep clean the spaces where animals live

February 6, 2003 Accord regarding companion animal welfare and pet therapy

- establishes that after January 1 2005 only transponders must be used for canine identification;
- establishes a computerized canine registry at a regional and national level;
- provides that the companion animal registry is mandatory for all dogs and voluntary for cats and ferrets

Identification and Registration of cats and ferrets is mandatory for the European passport



Law n. 189 of July 20, 2004

Provisions concerning the prohibition of cruelty to animals, as well as their use in illegal fighting or in unauthorized competitions

Modification of the **Italian Criminal Code**: introduction of Title IX-Bis – “**Crimes against the feeling for animals**”; it is a **crime** to kill or mistreat animals, use them in **shows or banned events**; **fights among animals are also banned** (articles from 544 bis to 544 quinquies)

Renders permanent the ban on the marketing of leather and fur of cat and dog origin (already banned by previous Ordinances)

Italy – first country to determine a national ban follow by some other M.S.  Regulation (EC) n. 1523/07

Law n. 201 of November 4 2010

ratification and implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals

Other than completely enforce in national legislation, the Convention introduces certain modifications to the Italian Criminal Code

In particular, it introduces **illicit trafficking of dogs and cats** providing harsher penalties to whoever illegally introduces puppies under three months of age and are not identified and lacking a sanitary certificate

January 24, 2013 Accord between the Government, the Regions and autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and Municipalities regarding the identification and registration of companion animals

Today the identification and the registration of cats is mandatory in some cases:

- The cats are object of a commercial activity
- The feline colonies when they are caught and sterilized
- For the release of European passport

It is banned the sale of cats under 2 months of age to safeguard animal welfare. Producers and distributors of transponders must be registered with the Health Ministry.



Grazie per l'attenzione

CONTATTI

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