Puppy trade in Belgium
Animal welfare in Belgium

animal welfare = since 2014 July regional competence

6 251 983 inhabitants
→ 769 000 dogs
12,02 dogs/100 inhabitants

1 089 538 inhabitants
→ 48 000 dogs
4,21 dogs/100 inhabitants

3 498 384 inhabitants
→ 679 900 dogs
18,81 dogs/100 inhabitants
Pet Welfare legislation

Overview

- **1996**: Ban on sale of cats and dogs in public places
- **1997**: Licensing system for dog and cat breeders, shelters, kennels and petshops
  - **1997**: Ban on advertisement for sale of dogs and cats
- **1998**: Mandatory identification and registration of dogs
- **2009**: Ban on sale of dogs and cats in petshops
- **2011**: Restriction on the import of cats and dogs
Breeders, traders, shelters and kennels

Definition: breeder = more than two litters/year

Procedure:
- Application for accreditation (Fee: 75 – 250 euro)
- Inspection

Now: about 2000 accreditations
- Cats and dogs are only sold by breeders.
  = Ban on sale in petshops since 2009
I&R
Identification and Registration

mandatory since 1998 for:
→ every dog before it’s sold and in any case before it’s 8 weeks old

CENTRAL DATABASE
→ Chip
→ Temporary identification document (€ 8.39)

Campaigns: «No dog without a passport»

+/- 160 000 registrations every year

online registration
Import of cats and dogs

Large import of (cheap) cats and dogs
→ A lot of complaints about diseases and troubles with socialisation.

1st of February 2011:
→ Ban on sale of imported cats and dogs
  unless the national standards are obtained in the country or breeding establishment of origin

→ Online list of authorized countries and breeders.
Database as tool to monitor trade
Origin of dogs

2015

62% Belgium Private
16% Belgium Shelter
19% Belgium AB
3% Imported

Imported dogs: AB/private/shelter
(Data from January till October)
Imported dogs per country

2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Imported Dogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>8,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>2,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>9,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>6,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>2,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>2,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Import of dogs to Belgium

**2015**

- **Slovac Republic**: 13,401 imports
- **Czech Republic**: 3,409 imports
- **Hungary**: 1,314 imports
- **Spain**: 835 imports

**2015**

- **Slovac Republic**: 10,601 imports
- **Czech Republic**: 4,035 imports
- **Hungary**: 1,470 imports
- **Spain**: 2,037 imports
Declared mortality

70% = NOT DECLARED

- BE - private: 0.76 (2014), 0.63 (2015)
- Imported - private: 1.72 (2014), 0.93 (2015)
Looking for irregularities in trade
Animal Welfare Inspection: cases

Case H:
- Approved breeder selling
  - Own production
  - Puppies from other breeders
- Check for parents
  - Own production (V)
  - Other sources (-V)

→ 644 dogs in 2014/2015

Case PP:
- Approved breeder
  - Selling to:
    - Other breeders
    - Private persons

→ 80 puppies 2014/2015

complaints
Notification by veterinary practitioner

- **Food Agency** (imported dogs)

- **Animal Welfare Unit** (puppies recently traded)
Import to Belgium
ANOMALIES: cats & dogs

- Import Europe: 149
- Problems with certification or passport: 54
- Irregularities with ID: 41
- Send back (4)
- Euthanized (10)
- Refused (1)
Veterinary contact point

Initiated on 9th of June 2015

Objectives:

→ detect potential “problem breeders”

→ gather insight into the source and causes of puppy diseases

→ create responsability awareness among veterinarians

→ develop policy measures if necessary
22 reports (until 31/10/15)

Common problems:

→ dogs without European passport and non-registered dogs (4)

→ dogs with diseases (14)

→ dogs with docked tails or cropped ears (2)

→ Puppies that seem to be younger than the age stated in the passport (4)
irregularities

Influence of the 15 week rule on import?

% Imported dogs registered before the age of 15 weeks

- **CZ**: 90% (2013), 90% (2014), 90% (2015)
- **ES**: 10% (2013), 10% (2014), 10% (2015)
- **FR**: 50% (2013), 50% (2014), 50% (2015)
- **HU**: 70% (2013), 70% (2014), 70% (2015)
- **NL**: 60% (2013), 60% (2014), 60% (2015)
- **RO**: 40% (2013), 40% (2014), 40% (2015)
- **SK**: 80% (2013), 80% (2014), 80% (2015)
New initiatives

Online registration for dogs
→ Eliminate mistakes
→ Keep costs low (beneficial for shelters)

Identification & Registration of cats