

LAW OF GEORGIA

ON DOMESTIC COMPANION ANIMALS

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

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Law of Georgia on Domestic Animals

Article 1. Purpose and Objectives of the Law

1. The purpose of this Law is to create legal foundations for such activities and/or actions in the field of domestic animal management that will contribute to the creation of a safe living environment for humans and domestic animals.

2. The objectives of this Law are:

- a) Protection of domestic animals and humans from threats posed by other domestic animals;
- b) Protection of domestic animals from improper and cruel treatment;
- c) Introduction of humane principles and methods of domestic animal care and population management.

Article 2. Scope of Regulation of the Law

1. The scope of regulation of this Law includes:

- a) ensuring the welfare of domestic animals;
- b) ensuring the traceability of domestic animals;
- c) determining the competences of authorized bodies in the field of domestic animal management;
- d) determining the obligations of owners and breeders of domestic animals;
- e) determining the legal basis for the activities of entities carrying out activities in the field of domestic animal management;
- f) managing the domestic animal population.

2. This Law shall not apply to farmed and wild animals.

Article 3. Definition of Terms For the purposes of this Law, the terms used herein shall have the following meanings:

- a) Domestic animal (hereinafter referred to as animal) – an owned, fenced, unowned, unattended dog or cat, which is used to meet social needs and/or for functional purposes;
- b) Animal owner (hereinafter referred to as owner) – a natural person or legal entity who owns an animal and who ensures its identification-registration, sterilization/castration, care, including veterinary services, in

accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia;

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- c) Owned animal - an animal that has a registered owner as defined by this Law;
- d) Unowned animal - an animal that does not have an owner or animal keeper as defined by this Law;
- e) Fenced animal - an animal that freely lives in a certain territory, the supervision of which is provided by an animal keeper;
- f) Unattended animal - an animal that has no owner or animal keeper identified during a specific period of time;
- g) Animal keeper (hereinafter referred to as keeper) – a natural person or legal entity in charge of an animal freely living in a certain territory, who, based on the animal's registration with an authorized body, feeds and waters it and who has the right to provide it with veterinary services;
- h) Animal welfare – the creation of conditions necessary for the care and maintenance of an animal, which include the animal's access to food and water, the prevention of disease, and its protection from causing pain and suffering;
- i) Animal care – creation of a necessary living environment for an animal in compliance with appropriate sanitary and hygienic conditions, its feeding and watering, regular walking, socialization, provision of veterinary services, disease prevention, diagnostics, treatment, timely vaccination against rabies and other diseases, as well as provision of other conditions necessary for the well-being of an animal established by the legislation of Georgia;
- j) Cynological institution – a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, which provides consulting/educational services, including in the areas of dog breeding, training, socialization, behavior correction and care, as well as provides services established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia in the field of animal (dog) management;
- l) Felinological institution – a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, which provides consulting/educational services, including in the areas of cat breeding, socialization, behavior correction and care, as well as provides services established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia in the field of animal (cat) management;
- l) Veterinary institution – a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, which provides veterinary services;
- n) Euthanasia of an animal – humane, immediate and painless termination of the life of an animal by an authorized person (veterinarian or veterinary technician) only in cases established by the legislation of Georgia, using substances subject to special control or medicinal products equivalent to pharmaceutical products subject to special control;
- n) Identification of an animal – marking of the animal by the registering authority with a microchip, ear tag (ring), and in the case of a cat – also by another method permitted by veterinary rules;
- p) Animal registration – entering information about an animal identified by the registering authority into the unified database, as well as making changes to the registration data <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

;

- p) Authorized body of the municipality – a structural unit of the municipality city hall determined by the representative body of the municipality or a legal entity authorized by the representative body of the municipality;
- q) Agency – a legal entity of public law subject to state control of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia – the National Food Agency;
- s) Registration authority – an authorized body of a municipality, a veterinary institution, an animal shelter and an animal house;
- t) Leash – a device that ensures the control of the movement of an animal;
- t) Collar – a device that is attached to a dog's neck or head and is intended to ensure the safety of other animals and people;
- p) Excessive aggression of an animal – such behavioral imbalance of an animal that poses a threat to the life and health of another animal and/or a person and makes the further socialization of this animal impossible;
- v) Walking an animal – movement of an animal in an open space or in specially designated areas with appropriate supervision;
- g) Breeding of animals – targeted and planned reproduction of animals;
- q) Management of animal population – identification-registration of an animal and termination of its ability to reproduce by sterilization/castration;
- s) Animal shelter (hereinafter referred to as shelter) – municipal shelter or private shelter registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia;
- c) Temporary animal accommodation facility (hotel) – a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, which provides services by providing temporary accommodation and care for animals entrusted to the owner;
- c) Dehelminthization – removal of parasites from the animal's body;
- d) Vaccination – introduction of antigen(s) against diseases into the animal's body to form immunity (the body's defenses) against diseases;
- d) Castration – cessation of the ability to reproduce in a male animal;
- g) Sterilization – cessation of the ability to reproduce in a female animal;
- k) Animal fighting - fighting an animal with its own or another species for competition or other purposes;
- j) Veterinary passport - an information sheet for an animal, in which a veterinarian or veterinary technician may enter records of annual vaccinations, sterilization/castration, individual characteristics of the organism (including allergic reactions, health condition, weight) and the use of antiparasitic drugs, as well as information about the owner (identification data and contact information);
- h) Microchip – a readable passive radio-frequency identification device, a special <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

information-bearing implant, through which information about the animal and its owner will be reflected in the unified database;

h1) Ear tag (tag) – a means of identification that contains an identification number and allows information about the animal to be reflected in the unified database;

h2) Animal breeding facility (hereinafter referred to as – breeding facility) – a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, which carries out targeted and planned breeding of animals in accordance with the procedure established by this Law;

H3) Animal dealer (hereinafter referred to as dealer) – a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia who sells animals;

H4) Potentially increased risk dog – a dog that, due to its physical characteristics (including size, weight) and/or improper training and behavior, may pose an increased threat to the life and health of another animal and/or a person;

H5) Moratorium on the temporary import and/or breeding of animals – the authority of the Government of Georgia to prohibit the temporary import and/or breeding of such animals in order to manage the hyperpopulation of potentially high-risk dogs, as well as other animals;

H6) Animal hoarding – the collection of animals by a natural person and, at the same time, the inability to comply with the rules for their care and maintenance (access to food, compliance with sanitary and hygienic conditions, provision with veterinary services, regular walks), despite a significant deterioration in the animal's condition (weight loss, illness, etc.) and/or the animal's living environment;

H7) Cynologist – a natural person who has the appropriate skills and knowledge in the areas of dog breeding, training, socialization and behavior correction;

H8) Felinologist – a natural person who provides consulting services in the areas of cat care, breeding, socialization and behavior correction;

H9) Breeding animal – an animal whose health, pedigree and suitability for breeding have been confirmed in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and which is intended for targeted and planned breeding;

H10) Service dog – a specially trained dog, whose owner is a public institution and which is used for the purpose of protection, search and rescue operations, elimination of sabotage, as well as a dog whose purpose is to prevent mass violations of public order, to pursue, detain and identify a person who has committed a crime or a socially dangerous act, to escort a detainee or an arrested person, to repel an attack on a person and/or a police officer/military police officer, to detect prohibited items;

H11) Assistant dog – a dog, whose owner is a blind or visually impaired person with a disability status registered in the unified database.

Article 4. Principles of Animal Welfare

1. The principles of animal welfare are:

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- a) free access to water and food;
- b) creation of a safe living environment and appropriate living conditions;
- c) prevention and treatment of diseases.

2. Compliance with the principles of animal welfare is mandatory both when carrying out the procedures established by this Law, and when carrying out charitable, educational and other activities in the field of animal management.

3. The following shall be prohibited throughout the territory of Georgia:

- a) abandonment of an animal, except for cases provided for by this Law;
- b) euthanasia of an animal, except for cases provided for by the legislation of Georgia;
- c) transfer of an animal as a reward, prize or bonus;
- d) use of an animal for food and/or production of drugs and chemicals from it;
- e) failure of the driver of a vehicle to notify the relevant authority in the event of injury/death of an animal in a traffic accident;
- f) hoarding of animals;
- g) training of a dog, except for a service dog, for combat purposes.

Article 5. Prohibition of Abandonment of an Animal

1. It is prohibited to abandon an animal, except in cases of objective prerequisites for the proper care of the animal and/or the impossibility of the owner and the animal coexisting as provided for by this Law.

2. In the cases provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, the owner is obliged to find a new owner for the animal within a reasonable period of time, and in case of impossibility of finding a new owner, to transfer it to a shelter for the implementation of the measures specified in Article 18 of this Law.

3. In the event that the owner finds a new owner for the animal, the registration of the new owner in the unified database is mandatory.

Article 6. Authorized bodies in the field of animal management

1. Authorized bodies in the field of animal management are the authorized body and agency of the municipality.

2. The authorized body of the municipality, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia, shall carry out:

- a) supervision of the fulfillment of obligations by the owner;
- b) supervision of the fulfillment of obligations by the keeper;
- c) registration of the premises;
- d) management of the population of stray/flocked animals and anti-rabies vaccination;

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- e) Notification of the information collector about the capture of a stray animal;
 - f) Disposal of the carcass of an abandoned/stray animal;
 - g) Scheduled and unscheduled monitoring of compliance with the rules established by this Law and other legislative and sub-legislative normative acts of Georgia by entities carrying out activities in the field of animal management.
3. The authorized body of the municipality shall establish a municipal shelter, independently or together with other municipalities, to ensure temporary accommodation, care, population management and anti-rabies vaccination of stray/fouled animals or carry out the above activities through a person authorized by it.
4. The authorized body of the municipality shall be obliged to manage the stray/fouled animal population in accordance with the procedure established by Article 18 of this Law.
5. The Agency shall, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia:
- a) manage a unified database to ensure animal traceability;
 - b) exercises state control over compliance by entities carrying out activities in the field of animal management with the rules established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia;
 - c) performs other functions determined by the legislation of Georgia.
6. The Agency has the right, by decision of the Government of Georgia, to ensure the identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of animals for the implementation of temporary measures to manage animal hyperpopulation.
7. Veterinary border and quarantine control during the movement of animals across the customs border of Georgia shall be carried out by the Agency and the Revenue Service, a legal entity under public law under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, within the scope of their competence, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

Article 7. Owner

1. Within the scope of the obligations of animal welfare, care and population management, taking into account the characteristics of the species and breed of the animal, the owner shall ensure:
- a) identification and registration of the animal in accordance with the procedure established by Article 16 of this Law;
 - b) Walking, traveling and using animals in events in compliance with the safety rules established by this Law and other legislative and sub-legislative normative acts of Georgia;
 - c) Veterinary examination, complex vaccination, deworming and other medical and preventive measures;
 - d) Anti-rabies vaccination in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia;
 - e) Termination of the animal's ability to reproduce by sterilization/castration in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legislative and sub-legislative normative acts of Georgia;

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- f) termination of the animal's ability to reproduce by another, harmless, method permitted by veterinary rules in case of impossibility of using the sterilization/castration method based on medical indications;
 - g) immediate transfer of the animal to a veterinary institution in case of its illness;
 - h) notification of the loss/death of the animal to the authorized body of the municipality;
 - i) Informing the authorized body/agency of the municipality about the fact of an animal biting/scratching/injuring another animal and/or a person, if there is a suspicion of infection/disease with rabies or other dangerous diseases transmitted from animals to humans;
 - j) In the event of an animal biting/scratching/injuring another animal and/or a person, veterinary supervision shall be carried out in isolation, at the owner's actual residential address or in a shelter, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia;
 - l) Immediate cleaning of public spaces in case of contamination by an animal;
 - m) compensation for damage caused by an animal to another person in accordance with the Civil Code of Georgia and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia;
 - n) disposal of an animal carcass in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.
2. The owner has the right to apply to the veterinary institution for the inclusion of information in the veterinary passport regarding the procedures provided for in subparagraphs "a" and "c"–"f" of paragraph 1 of this Article.
 3. A natural person may be registered as an owner in the unified database only in cases of reaching the age of 16 and not having a conviction as provided for in Article 259 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.
 4. In order to register as the owner of a potentially high-risk dog, in addition to meeting the requirements set forth in paragraph 3 of this article, it is mandatory to submit a certificate of mental health.
 5. In the event of the death of the owner, his heir is obliged to register as the owner in the unified database. If the heir refuses to accept the inheritance in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, he is obliged to ensure the search for a new owner for the animal, and in case of impossibility of finding a new owner - its transfer to a shelter.

Article 8. Animal euthanasia

1. An individual and a legal entity have the right to ensure the euthanasia of an unowned animal.
2. The basis for euthanasia is the registration of the euthanasia owner in the unified database. Euthanasia is terminated based on the application of the euthanasia owner or in case of his violation of the obligation established by this Law.
3. Euthanasia of an animal is permitted only after sterilization/castration.

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4. It is prohibited to confine animals in early and preschool education institutions, general education institutions, medical institutions and metro buildings, as well as in children's and sports grounds.

5. The confiner has the right to provide the confined animal with:

- a) veterinary services;
- b) disease prevention and diagnosis;
- c) vaccination against diseases.

6. Taking into account the principles of animal welfare, the keeper is obliged to:

- a) apply to the registration authority for registration as a keeper in the unified database;
- b) ensure the feeding and watering of the keeper;
- c) ensure the keeper's anti-rabies vaccination, and in case of impossibility of providing anti-rabies vaccination, apply to the authorized body of the municipality;
- d) provide relevant information to the authorized body of the municipality if the keeper has been diagnosed with a disease dangerous to other animals and/or humans or suspicious signs of such a disease;
- e) facilitate the smooth exercise of the powers established by this Law by the authorized body of the municipality and the agency in relation to the fenced animal, including providing information at its disposal about the condition of the animal;
- f) in the event of voluntary refusal to fence, notify the authorized body of the municipality and continue to monitor the animal until the registration as a fencer is canceled;
- g) in the event of voluntary refusal to fence, apply to the registering body with a request to cancel the registration as a fencer;
- h) in the event of the death of a fenced animal, notify the registering body in the unified database for the purpose of canceling the registration as a fencer.

7. In the case provided for in subparagraph "a" of paragraph 6 of this Article, the identification and registration of the fenced-in animal shall be ensured by the authorized body of the municipality through the municipal shelter included in its system or a person authorized by it.

Article 9. Entities participating in the field of animal management

1. The following entities participating in the field of animal management shall be subject to state control in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia:

- a) Veterinary institution - a person who provides veterinary services for animals, including animal identification-registration, sterilization/castration, disease prevention and treatment for health and welfare, <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

protection from zoonotic diseases (including anti-rabies vaccination), and ensuring veterinary safety in the country;

b) Shelter - a person who provides temporary care for animals, identification-registration, sterilization/castration, vaccination and/or finding an owner/sitter for an abandoned animal;

c) Temporary animal accommodation facility (hotel) – a person who provides temporary accommodation and care for an animal brought by the owner;

d) Breeder – a person who carries out targeted and planned breeding of animals, as well as animal identification and registration, production of a breeding book (a document containing information about the animal's ancestors), documentary accounting of breeding animals and the resulting litter;

e) Cynological/felinological institution – a person who provides consulting/educational services, including in the areas of animal breeding, training, socialization, behavior correction and care;

f) Seller - a person who carries out animal care and maintenance, sells it, as well as provides timely vaccination against rabies and other dangerous diseases and other types of veterinary services;

g) Animal care and hygiene service (grooming) facility - a person registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, which provides services related to the maintenance/improvement of the hygienic and external condition of an animal.

2. Animal care and hygiene service (grooming) facility:

a) is obliged to verify the identification and registration information of the animal upon receipt;

b) is not authorized to provide services to an animal that is not registered in the unified database.

3. In order to ensure the protection of animal welfare, the entities specified in paragraph 1 of this Article are obliged to comply with the general requirements for animal care:

a) compliance with sanitary and hygienic standards;

b) compliance with safety rules;

c) watering and, if necessary, feeding the animal;

d) proper insulation/lighting, heating and ventilation of the animal's housing space;

e) submission of information requested upon application by the authorized body of the municipality and/or agency;

f) compliance with other requirements established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia.

Article 10. Veterinary services for animals <http://www.matsne.gov.ge>
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1. In order to ensure veterinary safety in the country and protect the population from zoonotic diseases, except for other persons specified in this Law, the veterinary institution shall carry out the prevention and treatment of diseases in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.
2. Veterinary services for animals shall be provided by a veterinarian or a veterinary technician within the scope of their competence, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.
3. Veterinary services shall be provided by means that are painless for the animal, in accordance with the procedures established by the legislation of Georgia.
4. It is prohibited to perform veterinary operations on animals for non-therapeutic purposes or without a functional purpose, namely:
 - a) ear cropping;
 - b) tail cropping;
 - c) hooves extraction;
 - d) surgical excision of claws;
 - e) hearing loss;
 - f) vocal cord ligation.
5. Upon receipt of an animal, the veterinary institution is obliged to verify its identification-registration information in the unified database.
6. If information about the animal is not included in the unified database, the veterinary institution is obliged to ensure the identification-registration of the owned animal itself. In this case, the owner shall pay the costs of the identification-registration of the animal.
7. In the event of receipt of a stray/unowned animal, the veterinary institution is authorized to ensure the identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of the animal itself. In case of impossibility of carrying out these procedures, the veterinary institution shall be obliged to inform the authorized body of the municipality about this in order to ensure the carrying out of the procedures provided for in Article 18 of this Law.
8. A veterinary institution has the right to provide services to an unregistered animal that requires emergency veterinary services. After providing this service, it shall be obliged to carry out the procedures provided for in Paragraphs 6 or 7 of this Article.
9. A veterinary institution shall be obliged to enter information on the sterilization/castration, complex vaccination and anti-rabies vaccination of the animal into the unified database, and at the request of the owner, also into the veterinary passport.
10. A veterinary institution shall be obliged to enter information on the euthanasia of an animal carried out in accordance with the procedure established by Article 21 of this Law into the unified database.
11. A veterinary institution shall be obliged to immediately notify the Agency and the authorized body of the municipality of the detection of rabies or other zoonotic diseases provided for by the legislation of Georgia in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

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12. A veterinary institution shall have the right to provide veterinary services to a stray/unowned animal on the basis of a relevant agreement concluded with the Agency or the authorized body of the municipality.

13. A veterinary institution has the right to issue a certificate of animal health.

14. A veterinary institution is obliged to carry out active communication and coordination with relevant state agencies, including the timely exchange of information to prevent the spread of rabies or other zoonotic diseases.

Article 11. Shelter and its scope of activities

1. Based on paragraph 3 of Article 6 of this Law, a municipality has the right to independently or together with other municipalities establish a municipal shelter to ensure the identification and registration of animals, sterilization/castration, vaccination and finding an owner/sitter for them.

2. Any natural person or legal entity may establish a private shelter for the purpose of protecting the welfare, care and population management of animals.

3. The shelter is obliged to organize in accordance with the standards established by the legislation of Georgia:

a) aviaries and veterinary space for conducting relevant procedures;

b) An enclosure where the animal will be housed until its health status is determined, treated, removed from the shelter, or euthanized. The enclosure must meet the following requirements:

b.a) The animal must be able to move and eat;

b.b) The animal must not be restricted from seeing the open space - it must not be closed on all four sides, and the enclosure must be properly ventilated;

c) A quarantine area to ensure the isolation of the animal;

d) A walking area to ensure the animal's proper physical activity.

4. The activities of the shelter provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, including the measures and procedures determined for the purpose of managing the animal population, shall be regulated by Article 18 of this Law.

5. A private shelter shall be obliged to check the identification-registration information of an animal in the unified database immediately upon receipt.

6. After carrying out the procedure provided for in paragraph 5 of this Article, a veterinarian shall be obliged to immediately examine the animal. Based on this examination, by the veterinarian's decision, the animal may be placed in quarantine/isolation.

7. If information about the animal is not included in the unified database, the private shelter has the right to ensure the identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of the animal itself. In case of impossibility of carrying out these procedures, the private shelter is obliged to inform the authorized body of the municipality about this in order to ensure the carrying out of the procedures provided for in Article 18 of this Law.

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8. In case of biting/scratching/injuring another animal and/or a person by an animal, the animal must be placed in quarantine/isolation in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

9. If a private shelter provides services to an animal that requires emergency veterinary services, the private shelter is obliged to ensure the identification and registration of the animal only after providing emergency veterinary services in accordance with the procedure established by Article 16 of this Law.

10. A private shelter has the right to find an owner/sitter for an identified-registered, sterilized/castrated and vaccinated (anti-rabies vaccination) animal and update information about it in the unified database.

11. A private shelter has the right, on the basis of a relevant agreement, to provide services to the authorized body of the municipality within its competence, including animal population management and temporary shelter.

12. It is prohibited to arrange housing in a private shelter.

13. A private shelter is obliged to carry out active communication and coordination with relevant state agencies, including to prevent the spread of rabies or other zoonotic diseases.

Article 12. Temporary accommodation facility for animals (hotel)

1. In order to protect the welfare of animals, temporary accommodation and care of animals shall be provided by a temporary accommodation facility for animals (hotel) in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

2. The temporary animal accommodation facility (hotel) is obliged to ensure:

- a) compliance with sanitary and hygienic standards;
- b) feeding and watering the animal;
- c) proper insulation/lighting, heating and ventilation of the animal accommodation space;
- d) compliance with other requirements established by the legislation of Georgia.

3. The temporary animal accommodation facility (hotel) is obliged to verify the identification and registration information of the animal in the unified database upon receipt.

The temporary animal accommodation facility (hotel) is not entitled to provide services to an animal that is not registered in the unified database.

4. If a temporary animal shelter (hotel) accepts an unattended dog that does not have an owner/sitter within 2 months, it is obliged to find an owner/sitter for the animal, and in case of impossibility of finding an owner/sitter for it, it shall apply to the authorized body of the municipality to ensure the implementation of the measures provided for in Article 18 of this Law.

5. The arrangement of a temporary animal shelter (hotel) in an apartment of an apartment building is permitted upon the consent of the majority of the apartment owners.

6. No more than 15 animals may be accommodated in a temporary animal shelter (hotel) arranged in an apartment of an apartment building at the same time.

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Article 13. Breeding and the scope of its activities

1. A breeding farm carries out targeted and planned breeding of animals in order to protect the welfare of animals and ensure their care and maintenance.

2. A breeding farm is obliged to register with the authorized body of the municipality in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia.

3. The validity period of the registration provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article is 3 years.

The fee for the aforementioned registration is established by the authorized body of the municipality.

4. The document confirming the registration of the kennel must be placed in a place visible to the user.

5. In order to ensure the targeted and planned breeding of breeding animals, the kennel is obliged to:

a) have a cynologist/felinologist;

b) comply with the requirements for animal breeding established by Article 17 of this Law;

c) comply with sanitary and hygienic standards;

d) ensure the feeding and watering of the animal;

e) arrange open and closed spaces for housing animals, ensure their proper insolation/lighting, heating and ventilation;

f) arrange an appropriate space in case of receiving litter;

g) ensure the maintenance of documentary records of breeding animals and received litter;

h) ensure the maintenance of a breeding book (a document containing information about the ancestors of the animal);

i) ensure the submission of information requested upon application by the authorized body of the municipality and/or agency;

j) ensure the fulfillment of other requirements established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia.

6. The breeding facility is obliged to ensure the identification and registration of the received litter in accordance with the procedure established by Article 16 of this Law.

7. The breeding facility is authorized to carry out the activities specified in Article 15 of this Law.

8. The breeding facility is obliged to carry out active communication and coordination with relevant state agencies, including to ensure targeted and planned breeding of breeding animals.

Article 14. Cynological/Felinological Institution and the Scope of Its Activities

1. For the purpose of protecting the welfare and care of animals, a cynological/felinological institution shall provide consulting services in the field of animal management, animal training, socialization, behavior correction, production of a breeding <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

book (a document containing information about the ancestors of an animal), issuance of a certificate of pedigree and suitability for breeding, organization and holding of animal exhibitions and other services in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

2. A cynological/felinological institution shall be obliged to have a cynologist/felinologist.

3. The canine/felinological institution is obliged to verify the identification and registration information of the animal in the unified database upon receipt.

4. The canine/felinological institution is not entitled to provide services to an animal that is not registered in the unified database.

5. In order to protect the welfare of the animal, the canine/felinological institution shall ensure:

a) production of a breeding book (a document containing information about the animal's ancestors);

b) issuance of a certificate of pedigree and suitability for breeding;

c) loading of animals of different breeds, taking into account their physical characteristics and health status, in accordance with international standards;

d) provision of consulting services related to animal care, breeding, nutrition, selection, physiological characteristics, as well as behavioral studies;

e) training of animals in an appropriate training area (individual and sports training), socialization, behavioral correction;

f) assessment of the animal's condition and determination of excessive aggression;

g) organization and holding of animal exhibitions;

h) organization and holding of training courses and modules.

6. A document that does not indicate information about the animal's ancestors shall not be considered a certificate provided for in subparagraph "b" of paragraph 5 of this Article.

7. A canine/felinological institution has the right to organize a kennel on its territory, in case of registration with the authorized body of the municipality, in accordance with the procedure established by Article 13 of this Law.

8. A canine/felinological institution is obliged to carry out active communication and coordination with relevant state agencies, including through timely exchange of information, in order to ensure the welfare of the animal.

9. The operation of this article does not apply to the service of a service dog.

Article 15. The seller and the scope of his activities

1. The seller sells an animal in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia in order to ensure the welfare and care of the animal.

2. The seller is obliged to provide the registration authority with <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

identification-registration of the animal in accordance with the procedure established by Article 16 of this Law.

3. The seller is obliged to verify the identification-registration information of the animal upon receipt.

4. The seller is not entitled to have an animal that is not registered in the unified database.

5. In order to ensure the protection and care of the animal's well-being, the seller is obliged to:

a) provide food and water for the animal;

b) ensure the allocation of space for the animal, its proper insolation/lighting, heating and ventilation;

c) ensure regular walks for the animal;

d) provide the animal with veterinary services, including timely vaccination against rabies and other dangerous diseases;

e) ensure compliance with sanitary and hygienic standards on the territory of the sales facility;

f) do not allow unvaccinated (anti-rabies vaccination) and/or dangerous (including zoonotic) diseases animals on the territory of the sales facility;

g) do not allow puppies under 2 months of age and kittens under 4 months of age to be separated from their mothers for the purpose of sale;

h) ensure the registration of the import and sale of animals at the sales facility.

6. The seller is obliged to carry out active communication and coordination with relevant state agencies, including the timely exchange of information to ensure the welfare of the animal.

Article 16. Animal Identification-Registration

1. In order to protect the welfare of animals and ensure traceability, the registering authority shall carry out the identification and registration of animals in a unified database managed by the Agency.

2. The purpose of the unified database is:

a) to determine the number of animals, record information about each of them, identify and register their owners and keepers;

b) Prevention of abandonment of an animal by the owner;

c) Identification of the owner or keeper of an unattended animal.

3. The following information about the identified animal shall be entered into the unified database:

a) Species, breed, sex, date of birth, name, description of appearance, color, microchip or ear tag (tag) number;

b) About sterilization/castration;

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- c) About vaccination;
 - d) Name, surname, personal number, telephone number and residential address of the owner/shearer if the individual is a legal entity, and in the case of the owner/shearer if the legal entity is a legal entity - name, identification code, contact information;
 - e) On designation as a breeding animal, exhibition animal and service dog;
 - f) Other necessary data established by the legislation of Georgia related to identification and registration.
4. The authorized body of the municipality, veterinary institution, shelter and kennel shall carry out identification and registration of the animal based on access to the unified database received from the Agency in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.
5. An animal temporary accommodation facility (hotel), a kennel facility, a felinological facility, a retailer and an animal care and hygiene service (grooming) facility shall verify the information on the identification and registration of the animal based on access to the unified database received from the Agency in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.
6. The authorized body of the municipality shall be obliged to ensure the identification and registration of an ownerless/fenced animal.
7. In case of a change of owner/keeper, it is mandatory to make a change to the unified database in order to register the new owner/keeper.
8. In case of loss/damage of a microchip or ear tag (tag), the owner/keeper is obliged to apply to the registration authority for the purpose of repeated identification of the animal.

Article 17. Breeding of owned animals and population management

1. In order to manage the animal population, in accordance with the rules and terms of sterilization/castration established by the legislation of Georgia, the animal is subject to mandatory sterilization/castration, except for the cases provided for by this Law.
2. Breeding of breeding animals is permitted by the breeder or by the owner for non-commercial purposes in accordance with the rules and terms of breeding established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia.
3. In order to ensure targeted and planned breeding of animals, it is prohibited to:
- a) Breeding of a potentially high-risk dog;
 - b) Breeding of a mixed (mestizo) animal;
 - c) Breeding of an animal that is not identified and registered in the unified database;
 - d) Crossbreeding of an animal with a wild animal.
4. The authorized body of the municipality shall issue a consent to the breeding of a breeding animal on the basis of a health certificate issued by a veterinary institution and a certificate of pedigree and suitability for breeding issued by a cynological/felinological institution.

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5. The breeding farm shall carry out the breeding of breeding animals in accordance with the rules and conditions established by Article 13 of this Law, on the basis of appropriate registration.
6. The relevant consent for the breeding of breeding animals shall be issued to the owner by the authorized body of the municipality once, for a period of 2 years, with the right to extend it for a period of up to 1 year.
7. Identification and registration of the litter obtained as a result of breeding of a breeding animal by the owner shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by Article 16 of this Law.
8. A breeding animal bred by the owner shall be subject to sterilization/castration in accordance with the procedure and within the established time limit established by the legislation of Georgia.
9. In addition to the prohibitions established by paragraph 3 of this Article, the Government of Georgia shall be authorized to declare a moratorium on the temporary import and/or breeding of animals.
10. The sterilization/castration obligation established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia shall not apply to an exhibition animal that meets the relevant species/individual and breed characteristics and is intended for participation in an animal exhibition.
11. Before the sterilization/castration deadline established by this Law and other legislative and sub-legislative normative acts of Georgia, the owner is obliged to apply to the registration authority for the purpose of marking the animal as an exhibition animal in the unified database.
12. If, within 2 years from the registration provided for in paragraph 11 of this Article, the owner fails to obtain a certificate confirming the animal's participation in an animal exhibition, he is obliged to apply to the registration authority to make changes to the unified database.
13. In the case provided for in paragraph 12 of this Article, after the animal's status as an exhibition animal is revoked, it shall be subject to sterilization/castration in accordance with the procedure and within the established period established by the legislation of Georgia.
14. The provisions of paragraphs 1-13 of this Article shall not apply to a service dog.
15. The procedure and conditions for the disposal of a service dog shall be determined by a resolution of the Government of Georgia.

Article 18. Management of the population of stray/flocked animals

1. For the purpose of welfare and population management of stray/flocked animals, the authorized body of the municipality shall ensure the identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of stray/flocked animals.
2. In order to ensure population management, the authorized body of the municipality is obliged to carry out unattended/unowned/fenced:
 - a) humane capture and isolation of the dog;
 - b) verification of the animal's identification-registration information in the unified database;
 - c) determination of the animal's health status (veterinary services) and behavioral <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

characteristics;

d) identification-registration of the animal;

e) Sterilization/castration of the animal in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, if its health condition allows it;

f) Postoperative rehabilitation of the animal;

g) Anti-rabies vaccination of the animal;

h) Deworming and/or complex vaccination of the animal, if necessary.

3. In the case provided for in subparagraph "a" of paragraph 2 of this Article, the capture of a nursing dog is permitted only together with the litter, except for cases when the nursing dog requires emergency veterinary services.

7. Identification and registration of the litter obtained as a result of breeding of a breeding animal by the owner shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by Article 16 of this Law.

8. A breeding animal bred by the owner shall be subject to sterilization/castration in accordance with the procedure and within the established time limit established by the legislation of Georgia.

9. In addition to the prohibitions established by paragraph 3 of this Article, the Government of Georgia shall be authorized to declare a moratorium on the temporary import and/or breeding of animals.

10. The sterilization/castration obligation established by this Law and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia shall not apply to an exhibition animal that meets the relevant species/individual and breed characteristics and is intended for participation in an animal exhibition.

11. Before the sterilization/castration deadline established by this Law and other legislative and sub-legislative normative acts of Georgia, the owner is obliged to apply to the registration authority for the purpose of marking the animal as an exhibition animal in the unified database.

12. If, within 2 years from the registration provided for in paragraph 11 of this Article, the owner fails to obtain a certificate confirming the animal's participation in an animal exhibition, he is obliged to apply to the registration authority to make changes to the unified database.

13. In the case provided for in paragraph 12 of this Article, after the animal's status as an exhibition animal is revoked, it shall be subject to sterilization/castration in accordance with the procedure and within the established period established by the legislation of Georgia.

14. The provisions of paragraphs 1-13 of this Article shall not apply to a service dog.

15. The procedure and conditions for the disposal of a service dog shall be determined by a resolution of the Government of Georgia.

Article 18. Management of the population of stray/flocked animals

1. For the purpose of welfare and population management of stray/flocked animals, the authorized body of the municipality shall ensure the identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of stray/flocked animals.

2. In order to ensure population management, the authorized body of the municipality is obliged to carry out unattended/unowned/fenced:

a) humane capture and isolation of the dog;

b) verification of the animal's identification-registration information in the unified database;

c) determination of the animal's health status (veterinary services) and behavioral <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

characteristics;

d) identification-registration of the animal;

e) Sterilization/castration of the animal in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, if its health condition allows it;

f) Postoperative rehabilitation of the animal;

g) Anti-rabies vaccination of the animal;

h) Deworming and/or complex vaccination of the animal, if necessary.

3. In the case provided for in subparagraph "a" of paragraph 2 of this Article, the capture of a nursing dog is permitted only together with the litter, except for cases when the nursing dog requires emergency veterinary services....

2. Walking a dog in public places, including a boulevard, park or square (except for specially designated places), is permitted only with a leash or a muzzle, except for the cases provided for in subparagraph "b" of paragraph 8 of this article.

3. It is prohibited to bring an animal into the buildings of early and preschool education and training, general education, higher education and vocational education institutions (except for participation in educational and cultural events), as well as into a hospital, with the exception of cats and small dogs, which may be brought in by hand or in a special carrier (container, bag), as well as an assistant dog.

4. Traveling with an animal in public transport specified by the legislation of Georgia is permitted by using a leash or a leash, and in the case of cats and small dogs, also by holding them in your hand or using a special carrier (container, bag).

5. The use of an animal in a sports, cultural or entertainment event is permitted in accordance with the species/individual characteristics of the animal, without causing harm to it.

6. Holding a sports, cultural or entertainment event with the participation of an animal in public spaces is permitted in an area previously agreed upon with the authorized body of the municipality.

7. In the event of a sign prohibiting the entry of animals, a person is obliged to place the animal's trailer in the adjacent territory.

8. The representative body of the municipality is authorized to additionally determine by the rules for the care and keeping of domestic animals:

a) places where dogs are not allowed;

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- b) specially designated places where dogs are allowed to be walked without a leash;
 - c) different rules for walking, traveling and using animals in events (including the rules for using a leash).
9. The effect of this article does not apply to service dogs.

Article 21. Euthanasia of an animal

1. In accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, euthanasia of an animal by inhumane methods is prohibited.
2. Euthanasia of an animal shall be carried out without causing physical pain and suffering to the animal, with substances subject to special control or with medicinal products equivalent to pharmaceutical products subject to special control.
3. Euthanasia of an animal shall be carried out only by an authorized person - a veterinarian or a veterinary technician under the supervision of a veterinarian, on the basis of a veterinarian's conclusion, which is based on relevant studies and/or veterinary observation.
4. In accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia, the basis for euthanasia of an animal may be the animal's:
 - a) uncorrectable aggressive behavior that does not allow its coexistence with another animal and/or a person, including idiopathic aggression (instant anger syndrome) and biting, which are not provoked by aggression towards it or improper treatment;
 - b) complete paralysis, paresis and/or other incurable disease;
 - c) A suspected case of rabies infection/disease only on the basis of the prerequisites provided for by the legislation of Georgia;
 - d) An infection that is particularly dangerous for human and/or animal health;
 - e) Trauma and/or injury that is incompatible with life;
 - f) Irreversible weakness;
 - g) Congenital defect incompatible with life.
5. In order to establish the circumstances provided for in subparagraph "a" of paragraph 4 of this Article, in addition to the conclusion of a veterinarian, a conclusion of a canine/felinological institution is necessary.
6. After the completion of the euthanasia procedure of an animal, the veterinarian must ensure that the animal is dead, after which its carcass may be disposed of in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.
7. After the euthanasia of an animal, a pathological anatomic examination of the animal is permitted.

Article 22. Legal acts to be adopted in connection with the Law The Government of Georgia shall ensure the approval of the following legal acts by March 1, 2026:

- a) Rules for establishing the conditions and terms of identification and registration of domestic animals
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and the management of a unified database;

b) Technical Regulations on the Rules and Terms of Sterilization/Castration and Breeding of Domestic Animals.

Article 23. Transitional Provisions Related to the Enactment of the Law

1. The Government of Georgia shall ensure, by March 1, 2026:

a) Compliance with this Law of the Resolution of the Government of Georgia “On Approval of Requirements Related to the Activities of Business Operators Carrying Out Veterinary Activities”;

b) Compliance with this Law of the Resolution of the Government of Georgia “On Approval of the Rules for the Implementation of Veterinary State Control of Business Operators Carrying Out Veterinary Activities and Agricultural Markets/Fairs Where Live Animals Are Sold”.

2. In order to effectively implement animal population management measures, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development of Georgia and municipalities, shall develop and submit to the Government of Georgia for approval the following legal acts:

a) On a moratorium on dog breeding for the purpose of hyperpopulation management;

b) On a temporary rule (program) for regulating the management of dog hyperpopulation.

3. The Government of Georgia shall approve the legal acts provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article by March 1, 2026.

4. The temporary regulation (program) for the management of dog overpopulation, as provided for in subparagraph “b” of paragraph 2 of this article, shall at least determine:

a) measures for the universal identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of stray/unowned dogs throughout the country;

b) if necessary, based on the specifics of the municipality, additional support measures for owners living in rural areas of the relevant municipality;

c) A plan for the procurement and delivery of veterinary services for the purpose of identification-registration, sterilization/castration and anti-rabies vaccination of stray/unowned dogs by all municipalities, as well as the measures necessary for the implementation of this temporary rule (program) by municipalities.

5. The Ministry of Finance of Georgia shall ensure that the funds related to the implementation of animal population management measures specified in the temporary rule (program) for the regulation of dog hyperpopulation management provided for in subparagraph “b” of paragraph 2 of this article and, if necessary, specified in this Law, are taken into account when determining the maximum allocation volumes for relevant spending institutions in the medium term (document of the country’s main data and directions) and when developing the draft law of Georgia on the state budget of Georgia for the relevant year.

6. Municipalities shall ensure the approval of rules for the care and keeping of domestic animals by March 1, 2026 or, if such rules exist, their compliance with this Law.

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7. The owner shall ensure the identification and registration of the animal by January 1, 2027 in accordance with the procedure established by this Law.
8. The owner, who has already identified the animal, shall apply to the registration authority by January 1, 2027 for the purpose of registering the animal in the unified database.
9. A breeder who has already identified an animal is obliged to apply to the registration authority for the purpose of registering the animal in the unified database by January 1, 2027.
10. An owner whose animal was sterilized or castrated before the entry into force of this Law is obliged to apply to the registration authority by January 1, 2027 for the purpose of entering information on the sterilization/castration of the animal into the unified database.
11. The obligations provided for in subparagraphs “e” and “f” of paragraph 1 of Article 7 of this Law shall not apply to an owner who has registered an animal before January 1, 2027.
12. The requirement provided for in Article 7, Paragraph 4 of this Law shall not apply to an owner who has registered a potentially increased risk dog as defined by this Law before January 1, 2027.
13. A kennel existing before the entry into force of this Law shall be obliged to undergo registration with the authorized body of the municipality as provided for in Article 13, Paragraph 2 of this Law by January 1, 2027.
13. A kennel operating before the entry into force of this Law shall, no later than 1 January 2027, complete the registration with the authorised municipal body provided for by Article 13(2) of this Law.
14. An authorized body of the municipality, a veterinary institution, a shelter and a kennel existing before the entry into force of this Law shall be obliged to apply to the Agency by May 1, 2026 in order to have access to a unified database for the full exercise of the powers specified by this Law.
15. The temporary animal accommodation facility (hotel), canine institution, felinological institution, seller and animal care and hygiene service (grooming) facility existing before the entry into force of this Law are obliged to apply to the Agency by May 1, 2026, in order to have access (without the right to register and make changes) to the unified database in order to fully exercise the powers specified in this Law.
16. The Agency shall, by July 1, 2026:
- a) provide the authorized body of the municipality, veterinary institution, shelter and building with access to the unified database on the basis of the application specified in paragraph 14 of this Article;
 - b) On the basis of the application specified in paragraph 15 of this Article, ensure access (without the right to register and make changes) to the unified database of temporary accommodation facilities (hotels), cynological institutions, felinological institutions, retailers and animal care and hygiene service (grooming) facilities to the unified database.
17. The Government of Georgia shall ensure the approval of the rules for the certification of cynologists and felinologists by July 1, 2027.
18. Individuals engaged in animal care, breeding, training, socialization and behavior correction are obliged to complete a certified cynologist/felinologist professional program by July 1, 2028 <http://www.matsne.gov.ge> 41001002005001102813

and/or apply to the relevant body for recognition of non-formal education, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

Article 24. Entry into force of the law

1. This law, except for Articles 1-21 of this law, shall enter into force upon its publication.
2. Articles 1-4 of this Law, subparagraphs “g” and “i”-“n” of paragraph 1 of Article 7 and paragraph 2, paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of Article 8 and subparagraphs “b”, “d” and “e” of paragraph 6, paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 9, paragraphs 1-4 and 11-14 of Article 10, paragraphs 1-3, 8 and 11-13 of Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 12, paragraphs 1, 5, 6 and 8 of Article 14, paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 of Article 15, Article 19, paragraph 8 of Article 20 and Article 21 shall enter into force in 2026. From January 1st of the year.
3. Articles 5 and 6 of this Law, subparagraphs “a”-“f” and “h” of paragraph 1 of Article 7 and paragraphs 3-5, paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 8, subparagraphs “a”, “c” and “f”-“h” of paragraph 6 and paragraph 7, paragraph 2 of Article 9, paragraphs 5-10 of Article 10, paragraphs 4-7, 9 and 10 of Article 11, paragraphs 3-6 of Article 12, paragraphs 1-4 of Article 13, subparagraphs “b”-“k” of paragraph 5 and paragraphs 6-8 of Article 14, paragraphs 3, 4, 7 and 9, Paragraphs 2-4 of Article 15, Articles 16-18 and Paragraphs 1-7 and 9 of Article 20 shall enter into force from July 1, 2026.
4. Subparagraph “a” of paragraph 5 of Article 13 and paragraph 2 of Article 14 of this Law shall enter into force from July 1, 2028.

President of Georgia Mikheil Kavelashvili Tbilisi, July 2, 2025

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