

LEGAL QUESTIONNAIRE

COUNTRY: LATVIA

THE COUNTRY IS: EU MEMBER STATE

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NOTE:

LIST OF NGOs [DEALING WITH DOGS] AND SHELTERS, WHICH ARE TAKING CARE OF ABANDONED DOGS (SEE SECTION "LEGAL-POLITICAL STRUCTURAL FACTS"), PLEASE LIST IN SEPARATE ANNEXES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT

| Summary |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official number of (stray) dogs in your country: <i>(include sources; if available, give numbers from cities and/or regions)</i> • Does your country have an Animal Welfare Law and/or specific legislation on dogs? Are there any new developments with regards the Animal Welfare Law, e.g. has the existing AW Law been currently revised? <p>There are an Animal Protection Law, a Regulation for registration of Pet animals, a Regulation regarding animal welfare requirements of animals in shelters and boarding facilities, a Regulation regarding animal welfare requirements of animals for the keeping, training, work and exhibition and an Animal Transport Regulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is cruelty against animals (dogs) described as a crime in AW Law and/or Penal Code? NO • Has the government developed a solution strategy on stray and abandoned dogs? If so, give a title of the strategy and link if available: • The National Veterinary Service : <i>FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE. Flepublikas laukums 2, Riga, LV-1981, Latvia</i> • Is registration of companion animals mandatory: YES • Are there any registration databases for companion animals? Are they private and/or public? YES ONE PUBLIC DATABASE |

I. CONSTITUTION

LINK TO CONSTITUTION, IF AVAILABLE:
[HTTP://WWW.VVC.GOV.LV/EXPORT/SITES/DEFAULT/DOCS/LRTA/LIKUMI/CONSTITUTION.DOC](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/lrta/likumi/constitution.doc)

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Is animal welfare part of the Constitution? | | | | NO |

II. LEGISLATION

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1. CIVIL LAW

a) *CIVIL REGULATIONS*

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Are animals defined as goods (object/chattel)? | Preamble of Animal Protection Law | “The ethical obligation of humankind is to ensure the welfare and protection of all species of animals, because every unique being is in itself of value. A human being has a moral obligation to honour any creature, to treat animals with empathic understanding and to protect them. Without a substantiated reason no one is permitted to kill an animal, to cause it pain, create suffering or to otherwise harm it”. | | NO |
| Are animals defined as an object of a trade contract? | | | | NO |
| Are there regulations on lost/found animals? | Section 8 Chapter 1 Animal Protection Law | (1) An animal, which has been left homeless or without the care and supervision of an owner (except for a wild animal) shall be considered to be a stray animal. A sterilised cat living in a city and rural inhabited territory nearby dwelling houses shall not be considered as stray | | |
| Who is owner of an abandoned dog? | | | | |

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| | | <p>animal.</p> <p>(2) Any person shall without delay inform the local government authority regarding a stray animal or animal in a helpless situation.</p> <p>(3) In accordance with the binding regulations of a self-government and the regulatory enactments regulating the field of welfare of animals, the local government shall organise catching of stray animals and animals in a helpless situation and, if necessary, killing thereof.</p> <p>(4) In accordance with the binding regulations of a self-government, the local government may allow to keep a sterilised ownerless cat in a city or rural inhabited territory nearby dwelling houses, if the welfare and marking thereof is ensured.</p> <p><i>[14 April 2005; 31 March 2010]</i></p> | | |
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b) CIVIL PROCEDURE

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Can a dog become part of an | | | | |

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| insolvency procedure [of his/her dog-owner]? | | | | |
| May a dog be perceived as an asset [of a dog-owner]? | | | | |
| Can a dog be confiscated, due to a declaration of bankruptcy? | | | | |

c) MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Is there a clause, which regulates the situation when a companion animal becomes a conflict of interest within a divorce/separation procedure? | | | | |

d) TRANSPORT REGULATION

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|--|---|---|--------------------|------------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Is withholding of food and/or water from the animal(s), during a long transport, punishable? | Section 4 of Animal protection Act | Cruel treatment of animals is prohibited, that is: 1) the killing of an animal, except in the cases provided for in this Law; 2) the mutilating, | | YES |

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| | | <p>tormenting and torturing of an animal; 3) leaving an animal without care; 4) leaving an animal in a helpless situation; (...) 14) non-observance of regulations for keeping of animals, welfare requirements and transportation regulations what endanger the health of the animal or may cause the death thereof; 15) non-observance of the requirements for the protection of animals intended for slaughter; and [6 February 2003; 14 April 2005; 31 March 2010]</p> | | |
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2. PUBLIC LAW

a) *GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS*

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| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| May a dog be used as an evidence in a court procedure? | | | | |

b) SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Does your country have an animal welfare legislation? | Animal Protection Law | | | YES |
| Does the law contain articles, which refer to companion animals? If so, which are the main articles on companion animals in the law? | Chapter III Protection of Pet Animals of Animal Protection Law (Section 16 to Section 18) + Procedure for registration of pets animal + Welfare Requirements for the Keeping and Training of Sport, Work and Exhibition Animals and Use Thereof in Competitions, Work or | | | In the Animal Protection law, there is a special chapter for “pet animals” but some other chapters of this law, and some others animal welfare regulation can be applied to companion animals such as animals in experiments, animal transport, training of dogs etc. |

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| <p>Are there any specific regulations concerning dogs within the law?</p> <p>Which issues are covered by the law concerning dogs?</p> | <p>Exhibitions</p> <p>Procedure for registration of pets animal + special regulation concerning the breeding and training of dogs for exhibition</p> | | | <p>YES. The following issues are covered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Breeding / keeping/ training 2) Registration 3) Transport 4) Exhibitions 5) Stray dogs 6) Animals used for experiments 7) Use of medicinal products on animals 8) Veterinary regulation |
| <p>Does the law address cruelty to animals?</p> <p>If so, does it provide for sanctions for cruelty to animals?</p> | <p>Section 4 of Animal Protection Act</p> | | <p>(1) Cruel treatment of animals is prohibited, that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the killing of an animal, except in the cases provided for in this Law; 2) the mutilating, tormenting and torturing of an animal; 3) leaving an animal without care; 4) leaving an animal in a helpless situation; 5) annoying and baiting an animal, except in the cases when it is necessary for the training of a work animal; 6) the organisation of animal fights, the involvement of animals in such fights and support of such fights; 7) subjection of an animal to modifying external | <p>YES</p> <p>Sanctions are planned by the Latvian criminal code</p> |

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| | | | <p>appearance or other non-curative procedures, if the necessity thereof is not prescribed and they are not performed by a practising veterinarian or other person in accordance with the regulatory enactments regulating the welfare of animals.</p> <p>A practising veterinarian is allowed to perform tail docking for dog species specified in Section 18.1 of this Law;</p> <p>8) the use of an animal as a target for training in shooting or in competitions;</p> <p>9) the use of animals for the training of animals of other species, except for the training of hunting dogs;</p> <p>10) the use of animals, making them exceeds their natural capabilities;</p> <p>11) the showing of an animal of wild species outside a zoo or registered place for keeping of animals of wild species;</p> <p>12) the offering and use of a female animal for the</p> | |
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| | | | <p>sexual satisfaction of a male animal without the intent of obtaining offspring;</p> <p>13) the carrying out of other such actions which cause or may cause mutilation or death, or create suffering for an animal, except in cases when such actions have been carried out for treatment, experimental purposes or in cases when the life or health of a human being is being threatened;</p> <p>14) non-observance of regulations for keeping of animals, welfare requirements and transportation regulations what endanger the health of the animal or may cause the death thereof;</p> <p>15) non-observance of the requirements for the protection of animals intended for slaughter; and</p> <p>16) use of animals for religious rituals and lotteries.</p> <p>(2) A person is prohibited from keeping an animal if he or she has</p> | |
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| | | | <p>been penalised for cruel treatment of animals. [6 February 2003; 14 April 2005; 31 March 2010]</p> | |
| <p>Is there a special regulation, which rules keeping of companion animals?</p> | <p>For private keeping: Animal Protection Law</p> <p>For keeping for sport or exhibitions: Regulation No. 959 Adopted 20 December 2005 Welfare Requirements for the Keeping and Training of Sport, Work and Exhibition Animals and Use Thereof in Competitions, Work or Exhibitions</p> <p>For keeping in shelters: Regulation No. 407 Adopted 16 May 2006 Regulations Regarding Welfare Requirements of Animals in Animal Shelters and</p> | | | <p>YES</p> <p>The keeping of dogs by private owner, the keeping of dogs in shelter and the keeping of dogs for sports or/and exhibition are regulated by three specific regulation</p> |

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| | Animal Boarding Facilities, Procedures for Transferring Animals to Animal Shelters or Animal Boarding Facilities, as well as Procedures for Registration of Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities [12 September 2006] | | | |
| Is there a special regulation, which rules keeping of dogs? | | | | NO same rules are planned for all companion animals |

3. CRIMINAL LAW

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|---|--|--|----------|------------|
| | | FACT (include Link) | SANCTION | |
| Does the law proscribe measures on sale or circulation of drugs [<i>for the treatment or prevention of infectious diseases among animals</i>], which are dangerous for animals' life and/or health? | Regulation No. 831 Adopted 28 July 2009 Regarding Restrictions in the Use of Medicinal Products on Animals and the Requirements for the | 3. The manufacturers of medicinal products, wholesalers and pharmacies, which have received a special permit (licence) in accordance with the | | YES |

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| | <p>Circulation of Animals and Products of Animal Origin if Medicinal Products are Used on Animals</p> | <p>procedures specified in the regulatory enactments regulating the circulation of medicinal products, for pharmaceutical or veterinary pharmaceutical activities, or practising veterinarians are entitled to distribute the medicinal products referred to in these Regulations for the treatment of animals.</p> <p>4. It is prohibited to use the prohibited medicinal products on farm animals.</p> <p>5. The implementation of the requirements of these Regulations and the justification for the use of the medicinal products referred to in these Regulations shall be supervised and controlled by</p> | | |
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| | | <p>the Food and Veterinary Service (hereinafter – Service).</p> | | |
| <p>Are there any sanctions foreseen for a veterinarian or a veterinary assistant, who does not adhere to the rules of the veterinary profession and causes as a result sickness, a deterioration of sickness or death of an animal?</p> | <p>Section 8 of the Veterinary Medicine Law</p> | <p>The food and veterinary inspectors of the Food and Veterinary Service have the following rights, according to their competence: 1) to visit, without previous notice, facilities under State veterinary supervision, request documents and information, take samples for laboratory investigation in accordance with State monitoring programmes or, if there is suspicion that animals may have become ill with infectious animal diseases monitored by the State and suspicion or complaints regarding violations of regulatory enactments; 2) to suspend</p> | | <p>YES. Sanctions are managed by the Food and Veterinary Service but only administrative penalties are planned by the law</p> |

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| | | <p>the activity of the facilities under State veterinary supervision, also suspend or prohibit organisation of animal competitions, markets, auctions, exhibitions and other events, if there is suspicion that animals may have become ill with an infectious disease, and if there is danger to human or animal health, as well as in cases when requirements of regulatory enactments have been violated;</p> <p>3) in cases of violations, to impose administrative penalties upon persons in accordance with procedures set out in regulatory enactments;</p> <p>4) if necessary, invite employees of the police and other law</p> | | |
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| | | <p>enforcement institutions, in order to ensure fulfilment of their tasks; and 5) to suspend sale of products of animal origin, if it presents a risk to human or animal health, as well as control liquidation or utilisation of the relevant products.</p> | | |
| <p>Is negligence [<i>of a veterinarian or a veterinary assistant</i>] punishable?</p> <p>If so, may a veterinarian or veterinary assistant face imprisonment for the negligence?</p> | <p>Veterinary Medicine Law</p> | | | <p>YES</p> <p>NO only administrative penalties are planned</p> |
| <p>Is maltreatment and/or suffering of animals perceived as a criminal offense?</p> <p>If so, what sanctions are foreseen for such actions?</p> | <p>Section 42. Confiscation of Property Of the Criminal Law</p> <p>Section 113 Blasting and Other Acts Committed in Violation of Provisions</p> | <p>(3) A court, in determining confiscation of property for a cruel treatment of animals, shall apply partial confiscation of property and relate it to the animals.</p> <p>For a person who commits blasting, amelioration of land, preparation of</p> | | <p>NO</p> <p>Confiscation of the animal</p> <p>3 years imprisonment</p> |

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| | <p>for Protection of Animals of the criminal law</p> | <p>timber or other actions in violation of provisions regarding protection of animals, if substantial harm is caused to fish stocks, birds or other wild animals by such actions, the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding three years, or custodial arrest, or community service, or a fine not exceeding fifty times the minimum monthly wage. [12 February 2004]</p> | | <p>6 years imprisonment</p> |
| | <p>Section 115. Destruction and Damaging of Animals and Plants under Special Protection of the State</p> | <p>For a person who commits destruction or damaging of animals, plants, mushrooms or lichens which are rare or under threat of extinction, or of the life habitat (biocoenosis) thereof, if substantial harm is caused</p> | | |

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| | <p>Section 230. Cruel Treatment of Animals</p> | <p>thereby, the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding six years, or a fine not exceeding one hundred and twenty times the minimum monthly wage.</p> <p>(1) For a person who commits cruel treatment of animal as results in its death or mutilation, or commits torture of animals, the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding three years, or custodial arrest, or community service, or a fine not exceeding eighty times the minimum monthly wage, with or without deprivation of the right to keep animals for a term not exceeding five years, and with or without confiscation of</p> | | <p>deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding three years, or custodial arrest, or community service, or a fine not exceeding eighty times the minimum monthly wage</p> |
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| | | <p>property. (2) For a person who commits the same acts, if they have been committed in a public place or at the presence of a minor or if they have been committed by a group of persons pursuant to previous agreement, or if it has caused significant damage , the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding five years, or custodial arrest, or community service, or a fine not exceeding one hundred and fifty times the minimum monthly wage, with or without deprivation of the right to keep animals for a term not exceeding five years, with or without confiscation of property. <i>[12 February 2004; 21 May 2009]</i></p> | | |
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| <p>Is winning of a bet or any other gain from an action, which causes pain and/or suffering of an animal, punishable?</p> | | | | |
| <p>Is withholding of food and/or water for animals, during a long transport, punishable?</p> | <p>Animal Transport Regulation, Animal Protection law and Section 230.1 of the Criminal Code “Violation of Keeping of Animals Regulations”</p> | <p>(1) For a person who commits violations of the keeping of animals regulations as results in the committing of light bodily injury or moderate bodily injury to the victim, the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding one year, or custodial arrest, or community service, or a fine not exceeding twenty times the minimum monthly wage. (2) For a person who commits violations of the keeping of animals regulations as results in the committing of serious bodily injury to the victim, or such</p> | | <p>YES deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding one year, or custodial arrest, or community service, or a fine not exceeding twenty times the minimum monthly wage or deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding four years or community service, or a fine not exceeding sixty times the minimum monthly wage</p> |

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| | | <p>has caused the death of a person, the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding four years or community service, or a fine not exceeding sixty times the minimum monthly wage. [25 April 2002; 12 February 2004]</p> | | |
| <p>What are the highest sanctions against cruelty to animals?</p> | | | | <p>6 years imprisonment</p> |

III. ANIMAL WELFARE

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| <p>Is the Animal Welfare Act based on animal welfare as the principle value of the legislation?</p> | <p>Preamble of Animal protection Law</p> | <p>The ethical obligation of humankind is to ensure the welfare and protection of all species of animals, because every unique being is in itself of value. A human being has a moral</p> | | <p>YES</p> |

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| | | obligation to honour any creature, to treat animals with empathic understanding and to protect them. Without a substantiated reason no one is permitted to kill an animal, to cause it pain, create suffering or to otherwise harm it. | | |
| Does the Act or another enactment include a definition of animals as " <i>sentient beings</i> "? | | | | The term "sentient being" is not appearing directly in the Animal Protection Law but all the provisions aim to treat animals as sentient beings |
| Does the law include a definition of companion animals? | Section 1 Animal protection Law | pet animal – an animal which is kept by a human being for his or her pleasure | | YES for pet animals |
| Does the law include a definition of stray animal/dog? | Section 8 Animal Protection Law | An animal, which has been left homeless or without the care and supervision of an owner (except for a wild animal) shall be considered to be a stray animal. A sterilised cat living in a city and rural inhabited | | YES for stray animals and stray cats |

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| | | territory nearby dwelling houses shall not be considered as stray animal. | | |
| Does the law include a definition of abandoned animal/dog? | | | | NO |
| Does the law include a definition of street animal/dog? | | | | NO |
| Does the law include a definition of feral animal/dog? | | | | NO |
| Does the law proscribe the minimum care obligation for animals? | Animal Protection Law and specific regulations for animals in exhibition, transport, experiments, shelters etc. | | | YES |
| Does the law ban organized fights of animals? | Section 4 Animal Protection Law. | (1) Cruel treatment of animals is prohibited, that is (...): 6) the organisation of animal fights, the involvement of animals in such fights and support of such fights; | | YES |
| Is there a list of banned or dangerous dogs? | Section 5 Animal Protection Law | Section 5.1 (1) A dog shall be recognised as dangerous by a commission for assessment of a dog's behaviour established by the Food and Veterinary | | the Food and Veterinary Service has to prepare such a list |

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| | | <p>Service (hereinafter—commission).</p> <p>(2) If the process for assessment of dog's behaviour has been commenced, the owner or keeper of the dog shall observe the requirements specified in the regulatory enactments regarding keeping of a dangerous dog.</p> <p>[31 March 2010]</p> | | |
| Is there a ban on markets/shows/exhibitions or other events where one can buy a dog? | | | | |
| May a dog be obtained as a prize? | | | | |
| Is there an age-limit for children to buy a dog? | | | | |
| DEFINITION OF OWNERSHIP: LEGAL OBLIGATIONS FOR A PRIVATE OWNER | | | | |
| Are there strict obligations for companion animals' owners? | | | | |

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| <p>Is identification of dogs mandatory? (Tattoo or Chip) Is registration of dogs mandatory?</p> | <p>Regulation No. 277 Adopted 15 April 2008 Procedures for Registration of Pet Animals</p> | <p>8. A dog owner has the duty to register a dog by the age of six months and allow it to be marked with a micro-chip by an authorised veterinarian, presenting a personal identification document and a dog passport or vaccination certificate. The dog owner shall complete Section A of the registration form for pet animals. If a dog is registered and marked by the age of six months, registration and marking thereof shall be free of charge.</p> <p>Expenses for the registration and marking of a dog that is older than six months shall be borne by the dog owner.</p> <p>9. If a dog owner is a State administrative institution, an authorised person thereof has a duty to register the dog</p> | | <p>YES, I & R is mandatory</p> |
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| <p>Does registration of dogs take place in public or private registers?</p> | <p>Regulation No. 277 Adopted 15 April 2008 Procedures for Registration of Pet Animals</p> | <p>7. The Data Centre shall: 7.1. establish and maintain a database. The database shall contain publicly accessible information regarding the animal identity number;</p> | | <p>PUBLIC DATABASE managed by the Ministry of Agriculture</p> |
| <p>Can a private or/and public owner be penalized for not registering an animal?</p> | | | | |
| <p>Which information must a dog-owner provide when registering a dog?</p> | <p>Regulation No. 277 Adopted 15 April 2008 Procedures for Registration of Pet Animals</p> | <p>6. The Data Centre shall be the manager of the database referred to in Paragraph 5 of these Regulations . The following information shall be included in the database: 6.1. regarding a pet animal: 6.1.1. the species of the animal; 6.1.2. the date of birth or age; 6.1.3. the given name; 6.1.4. gender; 6.1.5. a description of the animal (breed, colour, special features); 6.1.6. the date when a dog was last vaccinated against rabies;</p> | | |

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| | | <p>6.1.7. the address of the place of keeping of the animal; 6.1.8. the identity number of the animal, indicated in the micro-chip implanted in the animal; 6.1.9. the location of the micro-chip; 6.1.10. the insertion date of the micro-chip; 6.1.11. tattoo; 6.1.12. the European Union Pet Passport number (hereinafter – passport); 6.2. regarding the animal owner: 6.2.1. the given name, surname, personal identity number of a natural person or the type of a legal person, the name and registration number thereof; 6.2.2. telephone number; 6.2.3. e-mail address; 6.3. date of</p> | | |
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| | | <p>sterilisation of an animal; 6.4. the date of finding or losing of an animal; 6.5. an annotation regarding the death or euthanasia of an animal; and 6.6. the certificate number of the veterinarian.</p> | | |
| <p>Is there a special institution which is in charge of identification, registration and vaccination of companion animals and which is entitled to issue a certificate?</p> | <p>Regulation No. 277 Adopted 15 April 2008 Procedures for Registration of Pet Anim</p> | <p>2. The Food and Veterinary Service (hereinafter – Service) shall supervise and control practising veterinarians who are authorised to perform the registration of pet animals (hereinafter – authorised veterinarian) and enter into contracts with them regarding registration and marking activities and the payment procedures thereof.</p> <p>3. The Service shall prepare and submit a list of veterinarians authorised by</p> | | <p>YES the Food and Veterinary Service and the Data Center</p> |

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| | | <p>the Service to the State agency “Agricultural Data Centre” (hereinafter – Data Centre). If necessary, the Service shall update the list and send the updated list to the Data Centre.</p> | | |
| <p>Is there a particular procedure to obtain a passport for a companion animal?</p> | <p>Regulation No. 277 Adopted 15 April 2008 Procedures for Registration of Pet Anim</p> | <p>8. A dog owner has the duty to register a dog by the age of six months and allow it to be marked with a micro-chip by an authorised veterinarian, presenting a personal identification document and a dog passport or vaccination certificate. The dog owner shall complete Section A of the registration form for pet animals.</p> <p>13. After receipt of the information referred to in Sub-paragraph 7.10 of these Regulations to be affixed, the owner of the registered dog, cat or ferret</p> | | |

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| | | shall affix it to the first page of the passport of the dog, cat or ferret. | | |
| Is a private owner obliged to pay tax for his/her companion animal? | | | | |
| Is there a clause, which prevents an irresponsible dog-owner from abandoning his/her dog(s)? If so, what are the sanctions foreseen? | | | | |
| Are there any clauses on dog-breeders? | | | | Dog breeders have to follow the same requirements than private owners (passport, I&R...) |
| LEGAL OBLIGATIONS FOR A PUBLIC OWNER | | | | |
| May a private person establish an animal shelter? | Regulation No. 407 Adopted 16 May 2006 Regarding Welfare Requirements of Animals in Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities, Procedures for Transferring Animals to Animal Shelters or Animal Boarding Facilities, as well as Procedures | II. General Requirements for the Establishment and Maintenance of Shelters or Boarding Facilities 6. An owner of a shelter or boarding facility may be any natural person or legal person who is registered with the Service. The owner of the shelter or boarding facility shall submit an application to | | YES but under control (have to be registered with the Service) |

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| | <p>for Registration of Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities [12 September 2006]</p> | <p>the territorial structural unit of the Service for performance of registration, specifying the following information: 6.1. natural person – the given name, surname, address of the place of residence and telephone number of the owner of the shelter or boarding facility, legal person – the type, name, registration number, legal address and telephone number; 6.2. the maximum number of animals and species intended for accommodation in the shelter or boarding facility; and 6.3. the address and cadastre number of the immovable property where the shelter or boarding facility will be established.</p> | | |
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| | | [12 September 2006] | | |
| If neither a private nor a legal person does run a shelter, who is financing establishment of such a shelter within a local community? | | | | Some shelters are financed by NGOs, or by private funding, and some other are financed by municipalities |
| Is local community financing activities of collecting of abandoned and lost animals? | <p>Regulation No. 407 Adopted 16 May 2006 Regarding Welfare Requirements of Animals in Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities, Procedures for Transferring Animals to Animal Shelters or Animal Boarding Facilities, as well as Procedures for Registration of Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities</p> <p>[12 September 2006]</p> | <p>4. A local government shall, once every six months, send the following data to the territorial structural unit of the Service:</p> <p>4.1. regarding the catching of stray pet animals, specifying the animal species, number and actions involving them;</p> <p>4.2. regarding the accommodation of confiscated or removed pet animals, specifying the animal species, number and actions involving them;</p> <p>4.3. regarding the accommodation of wild animals in a helpless situation, specifying the animal species, number and</p> | | YES |

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| | | <p>actions involving them; and</p> <p>4.4. regarding buried and cremated animal carcasses, specifying the animal species and number. [11 November 2008]</p> | | |
| <p>Is local community legally responsible for stray animals in the streets?</p> | <p>Section 21. Of Veterinary Law</p> | <p>Local governments shall ensure:</p> <p>1) the registration of dogs and cats in accordance with the procedures set out by the Cabinet;</p> <p>2) the catching of stray dogs and cats and, if necessary, their euthanasia;</p> <p>3) the establishment of dog and cat sanctuaries in accordance with the procedures set out by the Cabinet; and</p> <p>4) the removal of the dead bodies of domestic animals in accordance with the procedures set out by the Cabinet.</p> | | <p>YES</p> |

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| <p>Must a finder of a stray and/or abandoned animal report the finding to a competent authority?</p> | <p>Section 8 Animal Protection Law</p> | <p>(2) Any person shall without delay inform the local government authority regarding a stray animal or animal in a helpless situation.</p> | | <p>YES</p> |
| <p>Can animals be kept in shelters indefinitely?</p> <p>If not, is there specific time frame <i>[for a veterinarian]</i> to euthanize an animal kept in a shelter?</p> | <p>III. Requirements for Acceptance and Keeping of Animals in Shelters [12 September 2006] Of the Regulation No. 407 Adopted 16 May 2006 Regarding Welfare Requirements of Animals in Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities, Procedures for Transferring Animals to Animal Shelters or Animal Boarding Facilities, as well as Procedures for Registration</p> | <p>23. The owner of a shelter shall ensure the search of the owner or holder of the animal accepted in the shelter by placing information in the mass media. If the owner or holder of the animal has not been found within a time period of 14 days, the owner of the shelter has the right to give the animal to another person, to keep the animal in the shelter or to subject the animal to euthanasia.</p> | | <p>YES but after 14 days they can be killed</p> |

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| | of Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities [12 September 2006] | | | |
| Are there possibilities to adopt an abandoned animal? | Same text than above | | | YES |
| BIRTH CONTROL | | | | |
| Are there legal or administrative measures, which provide for birth control of stray dogs? | | | | YES |
| CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMALS | | | | |
| Does the law provide for limitations on dog mutilations? (e.g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalization, declawing, obligation to use anesthesia) | Section 18 of Animal protection Law | It is prohibited to perform surgical operations on pet animals, in order to modify their external appearance or for other non-curative purposes, except in cases when the operation has been prescribed by a practising veterinarian. A practising veterinarian is allowed to perform tail docking for the dog species specified in Section 18.1 of this Law. [31 March 2010] A practising veterinarian is allowed to | | dog mutilations are theoretically prohibited but they can be allowed for some breeds. |

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| | | <p>perform tail docking for the following dog species:</p> <p>1) Wire Fox Terrier;</p> <p>2) Smooth Fox Terrier;</p> <p>3) Russian Spaniel;</p> <p>4) German Wire-haired Pointing Dog;</p> <p>5) German Short-haired Pointing Dog;</p> <p>6) German Hunt Terrier; and</p> <p>7) Welsh Terrier.</p> <p>[31 March 2010]</p> | | |
| EDUCATION | | | | |
| Are there (mandatory) school programs on animal welfare? | | | | |
| Are there information programs for the general public on responsible dog-ownership (e.g. keeping of companion animals, unplanned breeding, irresponsible acquisition)? | | | | |

IV. VETERINARY LAW

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
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| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Is the veterinary law based on animal welfare as the principle value of the act? | Section 4 of the Veterinary Medicine Law | (1) The Food and Veterinary Service shall organise and ensure, on the basis of State monitoring programmes | | YES |

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| | | <p>and the requirements of regulatory enactments, unified State monitoring and control in the following areas: (...) 2) animal welfare; (...) [13 December 2001]</p> | | |
| <p>Does the law oblige a veterinarian to protect animals from torture and suffering, and to take care of animals' welfare?</p> | <p>Section 1. Chapter I General Provisions Of the Veterinary Medicine Law</p> | <p>veterinary medicine – a field of science and practice that is concerned with issues related to animal health and diseases, sets veterinary requirements the fulfilment of which promotes animal health, productivity and welfare, ensures prevention and combating of infectious animal diseases, protects inhabitants from infectious diseases common to animals and humans, ensures circulation of such products of animal origin, that are qualitative and</p> | | <p>YES</p> |

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| | <p>Section 56 Of the Veterinary Medicine Law</p> | <p>not dangerous for human health, meets the ethical and esthetical requirements of animal owners, as well as ensures environmental protection;</p> <p>8) veterinary medical practice – professional activity of a practising veterinarian in the promotion of animal welfare, improvement and maintenance of health, diagnostics and prevention of animal diseases, treatment of sick animals, as well as preparation and selling of drugs in sufficient amounts for animal care;</p> <p>A practising veterinarian has the following obligations:</p> <p>1) to notify the manager of the relevant territorial unit of the Food and Veterinary Service of the</p> | | |
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| | | <p>commencement of veterinary medical practice; 2) to provide emergency medical assistance to animals regarding which a contract has been entered into with the manager of the relevant territorial unit of the Food and Veterinary Service on preventive monitoring of infectious diseases; 3) to immediately notify the manager of the relevant territorial unit of the Food and Veterinary Service of the outbreaks of infectious animal diseases monitored by the State, or suspicion thereof, and to act in accordance with the instructions for combating infectious animal diseases, approved by the Minister for</p> | | |
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| | | <p>Agriculture, until further instructions from the State senior veterinary inspector;</p> <p>4) to participate, upon the request of the manager of the relevant territorial unit of the Food and Veterinary Service, in the combating of epizootic diseases monitored by the State, and to receive remuneration for it;</p> <p>5) to notify, in writing, the animal owner regarding restrictions on utilisation of animal products, as well as products of animal origin, after medical treatment of such animals;</p> <p>6) to keep records of veterinary activities and to submit reports specified by the Food and Veterinary Service;</p> <p>7) to observe</p> | | |
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| | | <p>the standards and professional code of ethics of veterinary medical practice; and 8) to raise professional qualifications. [13 December 2001]</p> | | |
| <p>Are owners obliged to keep a certificate on vaccination of his/her companion animal?</p> <p>And if so, for how long do they have to keep the certificate?</p> | <p>Section 59 of the Veterinary Medicine Law</p> | <p>Animal owners shall have the following obligations:</p> <p>1) to organise, in co-operation with practising veterinarians, prevention and combating of infectious animal diseases, except prevention and combating of the infectious animal diseases monitored by the State;</p> <p>2) to ensure conditions necessary for animal welfare, timely veterinary medical care for the sick animals, as well as adequate working conditions for the practising veterinarian and fixation of animals during the veterinary</p> | | <p>YES</p> |

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| | | <p>medical procedures; 3) during transportation of animals, to comply with the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet; 4) to present, and hand over to the subsequent owner or possessor of the animal, the documents regarding the state of health of the animal and the preventive measures taken with respect to infectious animal diseases (for example, vaccination certificate, veterinary certificate); 5) to ensure registering and marking of the animals in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet; 6) to restrict the contact of outsiders with the animals; 7) to ensure the implementation of measures for prevention of</p> | | |
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| | | <p>infectious animal diseases monitored by the State within the specified time periods;</p> <p>8) to immediately notify the practising veterinarian of a sudden death of an animal, or simultaneous diseases of several animals, or any incident that gives rise to suspicion that an animal has developed an infectious disease;</p> <p>9) to have sale animals slaughtered in slaughterhouses in accordance with the procedures determined by the Cabinet;</p> <p>10) to ensure the removal of dead animal bodies in accordance with the procedures determined by the Cabinet;</p> <p>11) in cases of combating infectious animal diseases monitored by the State, to do the following</p> | | |
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| | | <p>upon the request of the State food and veterinary inspector or a practising veterinarian:</p> <p>a) to show all the animals, as well as the animal lodgings and the veterinary documentation (diagnostic examinations and vaccination documents, lists of diagnostically examined and vaccinated animals, results of laboratory examinations),</p> <p>b) to subject animals to diagnosing of infectious diseases, treatment and preventive measures,</p> <p>c) to ensure disinfecting of animal lodgings and equipment, and</p> <p>d) to ensure quarantining, treatment and liquidation of animals; and</p> <p>12) to comply with the restrictions regarding utilisation of animal products</p> | | |
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| | | <p>and products of animal origin after medical treatment of animals, if such are provided for in approved instructions for use or determined by a practising veterinarian.</p> | | |
| <p>Is there a particular service in charge of catching and collecting abandoned companion animals?</p> | <p>Regulation 407 and Animal protection Law</p> | <p>4. A local government shall, once every six months, send the following data to the territorial structural unit of the Service: 4.1. regarding the catching of stray pet animals, specifying the animal species, number and actions involving them; 4.2. regarding the accommodation of confiscated or removed pet animals, specifying the animal species, number and actions involving them; 4.3. regarding the accommodation of wild animals in a helpless situation,</p> | | <p>YES, the</p> |

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| | | <p>specifying the animal species, number and actions involving them; and</p> <p>4.4. regarding buried and cremated animal carcasses, specifying the animal species and number.</p> <p>[11 November 2008]</p> | | |
| <p>Are there any specific measures foreseen by the law for stray, abandoned and companion animals in case of a spread of a contagious disease?</p> | <p>Chapter V Combating of Infectious Animal Diseases (except epizootic) Monitored by the State Of the Veterinary Medicine Law</p> | <p>Section 36.</p> <p>Infectious animal diseases (except epizootic) monitored by the State shall be combated by animal owners together with the officials of the Food and Veterinary Service and practising veterinarians in accordance with Cabinet Regulations and instructions, regarding combating of infectious animal diseases, approved by the Minister for Agriculture.</p> <p>Section 37.</p> <p>(1) Expenses</p> | | <p>YES</p> |

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| | | <p>related to combating of infectious animal diseases referred to in Section 36 of this Law shall be covered by the animal owner or reimbursed from the State budget funds provided for by the programme for liquidation of an outbreak of infectious animal diseases or its threat.</p> <p>(2) Procedures by which the funds from the State budget referred to in Paragraph one of this Section are allocated and received, shall be determined by the Cabinet.</p> <p>Section 38.</p> <p>(1) For combating of infectious animal diseases monitored by the State (except epizootic), if all the measures are taken, which are provided for in the instructions</p> | | |
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| | | <p>for combating of infectious animal diseases, an animal owner may receive compensation for losses according to the State budget funds provided for in the programme for compensation of losses caused by infectious animal diseases in the amount of up to 50 per cent of the average value of the slaughter products.</p> <p>(2) The procedures by which compensation is granted and received for combating of infectious animal diseases monitored by the State (except epizootic and other infectious animal diseases specified by the Cabinet) shall be determined by the Cabinet.</p> <p>[13 December 2001]</p> <p>Section 39.</p> <p>(1) Associations</p> | | |
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| | | <p>of animal keepers and associations of manufacturers and processors of products of animal origin have the right to prepare programmes for combating infectious animal diseases (which are not monitored by the State).</p> <p>(2) The programmes prepared by associations of animal keepers and associations of manufacturers and processors of products of animal origin shall be co-ordinated with the director of the Food and Veterinary Service.</p> | | |
| Must a companion animal be quarantined upon arriving in your country? | Veterinary Medicine Law | | | |

V. SPECIFIC LEGAL MEASURES ON DOGS AND DOGS' HEALTH

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
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| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Are there any other specific legal measures proscribing keeping of | Chapter IV Liquidation and | Section 26. (1) Liquidation | | Only in case of high risk of spread of dangerous disease |

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| <p>companion animals in a community/self-government units?</p> | <p>Prevention of Danger of Epizootic Outbreaks Of the Veterinary Medicine law</p> | <p>and prevention of danger of epizootic outbreaks shall be performed in accordance with the Cabinet regulations which provide for measures for combating of epizootic outbreaks, the planning of such measures, the competence of persons and institutions, restrictions on the movement of persons and animals, regulations regarding the notification and fulfilment of orders, handling of products of animal origin and dead animal bodies, material and technical facilities, procedures for disinfecting and cleaning of means of transportation, as well as procedures for determining and cancelling</p> | | |
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| | | <p>of a quarantine.</p> <p>(2) In accordance with the Cabinet regulations referred to in Paragraph one of this Section, the Food and Veterinary Service shall prepare and approve a plan of action for each case of an epizootic outbreak.</p> <p>[13 December 2001]</p> <p>Section 27.</p> <p>(1) In the case of an epizootic outbreak in Latvia or in its neighbouring states, the State chief food and veterinary inspector shall immediately determine a quarantine and the Prime Minister shall proclaim a state of emergency in the State or a part thereof in accordance with the Civil Defence Law.</p> <p>(2) In the case</p> | | |
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| | | <p>of an epizootic outbreak in Latvia or in its neighbouring states, the State chief food and veterinary inspector shall determine, after co-ordination with the State Forest Service, quarantine measures with respect to the hunting of wild animals.</p> <p>(3) Under the circumstances of a quarantine, the hunting of wild animals may be arranged only in accordance with the procedures set out by the Cabinet.</p> <p>[13 December 2001]</p> <p>Section 28.</p> <p>A quarantine shall include:</p> <p>1) the area affected by the epizootic outbreak (the place where the animal, or the herd, affected by the infectious</p> | | |
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| | | <p>animal disease, is located); 2) the protection area (not less than within a radius of three kilometres around the area affected by the epizootic outbreak); and 3) the supervision zone (not less than within a radius of 10 kilometres around the area affected by the epizootic outbreak).</p> | | |
| Are there any other specific legal measures on dangerous dogs? | | | | |
| Is there a specific legal measure on animal asylums and health regulations for dog asylums? | <p>Regulation No. 407 Adopted 16 May 2006 Regarding Welfare Requirements of Animals in Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities, Procedures for Transferring Animals to Animal Shelters or Animal</p> | | | <p>YES</p> |

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| | <p>Boarding Facilities, as well as Procedures for Registration of Animal Shelters and Animal Boarding Facilities [12 September 2006]</p> | | | |
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VI. LEGAL-POLITICAL STRUCTURAL FACTS

| QUESTION | ARTICLE | CONTENT | | NOTE |
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| | | ORIGINAL TEXT (include Link) | SUMMARY IN ENGLISH | |
| Is there an Animal Welfare Committee in the Government? What are its duties? | | | | NO |
| Is there a structural element in the Parliament on animal welfare issues? | | | | NO |
| Are there governmental strategies for the reduction of stray dog population? | | | | |
| Is there an Ombudsman or an Animal Welfare Commissioner in the country? | | | | NO |
| Please list the most important animal welfare organizations taking care of abandoned and/or lost dogs in your country with contact details | | | | <p>There are over 20 non-governmental organizations dealing with animal protection</p> <p>Most significant is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Latvian association of veterinarians ■ Animal Protection Ethic Council ■ “Dzīvnieka draugs” Fund |

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| | | | | <p>■ Agriculture Organization of the Cooperation Council etc.</p> |
| Is there a Head Organization of Veterinarians in the country? | | | | <p>The Food and Veterinary Service</p> |
| Please list the most important cynological organisations in your country | | | | |
| Please list veterinary university faculties or other faculties that cover animal welfare in their curriculum | | | | <p>Latvia University of Agriculture Veterinārmedicīnas fakultāte Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Latvian University of Agriculture, 8 K.Helmana Str, Jelgava, LV-3004 T+(371) 3024662 F+(371) 3027344 www.llu.lv/?mi=152</p> |
| Is your country signatory of the Convention on Pet Animals of the Council of Europe of 1987 (ETS 125)? | | | | <p>YES; on 01/03/2010</p> |
| Which Ministry is competent for animal welfare in your country? | | | | <p>■ Ministry of Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Food and veterinary service ■ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Protection Board ■ Ministry of Interior <input type="checkbox"/> State police</p> |
| Is there a list of lawyers/law firms in charge of animal welfare in your country? | | | | |

LEGAL QUESTIONNAIRE

I. ANNEX

LIST OF NGOs FOCUSING ON (STRAY and ABANDONED) DOGS

II. ANNEX

LIST OF SHELTERS