

LAW No 4830

**New framework for the well-being of companion animals- «ARGOS» project and various
other provisions**

THE PRESIDENT

OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

We issue the following law as passed by the Parliament:

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PART A'

FRAMEWORK FOR THE WELL-BEING OF COMPANION ANIMALS- PROJECT «ARGOS»

CHAPTER A'

General Provisions

Article 1

Purpose- Subject Matter

The purpose of this present legislation is the protection of companion animals and to ensure their well-being, the promotion of responsible ownership of companion animals, the enactment of a clear and coherent regulatory framework for managing stray companion animals and a strategy for the drastic decrease in their numbers through programs of adoption with inexorable observance of the rules for animal well-being.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this present legislation each following word mean:

1. «Animal» each living organism which is aware and moves on dry land, in the air and the sea or any other water ecosystem or wetland

2. «Well-being» is the good physical and psychological state of the animal in relation to the conditions under which it lives and dies. An animal is living in a state of well-being if: (a) it has secured comfortable, safe, healthy, and appropriate accommodation adjusted to its natural way of living, (b) it does not suffer from pain, fear and anxiety and (c) it is able to express behaviors which are important for its good physical and psychological state. The rules of animal well-being ensure that the following principles are met:

- i. Freedom from hunger and thirst through access to food and water appropriate in quality and quantity.
- ii. Freedom from pointless suffering and strain through safe and clean accommodation for housing and resting that protects from bad weather conditions.
- iii. Freedom from pain, injury and illness through appropriate care and veterinary attention.
- iv. Freedom from fear and anxiety through proper handling and behavior.
- v. Freedom of expression of normal behaviors through appropriate living and socializing conditions.

3. «Companion animal» is each animal which is maintained or intended to be maintained by a human mainly inside his home for reasons of love to animals, or referred to in the list of Annex I of EU Regulation 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (L84). If certain articles of this present legislation concern particular companion animals such as dogs and cats, then these are mentioned explicitly. Companion animals include service dogs, working dogs as well as therapy animals. Wild fauna animals cannot be maintained as companion animals.

4. «Owned companion animal» is a companion animal which has an owner. The direct descendants of an owned dog, or cat, are considered automatically as owned and their owner is the owner of the female generator.

5. «Stray companion animal» is the companion animal that does not have an owner.

6. «Owner» is the natural person that maintains a companion animal, mainly in his own home and under his direct supervision and care. This person is the one named on the identification document of the animal.

7. «Foster» is the natural person that temporarily accommodates one or more stray companion animals until they are adopted. The foster can be chosen by the municipality, or the animal loving partnerships and the animal loving nonprofit organizations which are registered in the relevant sub register of par. 23, as well as by natural persons which have a permit to run a stray animals' shelter, or a shelter which complies with the requirements of articles 28 and 29. An agreement is signed between the foster and the municipality, or the

animal loving partnerships, or the animal loving nonprofit organization, or the natural person which defines the obligations of the foster and every other necessary detail.

8. «Professional breeder of companion animals» is the natural or legal person that breeds, reproduces, and sells companion animals for commercial purposes.

9. «Amateur breeder» is the natural person that breeds dogs or cats in an amateur manner with the intention of preserving the breeds of the animals and not professionally with intention to make a profit and who is registered in the Register of Professionals and Amateurs Breeders of the National Companion Animals Register, following a certification of the Hellenic Kennel Club for dogs or the Hellenic Society of Amateur Dog Breeders for dogs and the Hellenic Cat Club or the Hellenic Society of Cat Breeders for cats.

10. «Small companion animal» is the companion animal whose weight does not exceed ten (10) kilos.

11. «Service dog» is the trained or trainee dog that leads blind people and the dog serving and protecting persons with a disability or illness.

12. «Working dog» is the dog who under the active guidance of its handler and the supplementary role in the execution of its duties or the purpose of its handling, that is used for hunting (hunting dog), guarding animals (shepherd dog), guarding places (guard dog), search and rescue (search and rescue dog), detecting dog for poisoned baits, as well as the dogs used by the armed forces, the security forces and the prosecuting authorities of the Independent Authority of Public Revenue and the Ministry of Finance.

13. «Therapy animal» is every animal that is used for therapeutic purposes for the benefit of a person, especially a disabled person, including the natural, sensory, psychiatric, mental or other type of psychiatric disability that has received or is receiving specific training and holds the certificates provided for by the legislation.

14. «Dangerous companion animal» is the companion animal that repeatedly exhibits unprovoked and unjustified hostility towards humans, or towards other animals, without having been threatened and the animal that suffers or carries a serious illness, that can be transmitted to a human, or to other animals, and as per the opinion of a veterinary cannot be cured.

15. «Serious illness» is every contagious or not contagious disease posing immediate and high risk for the health of a human or an animal, of the same or other species, as well as every disease that can lead to a serious deterioration of the health of the animal as per the opinion of a veterinary.

16 «Disease» is the appearance of infection and attack/ seizure to animals, with or without clinical or pathological manifestation that is caused by one or more pathogenic factor.

17. «Pathogenic factor» is each pathogen that can be transmitted to animals or humans, and which can cause an animal to fall ill.

18. «Risk factor» is each pathogenic factor in an animal or product, or illness in an animal, which can have adverse effect to the health of humans or animals.

19. «Hazard» is the probability of manifestation and the possible magnitude of the biological and financial consequences of an adverse effect on the health of animals or the public health.

20. «Companion animal shelter» is a licensed establishment which hosts stray companion animals, or one which complies with the requirements of articles 28 and 29. Accommodating the animals in the shelter ensures that they live under safe conditions as it operates in accordance with well-being rules until they are adopted, or they are reintroduced in their familiar environment.

21. «Adoption of a stray companion animal» is when a stray dog finds an owner.

22. «Identification document» is the passport which is issued in accordance to Annex III of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (L 178).

23. «National Register for Companion Animals (NRCA)» is the online electronic database for registering companion animals under the name «National Register for Companion Animals» which is maintained at the General Secretariat of Information Systems for Public Administration (GSISPA) of the Ministry of Digital Governance. The NRCA includes the following sub registers:

(a) Sub register for recording and monitoring companion animals

(b) Sub register of Animal Loving Partnerships and Organizations for recording all the recognized and legally operating animal loving partnerships and animal loving nonprofit organizations seated in Greece, or at any other member state of the European Union which are active in Greece.

(c) Sub register of companion animal shelters for recording all shelters for companion animals operated by municipalities, by inter-municipal associations of municipalities and inter-municipal collaborations, by animal loving partnerships and nonprofit animal loving

organizations of sub register of clause (b) and by individual animal lovers, provided that the shelters are licensed, or comply with the with the requirements of articles 28 and 29.

(d) Sub register of professional and amateur breeders for recording professional and amateur dog and cat breeders.

(e) Hellenic Platform for Adoption of Stray Companion animals used for recording all the stray animals that are up for adoption with a name, photograph, a description, contact details of the person responsible for the adoption and other data.

(f) Sub register for volunteer blood donation for companion animals used for recording the owners of companion animal who wish to volunteer and contribute to the blood bank and for recording the companion animals offered for volunteer blood donation.

(g) Passport depository for passports distributed from the Hellenic Veterinary Club to the authorized vets with the purpose of being further distributed to companion animal owners.

24. «Offenders' register» is the electronic register maintained at the Athens Public Prosecutor's Office and updated by the Public Prosecutor of each area and where all final penal sentences are recorded concerning the abandonment and the abuse of animals. This register interoperates with the NRCA and the recording of an offender means that he is excluded and cannot be registered at the NRCA as an owner, or a foster, of an animal or person responsible for the well-being of an animal on behalf of a legal person.

25. «Electronic booklet» is the aggregate of data recorded at the NRCA and concern the health of the companion animal. The electronic booklet replaces the health booklet of the animal.

26. «Circus» is the temporary outdoor installation, the stage or tent, where music, dance, acrobatic and other similar performances take place with the purpose of making a profit and for the entertainment of humans.

27. «Theatre with a varied program» is a group of persons who, in a permanent installation, carry out for a profit, and in an alternating sequence, entertaining programs, performances, entertaining small comic theatrical plays, songs and dance with a variety of contents.

28. «Non-commercial movement outside Greece» is any movement of a companion animal accompanying its owner outside Greece that, or accompanying a person authorized by the owner, which: (a) is not intended for the sale, or by any other means transfer of ownership of the companion animal in question and (b) is part of the movement of the owner of the companion animal, either under his direct responsibility, or under the responsibility of an authorized person in the event that the companion animal is not together with its owner. In this latter case the competent authorities are provided with that information needed to prove the corresponding movement of the owner.

Article 3

Competent authorities

1. Competent authority for the enactment and the monitoring of the implementation of the rules regarding the health of animals, the veterinary public health, the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents in accordance with presidential decree 41/2006 (A' 44) and directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC (L 325), is the General Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food as per article 7 of presidential decree 97/2017 (A' 138).

2. Competent authorities for the care, collection and management of stray companion animals are the municipalities within whose administrative borders the stray animals are spotted as per article 10. Municipalities have the following competences:

(a) the periodic drawing up and submitting for approval at the Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior, of any operational program including the necessary actions so that the municipalities fulfil their obligations, as these are enacted by this present legislation, with the intention of ensuring the well-being and the effective management of stray animals, and the prevention of new stray animals appearing, within the administrative borders of each municipality. Each operational program is accompanied with a budget for each fund necessary for its implementation as well as with a specific timetable for implementing each action.

(b) the collaboration with animal loving partnerships and nonprofit animal loving organizations registered with the NRCA with the purpose of mainly: (ba) the effective implementation of programs for collecting and hosting stray companion animals at appropriately tailored sheltered which are registered with the Sub Register of Companion Animal Shelters of clause (c) of par. 23 of article 2, (bb) the vaccination, the sterilization and the microchipping of stray animals, (bc) the care with the support of a vet of ill or injured stray companion dogs, (bd) the making sure that they are adopted in Greece and abroad or reintroduced to their familiar environment and (be) in general the implementation of every relevant action with the intention of attaining the aims of this present legislation.

(c) the drawing up and submitting for approval at the Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the

Ministry of Interior, of proposals for educational programs for the protection of stray animals for the need of informing and training the municipality employees who will be involved.

(d) the planning and implementation of actions and programs which can contribute to the protection and the well-being of companion animals, owned and stray, informing and sensitizing citizens in matters of responsible ownership of a companion animal and in general the promotion of love to animals.

(e) the submission of the yearly report to the Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior, regarding the progress of the implementation of the approved operational programs and actions accompanied by a report about the absorption of each fund. The funding to the municipalities in accordance with article 11 may depend from the evaluation of how each approved operational program, and in general each action by each municipality, is implemented.

3. The Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior is the competent authority for the supervising of the implementation of the operational programs prepared by the municipalities as per par. 2, for the collection and management of stray companion animals, and for the prevention of new stray animals appearing. Moreover, it is competent for the coordination and responsible for the overall progress in the matter of dealing with stray companion animals by the municipalities. The Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior has the following competences:

(a) the overall responsibility for the implementation of the government policy concerning the care to companion animals and the management of stray animals, the oversight and coordination of management programs for stray animals by municipalities and the determination of appropriate practices for the management of the number of stray animals.

(b) to make sure that the operational programs for the management of stray animals by the municipalities include the following actions:

(ba) the sterilization of stray animals

(bb) the microchipping of stray animals and the registering of the same with the NRCA

(bc) the veterinary care of stray animals

(bd) the collection of stray animals as well as hosting them at shelters and with fosters

(be) the adoption of stray animals

(bf) taking care and monitoring that stray animal that have been reintroduced to their familiar environment, within the administrative borders of the municipality where they were collected, have been vaccinated and sterilized

4. Competent bodies/ persons for microchipping and registering companion animals and their owners with the NCRA are the veterinarians who meet the requirements of par. 6 and 7 of article 4. These bodies have the following competences:

(a) the microchipping of dogs and cats using appropriate means of electronic branding, the registration of the information of those animals and their owners with the NCRA as well as the keeping the NCRA up to date.

(b) The updating of the companion animal's electronic booklet in accordance with par. 3 of Article 4.

(c) the issuance and signing of the printed copy of the electronic booklet of the animal in each case that the owner needs it.

(d) the taking of genetic material of dogs and cats and sending it at the Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals at the Academy of Athens Biomedical Research Foundation for all animals that are not sterilized.

(e) the issuance of a passport (identification document) for the companion animal in accordance with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as the registration of the passport number with the NCRA.

(f) the making sure that owners are informed, by any suitable means, of their obligations under this legislation.

5. Competent authorities for the enforcement and implementing of the veterinary legislation for companion animals, and the proper operation of the system of microchipping and registering of the companion animals and their owners, are the veterinary services of the prefectures and the regional unities of the country, as well as the competent services of the relevant municipality. These authorities have the following competences:

(a) the collaboration with the bodies carrying out the microchipping and registration of the companion animals and the coordination of their actions, the provision of technical directions and any other type of support for the full and coherent implementation of the microchipping of dogs and cats.

(b) the checking and supervision of the bodies carrying out the microchipping and registering of the companion animals.

(c) the checking on a regular basis, as well as following a complaint, of the shelters where companion animals reside in order to verify if the rules of animal well-being, as well as the other rules hereunder, are met.

6. Competent control body for the enforcement and the verification of the offence of article 35 are the employees of the Greek Police, the Municipality Police, the National Transparency Authority, the Inter Service Unit for Market Control of Law 4712/2020 (A' 146), the Forestry Department, the customs authorities, the Coastal Guard, the competent authorities of the municipalities, the Ministry of Interior, as well as the private hunting guards of the recognized, by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, hunting organizations. For the offenses of clause c' of par. 10 and par. 15 of article 8 as well as par. 6 of article 17, competent control bodies for the enforcement and the verification of the offence at the points of entry in the country from countries of the European Union are the customs authorities of the Independent Authority of Public Revenue.

7. Competent body for the creation, the maintenance and management of the NCRA and its sub registers, is the General Secretariat of Information Systems for Public Administration (GSISPA) of the Ministry of Digital Governance which collaborates with the Directorate of Digital Governance of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, and with the Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior.

8. Competent authority for matters pertaining to working animals of the armed forces is the Ministry of National Security.

CHAPTER B'

CREATION OF A NATIONAL REGISTER FOR ANIMALS- IDENTIFICATION OF COMPANION ANIMALS

Article 4

National Register for Companion animals (NRCA)

1. An electronic database is kept at the GSISPA of the Ministry of Digital Governance with information on microchipping and the recording of dogs and cats and their owners under the name «National Register for Companion animals (NRCA)». The NRCA may interoperate

through the center of interoperation of the GSISPA with all the Registers of the public sector, as well as with corresponding databases of other member states of the European Union.

2. Certified users of the NRCA are the following:

(a) The veterinarians for the recording of companion animals and their owners. Their capacity is identified through interoperation with the Register of the Hellenic Geotechnical Chamber. The persons in this case are obliged to update the NRCA with the rest of their identification details.

(b) The competent employees of the Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Association.

(c) The competent employees of the municipalities for the purpose of monitoring and implementing the management program of stray animals, the drawing up of programs for owned animals and for the purposes of recording and updating, free of charge, the data of citizens and their residents and the relevant changes.

(d) The competent employees of the General Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

(e) The competent employees of the Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior.

(f) The competent employees of the monitoring bodies and those certifying offenses of par. 6 of article 3.

(g) The veterinarians of the armed forces and security forces.

(h) the competent employees of the General Directorate of Forests and Forest Environment of the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

3. The authorized veterinarians record at the NRCA database information concerning:

(a) the identification of dogs and cats such as the unique microchip code, the identification document (passport) if issued, the gender, color, race, indication and date of sterilization, or indication and date when genetic material (DNA) of the animal was sent to the Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals of article 13, vaccinations and date of each vaccination, unique code of microchip of the female generator, if there is one, lab results for tests and in the event of a positive result for leishmaniasis, title of antibodies, as well as every other contagious illness for which there is an obligation to register according to presidential decree 41/2006 (A' 44), loss, or the finding of, an owned dog, or cat, and the corresponding dates, the death, the date of death and the cause of death. A photograph of the animal is also registered, and reference is made as to whether the companion animal is a service dog, working dog or therapy animal, as well as relevant

hereditary illnesses which make reproduction dangerous for the animals themselves, or for their descendants, in which case sterilization is required.

(b) The identification of the owner, or the foster, of the companion animal, such as the name and surname, the address, the tax registration number, the telephone number, and the identification card number or passport number, or other equivalent public document. The registration and processing of the personal data of the above natural persons is effected in accordance with Law 4624/2019 (A' 137) and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (L 119). By way of exception registration of therapy animals, animals owned by breeding undertakings, service dogs, guards, search and rescue as well as dogs used by the armed forces, the security forces and the prosecuting authorities of the Independent Authority of Public Revenue and the Ministry of Finance registration is made in the name of the legal person. In this case the person responsible for the well-being of the animal is the natural person designated by way of a decision of the competent body, and if such a person has not been designated, the legal representative of the legal person. Such person and his capacity are registered in the identification document and the NRCA and the said person is deemed the owner of the animal as regards the rights and obligations that derive from such a capacity.

(g) The way that the owned animal (dog or cat) was acquired. The change of owner of an owned companion animal is deemed to be an acquiring event, as well as finding a half- blood stray companion animal (microchipped or not).

(h) As regards an animal for breeding, apart from the number of approvals to the breeder registration includes the number of births per female animal, as well as every descendant and their microchip number.

4. Stray dogs and cats are also registered with the NRCA with as many data of clause a' of par. 3 as are available. Stray dogs and cats are marked as «stray» together with information of the municipality in the district where they were collected, or the animal loving partnership, or the animal loving nonprofit organization, or the individual who has a permit to run a stray animals' shelter, or a shelter which complies with the requirements of articles 28 and 29, provided that the animal will stay there. If there is a foster home, then the information of the foster is registered.

5. Apart from the data of par. 3 the sub registers of par. 23 of article 2 are also created and operated under the NRCA.

6. The microchipping, the registration and the issuance of an identification document of a companion animal are effected by veterinarians who are certified as per par. 7 and who legally exercise the profession of the veterinarian in Greece and by volunteer veterinarians, citizens of EU member states, who offer their veterinarian services temporarily and occasionally in Greece and have all the prerequisites so that they can legally exercise the veterinarian profession in Greece and who are under an obligation to submit a relevant declaration to the Hellenic Geotechnical Chamber. The veterinary, when placing the microchip, makes sure that all information is properly and fully registered with the NRCA.

7. The certification of the veterinarians is carried out by way of submitting an electronic application and the granting to the applicant veterinary an access code to the NRCA. The certification of the veterinarians of the peripheral units of the Country and veterinarians serving or collaborating with the municipalities is obligatory.

8. Apart from the users of par. 2 graded access is afforded to the following:

(a) Authorities, bodies, and organs of par. 1 to 6 of article 3 for the exercise of the competences granted to them hereunder.

(b) To owners of owned animals who can use their personal access codes to be informed about their animal's data, as registered with the NRCA, to print out a copy of its electronic booklet and so that they can update their contact information. Using the same procedure one can declare, as per each case may be, the loss of a dog or cat, or that they have found a dog or cat.

9. In order to carry out the microchipping or to issue a passport, the person registered as the owner, or foster, of an owned companion animal is obliged to show to the certified veterinary his identification card, or passport, or other equivalent public document, so that his personal information can be verified and paired with the unique microchip number of the animal. A person who is below eighteen (18) years of age cannot be registered as an owner or foster of an owned companion animal.

10. The certified veterinary carrying out the microchipping gives the owner, or the foster, free of charge, a certificate of microchipping which includes the number of the microchip of the animal, its characteristics (gender, color, race) and the personal information of its owner (name, surname, address, telephone number, identification card or passport or other equivalent public document number). This certificate of microchipping and registration is printed out from the NRCA.

11. Filling out the information of the passport can also be carried out manually. The unique number of the microchip of the animal is written down in the passport by hand or with a sticker and it is obligatory that it bears the seal and signature of the veterinary.

12. The microchipping of each dog and cat, the registration with the NRCA and the registration of each change is mandatory. The owner, or the foster, of the companion animal (dog or cat) is under an obligation to inform the veterinary, or the competent employee of the municipality, for the change in any of the information registered with the NRCA concerning either the owner, or the foster, (such as name, surname, address, telephone number, identification card or passport or other equivalent public document number), or the companion animal (dog or cat) that is owned, or fostered, by him the latest within ten (10) working days from the change. By exception, the loss or the finding of an animal are registered within a deadline of two (2) working days from the event. In case of change of owner, the veterinary updates the NRCA and the passport, as the case may be. In case the owner and the animal relocate permanently outside Greece the deletion of the companion animal from the NRCA is carried out only if relevant documentation is provided as proof of the relocation and must be issued by a public authority, utilities service provider or financial institution of the country of relocation.

13. The expenditure for the microchipping and the registration of owned companion animals is born by the owner and for stray companion animals by the municipality. The animal loving partnerships and the animal loving nonprofit organizations and the owners and fosters of companion animals belonging to sensitive, or vulnerable, social groups, as well as owners of dogs used exclusively for guarding of flocks of animals (shepherd dogs), can, if they wish, microchip, register, sterilize and vaccinate their companion animals, free of charge, at municipal veterinary clinics, or other municipal spaces used and created specifically for this purpose, or intermunicipal centers and at the veterinary clinics of the country's prefectures, or by the municipality contracted veterinary service providers. Included in the groups referred to in the second passage are especially persons with disabilities, families with many children, families with three children, families with one parent, unemployed persons registered at the relevant register of the OAED and living with the minimum guaranteed income. Also the municipalities can give, free of charge, food and medicine to the animal loving partnerships and the animal loving nonprofit organizations with which they collaborate, as well as to the fosters.

14. The microchipping and identification of companion animals is carried out by placing at the left external neck of the animal a system of electronic identification (respondent transceiver)

which is a passive device that recognizes radio waves, only for recognition in accordance with ISO 11784 and HDX technology or FDX_B and can be recognized by a recognition device compatible with ISO 11785 and registered with the NRCA. The suppliers of microchips, retail and wholesale, are obliged to offer to the Greek market an electronic means of microchipping in accordance with the above specifications, accompanied by a user's guide in Greek. Animals coming from third countries that are microchipped in a noncompatible to the ISO 11784 manner, are microchipped with a new compatible manner, if they are to remain in Greece permanently, or temporarily for a period of more than ninety (90) days.

15. The veterinarians carrying out the microchipping of companion animals are under an obligation to check if it works before placing it in the body of the animal and to use means of electronic microchipping that comply with the standards of par. 14. In the event of a complaint regarding the supply or use of microchips that do not comply with the standards of par. 14. the persons supplying them, or using them, are under an obligation to give to the competent persons conducting the investigation and verifying the offence of par. 6 of article 3 full evidence of compliance with par. 14.

16. If a stray animal registered with the NRCA has not shown any signs of life, its disappearance is registered with the NRCA by the relevant municipality. If the stray animal that has disappeared has not shown any signs of life for a period of at least five (5) years from the date that its disappearance was registered with the NRCA, then its death is registered with the following cause of death: «5+ years without sign of life».

17. Municipalities, prefectures and all competent persons monitoring compliance and verifying the offences of par. 6 of article 3 are under an obligation to get supplied with, on their expense, with the appropriate detectors necessary for the recognition of the owners of microchipped owned companion animals, for checking their passport and in general for monitoring compliance with this present article.

18. The Directorate of Digital Governance of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food assists the GSISPA of the Ministry of Digital Governance in any necessary matter concerning the implementation of the NRCA and co-operates for the transition of data from the existing «On line Electronic Database» that includes the codes of the microchips, the information of the owners and companion animals registered from the date it was assigned with keeping the «On line Electronic Database» until the date it will deliver it to the GSISPA of the Ministry of Digital Governance.

19. Working dogs of the armed forces are exempt from being registered with the NRCA and are registered in a specific register of working animals of the armed forces. Their registration

with the NRCA is carried out only after they cease their military service for any reason, and they are adopted by persons from the armed forces as companion animals.

Article 5

Identification document (passport)

1. The passport which is issued in accordance with the template of Part I' of Annex III of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 is the only identification document for dogs and cats. Medical booklets issued before this present legislation came into force remain valid.

2. The passport is issued by an authorized veterinary and its beneficiary can only be a natural person if:

(a) The veterinary verifies that the companion animal is microchipped and

(b) The veterinary duly fills out parts I until IV and seals part III with a see-through sticker membrane. Part V of the passport is filled out only if the animal is over the minimum age at which it can be vaccinated for rabies. In this case each vaccination for rabies is covered with see-through sticker membrane.

3. The authorized veterinary issuing the identification document updates the NRCA accordingly.

4. Passports are distributed by name, following information from the Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Association, and cannot be transferred to another natural person. In case the passport is issued for a stray, the owner registered is: (a) the natural person of article 40, (b) the foster of the animal, (c) the person, or the animal loving partnership, or the animal loving nonprofit organization responsible for the shelter.

5. The Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Association distributes empty identification documents only to authorized veterinaries and is under an obligation to update the Passport Depository of the NRCA with the name and surname, and the rest of the contact information of the authorized veterinaries, making a note of the number of the passports, together with the date that they were distributed.

6. Specifically for working dogs of the armed forces a passport is issued only if the animal must travel outside the Country.

Article 6

Identification of companion animals

1. The monitoring bodies and those certifying offenses of par. 6 of article 3, as well as the judicial authorities, can apply to the Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals, to identify the progenitors of non-microchipped companion animals that have been abandoned, abused, found dead, or whenever else it is deemed necessary, and especially in order to locate those who are in breach of this present legislation.
2. The administrative and penal sanctions of articles 34 and 35 are imposed on the owner if a female progenitor of a non-microchipped companion animal is identified.

CHAPTER C

ADOPTION OF STRAY COMPANION ANIMALS – CREATION OF HELLENIC ADOPTION PLATFORM FOR STRAY COMPANION ANIMALS

Article 7

Adoption of stray companion animals- Creation of Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals

1. A Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals is created at the NRCA for the purpose of facilitating adoptions. Each animal that is up for adoption is registered in this platform with a name, a photograph, an analytical description, its microchip number, its age, gender, the information of the person responsible in the municipality, or the animal loving partnership, or the animal loving nonprofit organization, or the shelter responsible for the adoption, or the foster, if the foster wants to, the links to other webpages or public pages in the social media with extra information for the particular animal and other information. The above persons make sure that the stray animals' information is uploaded on the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals and carry out all the necessary communications and procedures until the animal is adopted.
2. Adult persons residing in Greece adopt stray animals from shelters (municipal, or intermunicipal, or from an animal loving partnership, or animal loving nonprofit organization, or an individual who loves animals), or animals that live with foster families by signing a relevant adoption agreement with the person whose information is registered with the NRCA for the stray animal in question. Following completion of the adoption the above persons make sure that the registration with the NRCA is immediately updated. The adoption of a stray half-blood animal, microchipped or not, by the person that found it, is also allowed. In this case the interested person makes sure that a non-microchipped animal is immediately

microchipped and registered in his name, otherwise, if already microchipped, then the information is changed and the animal is registered in his name.

3. To promote the responsible adoption of animals abroad, municipalities, animal loving partnerships or animal loving nonprofit organizations registered with the NRCA, can cooperate with respective partnerships and organizations seated in other member states. The adoption of a stray companion animal by an interested new owner, natural person or animal loving partnership, not residing in Greece, or not seated in Greece, the adoption is carried out in Greece by way of signing an adoption agreement and the delivery of the animal to the interested new owner, or his legal representative, or his attorney, whereby representation is proven by a document which has a verified date. The person responsible for the carrying out of the adoption abroad is also responsible for updating the NRCA by making a note that the animal was adopted abroad and mentioning the country of destination. For the adoption of an animal abroad which is kept in a shelter, the issuance of the certificate TRACES requires the compliance with EU Regulation 2016/429 and EU Regulation 2019/2035. The origin of the animal is the place where the shelter is located. If the animal that is adopted abroad is kept by a foster, then the TRACES certificate states that the origin of the animal is the address of the foster. Charging a price for the animal that is adopted is forbidden, except for charging for transportation expenses of the animal and possible expenses for food and medical care which are the person responsible for the adoption can prove and which are uploaded on the platform of par. 1.

CHAPTER D'

BREEDING, REPRODUCTION

AND SALE AND PURCHASE (TRADING) OF COMPANION ANIMALS

Article 8

Breeding, reproduction and sale and purchase (trading) of companion animals

1. Undertakings that breed, reproduce and trade in companion animals are set up and operate in accordance to article 3 of Law 4711/2020 (A' 145), they must provide appropriate habitat and comply with the minimum requirements of EU Regulation 2019/2025 of 28 June 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (L 314) and with Law 604/1977 (A' 163) and presidential decree 463/1978 (A' 96) and also comply with all the well-

being and safety rules and provide appropriate veterinary care. Especially for undertakings that breed, reproduce and trade in cats and dogs they must also register with the sub register of Professional and Amateur Breeders of the NRCA.

2. Dogs and cats that are being bred, reproduced, or intended for trading, must have an updated electronic health booklet and passport and they must be microchipped and registered with the MRCA.

3. Amateur breeders can reproduce up to two (2) female dogs and one (1) female cat each year. They are granted prior permission for each birth by the Hellenic Kennel Club, or the Hellenic Society of Amateur Dog Breeders (for dogs), or the Hellenic Cat Club, or the Hellenic Society of Cat Breeders (for cats). Permission is granted only following a check, as the case may be, from the Hellenic Kennel Club or the Hellenic Society of Amateur Dog Breeders, or the Hellenic Cat Club, or the Hellenic Society of Cat Breeders, about the course of the previous birth for which an application was made by the amateur breeder especially about the medical care and in general the care to the newborns.

4. The owners of dogs and cats can reproduce a companion animal once (1) in its lifetime. To do that they get prior permission by the committee of par. 8 of article 10 which must be kept up to date as regards the progress of the birth and especially as regards the medical care and in general care to the newborns.

5. The limitations of par. 3 and 4 do not apply to professional breeders and working dogs of the armed forces.

6. The breeders keep record of every female animal for reproduction in accordance with EU Regulation 2019/2035. Female reproduction animals are registered with the NRCA with the indication that they are for reproduction.

7. Female reproduction dogs are not impregnated before the second estrous cycle and no way before nine (9) months have lapsed since the last birth.

8. Reproduction after the ninth year of age of the companion animal is forbidden and it is also forbidden to reproduce the same companion animal more than six (6) times in its lifetime.

9. it is not permitted to choose for reproduction companion animals whose anatomic and normal characteristics, or the characteristics of their behavior, can, depending with the type and race, prove to be harmful for the health and the well-being of the female reproductive companion animal and its descendants.

10. It is forbidden:

(a) To sell dogs and cats at outdoors public spaces including outdoor markets.

(b) To sell companion animals younger than twelve (12) weeks old.

(c) To import, trade and reproduce mutilated dogs.

(d) To display dogs and cats at pet shops.

(e) To sell dogs and cats from online shops, except if done by duly operating undertakings of breeding, reproducing, and trading in companion animals.

11. Online, printed, or other, advertisements for «mating» of companion animals are forbidden.

12. Announcements or advertisements for the sale of dogs and cats on pamphlets, on billboards, webpages, or through the social media, are allowed only to the persons referred to in par. 1 and it is obligatory to mention the number of the animal's microchip, the date and place of its birth and where it resides, the gender, race, price of the animal, its vaccinations and deworming, the number of approvals granted to the breeder, as well as the contact information for the seller (name and surname, telephone number, email address). If the advertisement says it is a pedigree companion animal, then the pedigree certificate must be uploaded.

13. Announcements for the adoption of dogs and cats are allowed only if accompanied with the adoption link that is uploaded at the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals.

14. For the promotion of responsible ownership every announcement, or advertisement, must include the phrase «An animal is not a toy. You must be aware that the purchase or adoption of an animal is a decision that changes your life. As an owner of an animal, you are legally obliged to ensure its well-being and that the animals' needs are met. Otherwise, you are committing an offence punishable by the law».

15. It is forbidden to import to Greece dogs and cats that are not microchipped or come from establishments that do not comply with the requirements of EU Regulation 2019/2035. The microchip information of imported animals (microchip code and importer name) coming from countries outside the EU are recorded at the points of entry to Greece and the NRCA is updated directly.

CHAPTER E'

OBLIGATIONS OF COMPANION ANIMAL OWNER

Article 9

Obligations of companion animal owner

1. Owners of companion animals are under an obligation to:

(a) Sterilize their owned companion animal, if it is a dog or cat within six (6) months from acquiring it, if the animal is over one (1) year of age. When acquiring an animal below one (1) year of age the sterilization takes place within the first six (6) months after the completion of its first year. This time limit can change according to the race of the animal and its other special characteristics following a detailed opinion of a veterinary. The sterilization is not obligatory for animals whose sample of genetic material (DNA) has been sent to the Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion animals of article 13.

The fine of article 35 is imposed if an animal owner does not sterilize his companion animal or does not send sample of its genetic material (DNA) to the Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals. A deadline of three months is granted to the owner to proceed with the sterilization, or to send the sample of the animal's genetic material. If the owner does not do so within the said deadline, then the fine is imposed again.

The obligation of an owner to sterilize his owned companion animal, or to send its sample of genetic material, begins on the 1.3.2022. The fines provided in Article 35 for breach of this obligation are imposed from 1.9.2022. Working dogs of the armed forces are exempt from the obligation to be sterilized.

(b) To microchip and register the animal with the NRCA, if it is a dog or cat, before the animal leaves its place of birth and definitely within a deadline of two (2) months from its birth and in any other case of acquisition within the time limit of par. 12 of article 4.

(c) To comply with the deadlines of par. 12 of article 4 as regards the updating of the NRCA every time there is need to register, or change an entry concerning the owner, or the companion animal if it is a dog or cat.

(d) To make sure that the animal is vaccinated each year if this is required and that a veterinary examination takes place and is recorded in the electronic health booklet, or the passport of the animal, if it has one.

(e) To comply with the well-being rules of the companion animal, to make sure it has proper veterinary care, to ensure comfortable, safe, healthy and appropriate accommodation adjusted to its natural way of living allowing it to be in its natural state without hindering its natural movements and its ability to do the necessary exercise for its health and well-being.

(f) To make sure he has the necessary passport for the animal in case of travel abroad and to make sure that this is updated in case of change in the information of the owner or the animal.

(g) Not to abandon his companion animal.

In case the owner wishes to be separated from the companion animal and if no new owner has been found, he is under an obligation to make his intention known to the competent

municipal authority of the area where he permanently resides so that the municipality can make sure that the animal is put up for adoption on the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals for a period of two (2) months if it is a dog or cat. Thereafter, and if a new owner is not found, he delivers the animal to the competent authority of that municipality after signing a solemn declaration and payment of the amount of three hundred (300) euros for the delivery if it is a dog and one hundred (100) euros if it is a cat or other companion animal. Specifically, for dogs and cats the certified municipal employee immediately makes sure that the NRCA is updated and the change of status is registered so that the animal is now registered as stray under the municipality's contact information. An owner who is separated from his companion animal and delivers it to the municipality is not allowed to own another companion animal for a period of three (3) years.

(h) To make sure that the animal's environment is immediately cleaned from the companion animal's excreta, except if it is a service dog, a search and rescue dog during the exercise of its duties, a hunting dog during hunting or a shepherd dog while executing its duties.

(i) To make sure that the minimum needs of the animal are covered and that the animal has adequate contact with him, or another human, so that it does not suffer from loneliness and so that its mental health is retained and to be trained if necessary.

(j) Not to clip the ears or tail of the animal, except if it medically necessary. The clipping by a veterinary of one small part of a cat's ear after sterilization is allowed.

(k) In any case to ensure that the companion animal enjoys the five freedoms set out in par. 2 of article 2.

2. The owner, or foster, of a companion animal is responsible for any damage brought about by the animal, in accordance with article 924 of the Civil code (presidential decree 456/1984, A' 164). As regards stray companion animals that are not kept by a foster, the responsibility lies with the person who is registered in the NRCA for that particular animal (municipality or animal loving partnership or animal loving nonprofit organization or individual running a shelter) if these persons have not complied with their obligations under this present legislation and in particular if they have not sterilized those animals, except if civil compensation has been paid for the damage caused by another organization or body such as an insurance company. For those stray companion animals that have not been microchipped the obligation lies with the municipality within the limits of which the damage was done.

3. Apart from the obligations of par. 1 and 2 the owner of a dog must also:

(a) Make sure that the dog is always walked with someone accompanying them.

(b) Make sure that appropriate measures are taken so that the dog does not go out freely from his private property and enter the private property of others, or common usage areas.

(c) For the avoidance of accidents when walking the dog its owner is under an obligation to keep him on a leash and to stay close to him. The same applies to anyone accompanying the animal. This does not apply when the dog is in a dog park.

(d) Make sure that the dog does not remain permanently tied, and in any case not for more than two (2) hours a day, inside the owner's property even if the rope or chain is long. In exceptional circumstances, and if the property is not fenced, it is allowed to use a basement electronic fence.

(e) Offer accommodation for rest which must be cool and shaded in the summer and adequately protected from the cold and the air in the winter if the dog resides permanently in a yard, or in another outdoor space. The resting area must be protected from the rain, the snow, and the still water. If the dog lives outdoors, then that area must be regularly cleaned.

(f) Make sure that the dog has adequate access to a yard, or another outdoor space, so that the dog can move and exercise appropriately for its race and age.

4. Except from the obligations of par. 1 and 2 the owner of a cat must also make sure that the cat does not live inside a cage.

5. It is forbidden for the owner of the companion animal or any other person or a veterinary to remove the microchip without a veterinary's opinion certifying that this is necessary and an order from the district attorney. In each visit to the veterinary the proper operation of the microchip is checked and if it has ceased to work properly then it is replaced.

6. The owners of hunting dogs, during a hunt, or any other transportation with their dog for this purpose, must carry with them the passport of the dog, or a printout copy of its electronic booklet. The obligations of clauses a, b and c of par. 3 are not applicable for service dogs as well as for shepherd dogs and search and rescue dogs during guarding of their flock, during hunting, training, or search and rescue, correspondingly.

7. The hunting license is taken away from a hunter for two (2) years in the event that his hunting dog is not microchipped, registered with the NRCA and sterilized or its sample of genetic material (DNA) sent to the Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals of article 13. Similarly, the hunting license is for ever taken away if the hunter has abandoned animals that he owns, or their direct descendants. The means of transport of hunting dogs has appropriate space, light and air that meet the natural needs of the animal.

8. The obligations of this present article are also born by the foster of the companion animal. Fostering ends, either when the animal is adopted, or returned to the municipality, or the animal loving partnership or animal loving nonprofit organization, with which the foster has signed an agreement.

CHAPTER F'

COMPETENCES, OBLIGATIONS AND MUNICIPALITY FUNDING- PROJECT «ARGOS»

Article 10

Competences and obligations of municipalities

1. Municipalities are under an obligation to have in place comprehensive operational programs for managing stray animals in accordance with par.2 of article 3 which must, as a minimum on a 12-month basis include: (a) collection, (b) provision of veterinary care (c) microchipping and registration with the NRCA (d) sterilization (e) finding of foster care and (f) the adoption of the animals. This competence may be exercised by municipal associations and intermunicipal collaborations. Moreover, municipalities are under an obligation to assist citizens and owners of owned companion animals as regards administrative actions concerning the NRCA and also to implement programs of prevention of creation of new stray animals.

2. A municipality may, by way of a city council decision, co-operate for the purposes of par. 1 by written agreement, with animal loving partnerships or animal loving nonprofit organizations seated in Greece, or in another member state of the European Union, registered with the NRCA. Among other actions undertaken by animal loving partnerships or animal loving nonprofit organizations based on written agreements with the municipalities is the issuance of the documents needed for carrying out an adoption in accordance with article 7. The basic terms of collaboration with the animal loving partnerships or the animal loving nonprofit organizations are included in the operational program of each municipality.

3. Each municipality, or collaborating municipalities, or municipal associations, set up and operate municipal or intermunicipal veterinary clinics, shelters and companion animal incinerators on owned or rented or other spaces granted to them by State, the prefecture or private spaces. Each municipality has an obligation to take all necessary measures to meet, in an appropriate manner, the accommodation needs, temporary accommodation needs, health care needs and in general care for stray companion animals, either by setting up and operating at least one (1) shelter by the municipality itself, or in collaboration with other municipalities,

or as a member of an association of municipalities ,or through systematic collaboration with animal loving partnerships or animal loving nonprofit organizations registered with the NRCA and operating licensed shelters, or shelters that comply with the conditions of articles 28 and 29, or if they do not operate such shelters but are willing to bear the accommodation cost and care of the animals in other facilities duly set up and operating, such as villas and kennels (hotels for animals) for a fee. The aforesaid obligation is not applicable for municipalities with a population of bellow three thousand (3.000) resident.

4. For the implementation of their operational programs for the management of stray animals, municipalities have an obligation to ensure that throughout the whole of the duration of the year effective veterinary services are offered by suitable natural or legal persons either through the provisions of Law 4412/2016 (A' 147) or by signing of contracts of work of article 6 of Law 2527/1997 (A' 206). Following the same procedures municipalities may contribute with natural or legal persons for the provision of services of stable cleaner as well as for the provision of cleaning services and security services for the shelters in operation. The contracts of work of this present article are not included to the maximum allowed number of contracts of work of article 89of Law 4604/2019 (A' 50).

5. Managing stray companion animals by the municipalities will be implemented as follows:

(a) Stray companion animals are collected by appropriately trained and experienced in companion animal captivity personnel. For this purpose, every municipality is under an obligation to offer at least one (1) collection vehicle appropriately designed for this purpose. Municipalities and the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government can set up municipal personnel training programs by certified trainers. The persons collecting stray companion animals are supervised by a veterinary of the competent veterinary municipal department, and where such a department does not exist, by a veterinary of the same prefecture, as to the methods of captivity used.

(b) Animals collected because they were found wondering around in public spaces are checked for a microchip.

(ba) If no microchip is found then they are automatically deemed stray and:

(baa) They are taken to municipal veterinary clinics, or veterinary clinics collaborating with the municipality, and put through a veterinary examination, sterilized, dewormed, vaccinated, microchipped, and registered with the NRCA as stray according to the provisions of par. 4 of article 4.

(bab) If the veterinary examination shows that they are injured or that they suffer from curable illness, they are treated accordingly.

(bac) If the veterinary examination shows that they are dangerous companion animals, or that they suffer from an incurable illness, or that they are completely incapable of self-preservation due to old age or disability and keeping them alive goes contrary to the well-being rules, then they are put to sleep following the opinion of the committee of par. 8 under the procedure of par. 9.

(bad) After the necessary veterinary care is provided the companion animals that were collected, if no foster care is found, are taken to the available shelters, municipal, intermunicipal, or at shelters of animal loving partnerships and nonprofit organizations, or animal loving individuals, so that they can be adopted as per article 7.

(bae) If no place is available in a shelter, then the animal is returned to its familiar environment and the areas set out by the decision of par. 5 of article 45, under the condition that they are sterilized. An animal that is at a shelter but has not been adopted after three months of continually staying at the shelter and after its information has been uploaded on the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals, may be returned to its familiar environment and the areas set out by the decision of par. 5 of article 45, following a decision of the committee of par. 8, under the condition that they are sterilized. Stray animals may not be returned near or around hospitals, schools, athletic centres, armed and security forces facilities, highways, areas where persons get on and of passenger ships, airports, railway stations, fenced archaeological sites, fenced sites of the Central Markets and Fisheries Organization SA and the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA as well as slaughterhouses or areas where there is garbage concentration.

In any case animals younger than five (5) months are not returned to their familiar environments and are put on priority for adoption.

(bb) If they are microchipped and it follows from the registration that they are already registered under a municipality as stray, then the monitoring information of the animal is updated. Provided that the animal does not show clinical problems, it is set free at the same place, except if the limitation of subclause (bae) are applicable in which case it is moved to a suitable area.

(bc) If from the microchip it follows that the animal is owned, then it is checked if the animal was declared as lost. If this is the case, then the owner is contacted so that he can go and pick it up. If no declaration of loss has been made, then an investigation is made to ascertain if this is a case of abandonment, and the Police is informed.

(c) The responsibility for the care to reintegrated stray animals lies with the municipalities that must set up places where food and drink is provided to these animals, and with the animal

loving partnerships and animal loving non-profit organizations that collaborate with the municipality. The provision of food, water and medical care from animal loving individuals to stray companion animals is allowed provided that rules concerning health and cleanliness are met, as well as the rules pertaining to the well-being of the animals.

(d) The municipality personnel that collects stray companion animals of each municipality makes sure that there is active management of the registered stray animals that live outside shelters, indicatively they must transport the for their yearly veterinary examination, their rabies vaccination, they must intervene in case a pack of dogs turns hostile, give them their medicine and update their registration.

6. Animal loving partnerships and nonprofit animal loving organizations registered with the sub-register of par.23 of article 2, as well as animal loving individuals who have a permit to run a stray animals' shelter, or a shelter which complies with the requirements of articles 28 and 29, are allowed to collect and keep stray animals. In this case the animals are registered with the NRCA as «stray» with the information of the above partnership or organization or the animal loving individual that has the shelter, all of which shall make sure that the animals are adopted as per article 7. The transportation of stray animals by animal loving individuals to municipal veterinary clinics, or veterinary clinics with which the municipality collaborates on the basis of an agreement, is also allowed so that the procedure of clause b' of par. 5 is applied, or alternatively the animal can be transported to a veterinary clinic that does not collaborate with the municipality if the individual wishes to bear the cost for the veterinary care provided.

7. Sterilization of stray companion animals, microchipping, registration as well as the rest of the medical acts of care for the animals can be carried out by professional volunteer veterinarians who are Greek citizens, or citizens of another member state of the European Union and fulfil all the conditions in order to practice the profession of the veterinary in Greece and who are under an obligation to submit a relevant declaration to the Hellenic Geotechnical Chamber. Volunteering veterinarians may carry out sterilizations, microchipping and registration of stray companion animals at facilities provided to them by veterinary clinics of the competent authorities of the prefecture in question, the regional association, or the municipality, or other facilities of the relevant prefecture, or municipality, or association of municipalities, under the supervision of the competent authorities of the municipality.

8. Every municipality, following a decision of the mayor, sets up a five-member Monitoring Committee for the operations program for the management of stray companion animals and the prevention of creation of new stray animals. The Committee consists of:

(a) Two (2) members appointed by the animal loving partnerships and nonprofit animal loving organizations registered with the sub-register of par.23 of article 2 that are actively engaged in the municipality.

(b) One (1) veterinary appointed by the municipality in question and preferably the person responsible for the program of management of stray companion animals and if this is not possible any other private veterinary.

(c) One (1) professional trainer, member of the recognised professional body of dog trainers and if this is not possible a trained municipal employee.

(d) One (1) representative appointed by the municipality together with his deputy.

9. The Committee of par. 8 has the following competences:

(a) Decides on whether a companion animal is dangerous and if it is necessary to put it to sleep (euthanasia) following an opinion of a veterinary.

(b) Makes suggestions to the competent authorities of the municipality about ways to deal with problems arising from the management of stray animals.

(c) Grants the permission of par. 4 of article 8.

(d) Draws up the yearly report to the city council regarding the progress of the implementation of the operational program for managing stray animals in the municipality and submits proposals for its improvement.

10. In case of disagreement in the Committee of par. 8 as to whether a companion animal is dangerous, or the need to put it to sleep, the final decision is taken by a specific scientific committee set up in each municipality by decision of the mayor and consists of:

(a) One (1) veterinary of the veterinary department of the relevant regional unity, with his deputy.

(b) One (1) private veterinary who can legally practice in Greece and is active in the area of the municipality's jurisdiction, or the neighbouring municipality, with his deputy.

(c) One (1) veterinary who can legally practice in Greece and collaborates with animal loving partnerships and animal loving non-profit organizations active in the area of the municipality's jurisdiction, or the neighbouring municipality, with his deputy.

In case of a hostile animal, whose hostility is not due to pathological causes, the municipality can ask the opinion of a professional dog trainer that is a member of a recognised professional body of dog trainers.

11. The decisions for putting an animals to sleep are uploaded before carried out on the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals and the web page of the relevant municipality for a minimum period of thirty (30) days. This period of thirty (30) days does not

need to be complied with if there are veterinary reasons for the immediate putting to sleep of an animal following a decision of the committee of par. 8.

12. For the implementation of an operational program for the management of stray animals and the prevention of creation of new stray animals, the municipality can sign a programmatic agreement of article 100 of Law 3852/2010 (A' 87) with a developmental organisation of article 2 of Law 4674/2020 (A' 53), or with networks of municipalities and prefectures as per the relevant legal provisions.

13. Municipalities may not impose special municipal fees concerning ownership of companion animals.

14. Municipalities must comply with the obligations set out in this article within six (6) months from its publication.

Article 11

Funding of municipalities-

Project «ARGOS»

1. A new funding program under the name «Argos» is enacted.
2. The purpose of the program is the funding of municipalities for the implementation of the operational programs of article 10 and actions hereunder, the supply of the necessary equipment and vehicles, the funding of registering/ recording programs, sterilization and vaccination as well as the creation of shelters, veterinary clinics, incinerators and fenced dog parks, the covering of the cost for the agreements with veterinarians, as well as the rest of the personnel required for the implementation this present legislation.
3. The program is subsidised by special funding programs of articles 69 and 71 of Law 4509/2017 (A' 201) and with any other funds of the Ministry of Interiors.

Article 12

Incentive for microchipping, sterilizing and adopting dogs and cats

Municipalities may, by way of City Council decision, give motives so that they promote the microchipping and registration with the NRCA of dogs and cats, their sterilization and the adoption of stray animals either: a) through vouchers to the registered citizens of the municipality, or its residents, or other similar motives, or b) by way of reducing yearly municipal fees up to a maximum percentage of ten (10) per cent for the owners of sterilized, microchipped and registered with the NRCA animals.

CHAPTER G'

CREATION OF A LAB FOR THE SAFEKEEPING AND ANALYSIS OF GENETIC MATERIAL OF COMPANION ANIMALS AT HE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Article 13

Creation of a Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals at the Academy of Athens Biomedical Research Foundation (AABRF)

1. A Lab for the Safekeeping and Analysis of Genetic Material of Companion Animals is set up at the Academy of Athens Biomedical Research Foundation (LSAGMCA) that falls under the Hellenic Genomic Centre.
2. The LSAGMCA has as its purpose the collection, safekeeping, processing and analysis of genetic material of companion animals and especially of dogs and cats, the collaboration with all the competent authorities for the promotion of the well-being of animals and the collaboration with the enforcement bodies of article 3 for the identification of abandoned progenitors, dead and abused animals.
3. The LSAGMCA may collaborate with certified search centers in Greece or abroad for the attainment of its purposes.
4. For the setting up and operation of the LSAGMCA the AABRF receives a one-off subsidy from the state budget of up to two million euros (2.000.000€).

Article 14

Taking sample of genetic material from companion animals

1. An owner of a dog or cat that does not wish to sterilize his animal is under an obligation, from 1.3.2022 onwards, to send a sample of the genetic material of his companion animal to the LSAGMCA. The collection of genetic material sample and the sending it to the LSAGMCA is carried out exclusively by a veterinary, member of the Pan Hellenic Veterinary Association.
2. For the collecting, the registration, and the safekeeping of the genetic material for at least twelve (12) years, the owner of the companion animal pays a lump sum fee by way of electronic fee amounting to one hundred and fifty (150) euros for each companion animal. The owner is under an obligation to also pay to the veterinary the expenses for sending the genetic material sample which cannot in any way exceed the amount of ten (10) euros. The owners of shepherd dogs are exempt from paying the above electronic fee.
3. The amount of the electronic fee for the rest of the animals, as well, as for other services except the above is fixed by way of a decision of the AABRF, published at the government gazette.

4. The 40% of the electronic fee is paid to the AABRF to cover the expenses for operating the LSAGMCA, 10% to the veterinary that collected the genetic material and the 50% via the Ministry of Interior to the municipalities to support actions for the well-being of stray companion animals.

CHAPTER H'

KEEPING AND MOVING/ TRANSPORTING OF COMPANION ANIMALS

Article 15

Keeping companion animals in homes

1. Keeping owned companion animals in every residence is allowed according to the provisions of par. 2,3 and 4.

2 It is allowed to keep owned companion animals in apartment buildings consisting of at least two (2) flats, provided that:

(a) They live in the same flat with the owner, or the foster, or they live, as per a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of owners, in common use parts of the apartment building, such as the common area on the ground floor (in Greek "piloti"), the roof, the area not covered by a roof, or the garden, and provided that the rules of its well-being are met, as well as the hygienic provisions and police provisions concerning noise nuisance.

(b) They are not permanently left in balconies, or open space areas of the flat.

(c) Their staying at the flat is under the condition that the rules of the well-being of animals are met, as well as the hygienic provisions and police provisions concerning noise nuisance.

(d) In the case of dogs and cats that they are microchipped, registered and that their information in the NRCA is kept up to date, including the animal's electronic booklet.

3. The building regulation cannot forbid the keeping of companion animals if the conditions of par. 2 are met. The building regulation may limit the maximum number of animals allowed up to three (3) animals per flat. Amendments of the building regulation as regards the number of animals allowed per flat are effective only after twelve (12) months have lapsed from the date the amendment was voted.

4. In detached houses the keeping of companion animals which have been microchipped and registered is allowed provided that the rules for fair treatment and the well-being of the companion animals are observed, as well as the rules of its well-being are met and the hygienic provisions and police provisions concerning noise nuisance.

5. The limitations as regards the numbers of animals allowed of par. 3 are applicable only for dogs and cats. In any case, as regards the rest of the companion animals the rules of the well-

being of the animals must be met, as well as the hygienic provisions and police provisions concerning noise nuisance.

Article 16

Keeping companion animals in special facilities

Keeping animals is allowed:

- (a) In zoos and exhibitions duly operating
- (b) In aquariums
- (c) In centres for the care of wild animals (wild fauna) duly operating and duly operating places for the permanent, or temporary, keeping of wild animals that were cared for and which cannot be reintegrated to their natural habitat.
- (d) Breeding places for prey and exhibitions for the development and promotion of the stock raising and agricultural sectors which are governed by special provisions.
- (e) In armed forces facilities for military dogs
- (f) Every duly operating facility where animals are allowed to be kept under the condition that no performances take place at these facilities with the participation of animals.

Article 17

Moving and transporting companion animals (dogs and cats)

1. The noncommercial transportation of companion animals (dogs and cats) from one member state of the European Union to another or from the territory or third country to a member state of the European Union, is governed by the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 (L 178), as well as the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

2. The commercial transportation of dogs and cats from a member state of the European Union or third country is governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (L 84) and Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (L 3).

3. Dogs and cats transported inside the Country must be vaccinated against rabies before the transportation. If they are not vaccinated against rabies they are not allowed to travel except if serious health reasons apply and following the opinion of a certified veterinary. The minimum age that an animal can be vaccinated against rabies is twelve (12) weeks.

4. Transportation of small companion animals on all roads, railways, public transport and taxis, as well as passenger ships, is allowed provided the animals are placed in safe cages and are accompanied by their owner or the person that has them in his possession.

5. Paragraph 4 does not apply to travel, or transportations, from and to, veterinarians or veterinary clinics and shelters within the country.

6. It is forbidden to transport a companion animal inside luggage compartments in KTEL buses, tourist or other buses. For the purposes of par. 1 of article 35 culpable of this offence is the person who holds the animal, as well as the owner and the driver of the means of transport, except if the owner, or the driver, were not in a position to know of the offence taking place.

Article 18

Transporting companion animals by passenger ships

1. Itinerary passenger ships that meet transportation needs of a total route of the Categories I, II, III and IV of presidential decree 44/2011 (A' 110) on regulation accommodation determining the number of passengers of passenger ships, are under an obligation to have cages for large companion animals accompanying passengers on vessels. The cages are placed at a suitable place on the boat, as per the captain of the ship, protected as much as possible from extreme weather conditions. The available cages of the ship are of various sizes suitable for large animals. The number of large animals that a vessel may at any one-time carry is determined by the number of available cages, and the number of cages is determined in connection to the passengers being carried in an analogy of 1/200, namely one (1) cage per 200 passengers.

2. Large companion animals are not allowed to be in the closed air common use accommodation areas of the ship and the closed air garage.

3. Cages for large companion animals may be placed in open air passenger decks and open-air car garage, in suitable places as per par. 1. Open air car garage is the space that is open to natural airing from the sides of its metal construction.

4. A companion animal may move on the deck of the passenger ship only on a leash under the supervision of the person accompanying it.

5. Itinerary passenger ships of par. 1 may offer special pet- cabins for the companion animal and the person accompanying it which must be described on the general plan of the vessel's lay out. The updating of a vessels' general lay out plan for possible inclusion of such pet cabins may take place at the yearly inspection of the vessel and does not constitute a reason for the issuance of a conversion permit. In order for a cabin to be characterised as a pet cabin, it must, apart from meeting the rest of the requirements of the regulation for accommodation of passengers, also as a minimum have a washable floor, wallpaper and a mattress cover. After each stay of a passenger with his companion animal in a pet cabin the sheets are changed. The said cabins are used only as pet cabins and are not offered for any other use other than this purpose. The cost of possible damages to furniture or sheets are born by the owner of the animal.

6. The owner of the animal carries with him the relevant certificates of good health and vaccination of the animal.

7. The managing companies, or ship owning companies, of the vessels that have an obligation to offer cages for large animals are under an obligation, within one (1) year from the date on which this present legislation comes into force, to incorporate in their reservations system for reserving and issuing passenger tickets a relevant procedure/ field whereby information is entered, such as microchip, identification information, health booklet or passport of the companion animal being transported in connected to the available number of large cages.

8. Search and rescue dogs, dogs used in the armed forces, the security forces and the prosecuting authorities of the Independent Authority of Public Revenue and the Ministry of Finance, service dogs and therapy dogs are allowed to accompany their owners at all common usage areas of the vessel, open or closed air, provided they carry the relevant certificates that prove their capacity, good health and vaccination and provided they are kept on a leash.

9. Small companion animals may accompany their owners in all categories of passenger ships and on all areas of passenger accommodation (open or closed air, irrespective) with the approval of the captain, provided that they are carried in special cages and carry the relevant certificates of their good health and vaccination. In case that carrying small companion animals in closed air areas of the vessel leads to complaints from other passengers, and a need to manage such complaints arises, the issue is resolved in the most reasonable manner by the captain of the vessel, or any authorised by the captain officer. In any case the person accompanying the animal must respect the directions given by the captain, or the officer appointed by the captain.

Article 19

Access to beaches

1. Dogs are allowed on non-organized beaches and in the sea. When outside the sea they must be on a leash.
2. On organized beaches as defined in par. 1 of article 1 of presidential decree 71/2020 (A' 166) access to dogs is only allowed if it is service dogs, or if there is a relevant clear sign, put up by the legal representative of the establishment that uses the beach. When outside the sea they must always be on a leash.
3. Without prejudice to article 21, it is forbidden for dogs to have access to the beach if the beach has the certification of a blue flag by the Greek Company for the Protection of the Environment.

Article 20

Prevention of companion animals accessing waste

Persons responsible for slaughterhouses, meat markets, hospitals, military camps, camps, shops selling food, foodservice facilities and in general spaces of sanitary interest, have the responsibility to take all necessary measure so that stray companion animals are prevented from accessing the waste of their facilities.

Article 21

Service dogs and therapy dogs

1. Service dogs and therapy dogs can enter anywhere their master is allowed to enter, including restaurants, hotels, hospitals, schools, public services, athletic facilities and churches, provided that their size and special characteristics allow this. The person to whom the dog offers its services (that is their master) carries with him the necessary certificates proving that the dog is a service or therapy dog and shows them, if requested, to the person responsible for the place that would not otherwise allow companion animals to enter.
2. It is allowed to use service dogs and therapy dogs in hospitals, detoxification centres and any kind of nursing institution, sanatoriums and old persons homes to support their therapeutic purposes («Animal Assisted Therapy» or «Pet Therapy») , especially in dealing with psychiatric disorders as well as the promotion of psychiatric health and psychomotor restoration of patients.
3. Service dogs and therapy dogs of this present article fulfil the national and union sanitary requirements as in force.

CHAPTER I'

PARTICIPATION OF ANIMALS IN EXHIBITIONS< SPECTACLES AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

Article 22

Organizing exhibitions with companion animals

1. The natural, or legal person, or association of persons, organizing exhibitions, or events, with companion animals, have an obligation to first issue a relevant license which is issued by the competent veterinary department of the relevant municipality and where such a department has not been set up, by the veterinary department of the relevant regional unity. Especially as regards dogs, the events may include exhibitions of morphology or athletic shows and gymnastics defined by the International Kennel Association and governed by the well-being rules as specified in article 2.
2. During the exhibition, or the event, the companion animals must be under the direct supervision of their owner or the person who holds them, who is under an obligation not to cause them fear and pain. Companion animals that for no reason exhibit hostile behaviour towards other animals and humans must wear a muzzle or are removed from the exhibition or the event. If the exhibition or the event is about dogs, the presence of a veterinary is compulsory during the whole of the exhibition or event.
3. Dogs and cats taking part in exhibitions or events must be microchipped and registered with the NRCA, or carry a passport, and the persons accompanying them must carry a printed out copy of the electronic booklet of the animal which must prove that they are vaccinated and that they have recently been dewormed.
4. Amputated animals are not allowed to take part in any exhibition or event.
5. The organization of events that promote the adoption of stray animals is allowed.

Article 23

Prohibition of the participation of animals in any type of spectacles and other similar activities

1. The participation of any animal, in any way and for any purpose, in a program or performance taking place in a circus, or by a theatre with a varied program, is forbidden.
2. The participation of any animal, in any way and for any purpose, in any type of performance, not excluding educational performances, is forbidden. Events with the participation of animals in the context of upholding popular/ folklore or local traditions are only allowed if the well-

being of the animals is ensured and with the obligation to have a veterinary present throughout the duration of the event. It is strictly forbidden to abuse or slaughter animals within this context. In such cases the second part of par. 2 of article 34 is applicable. Events with the participation of an animal, or animals, is licensed by way of a decision of the city council of the municipality where the event will take place. The supervising veterinary draws up a report before the event and submits it to the city council before the event is licensed constituting an integral part of the city council decision. The supervising veterinary draws up a new report after the end of the event in which he verifies that the provisions for the well-being of the animal or animals were complied with.

3. Without prejudice to article 22, the use of animals with the purpose of making a profit in an open-air public exhibition is forbidden.

4. The following are exempt from the events of par. 2: (a) horse dressage shows and show jumping shows, equestrian dexterity and equestrian triathlon or (b) exhibitions of the second part of par. 1 of article 22 or (c) cinematic movies and in general educational audio-visual material under the condition that the animals are not abused,

5. Breeding is forbidden, as well as the training and taking part of animals in any type of fighting. Moreover, it is forbidden to breed, export and use dogs, cats, equines and certain types of ferrets (*mustela putorius furo*) for the making of fur, skin, meat or the manufacture of medicine or other substances.

6. Competent authority for the implementation of par. 1,2,3 and 4 is the Organization and of Local Administration that issues the undertaking's license, or the license for the event that will take place as per article 81 of Law 3463/2006 (A' 114).

7. If the issuance of a license is needed, for events that have as a purpose the making of profit, or to entertain, or for art events, music, theatrical, or other art, or other similar artistic, or entertaining events, or programs from those mentioned in par. 1,2,3 and 4, then the applicant must also submit to the authority competent to issue the license a solemn declaration of Law 1599/1986 (A' 75) declaring that he will not have animals in the facilities with the purpose of using them in any way in the program, or the event, and without prejudice to the exceptions of article 16.

8. The competent authority of par. 6 has the right to conduct an on-site check where the undertaking is situated, or where the event is taking place, any time, before or after the issuance of the license in order to ascertain if the provisions of the present are complied with. During the check the competent authority can ask for the assistance of the police if this is

deemed necessary. The undertaking must help the authorities during the check. In the event that the check is obstructed a license is not granted or if it has been granted it is revoked.

9. The authority of par. 6 is competent for receiving and investigating complaints regarding breaches of this article. In case of a complaint, the competent authority is under an obligation to immediately investigate within the next working day from receiving the complaint.

10. Raffles, contests and contests with animals as prizes are forbidden.

11. This present article is applicable without prejudice to article 22 as well as the special provisions concerning race horses.

CHAPTER J'

ABUSE OF ANIMALS

Article 24

Abuse of animals

1. Without prejudice to more specific provisions of European legislation and national legislation, and sub clause (bac) of clause b' of par. 5 of article 10, it is forbidden to:

(a) to abuse, to treat badly and with cruelty any type of animal, such as the complete and non-medical restriction of its normal movements, indicatively the tying of the animals' feet, methods of training that are not allowed, work that is not appropriate to the type of animal concerned, illegitimate reproduction, voluntarily causing simple bodily injury to the animal and

(b) killing and torturing the animals by way of intentionally causing extreme bodily pain, or exhaustion, that is dangerous for its health, especially through poisoning, strangling, hanging, drowning, burning, heat stroke, electrocution, frostbite, crushing, amputation (nontherapeutic), shooting (causing injury or death), voluntary injury (grievous, dangerous bodily harm), dog fights as well as any other fights between animals, animal husbandry, sexual abuse of animals with the use of objects for the sadistic satisfaction of the perpetrator and the abandonment of new born animals. Sterilization and other medical acts are not considered as amputation.

2. With the exception of cinematic movies and in general educational audio-visual material, it is forbidden to hold, sell, trade, present and exchange through the internet of any audio-visual material such as videos or other cinematic or photographic material which depicts any violent action against animals and sexual act between animals, or between animals and humans, with the intention to making a profit, or for the sexual gratification of persons

watching or participating in those actions. The fighting between animals is included in this prohibition.

3. In case of a road accident where an animal is injured, the person responsible for this action is under an obligation to immediately inform the relevant municipality, or the Greek police, so that the injured dog is offered veterinary care from the competent municipal department as soon as possible.

Article 25

Reporting of animal abuse incidents

1. In order to manage more effectively incidents of abuse to animals, a digital application and a web page on the GSISPA may be created, for reporting incidents of abuse and breaches of this present legislation.

2. The complaints may be anonymous. When a complaint is anonymous an investigation is carried out only if it provides enough and specific information that can constitute the basis of an investigation.

CHAPTER K'

PREVENTING AND COMBATING ZOOSES

Article 26

Setting up and putting into practice programs for the prevention and the combating of animal illnesses.

1. The prevention and managing of illnesses transmitted from animals to humans, or to other animals, of the same or other species, is done by special programs. These programs set out the rules that are to be applied in each different category of registered illness, in accordance with Regulation 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016.

2. The special programs of par. 1 are drawn up by the General Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and implemented by the competent veterinary authorities. If a case of rabies appears then the General Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food may take extra measures, either in a specific area, or in the whole of the country, except those provided for by Law 1197/1981 (A' 240) and Law 2017/1992 (A' 31).

Article 27

Dealing with leishmaniasis

1. Owned dogs who have been diagnosed with leishmaniasis (*Leishmania app*) by a veterinary and its non-reversible course has been verified by laboratory examinations are put to sleep (euthanasia) with the consent of its owner, taking into account the rules of health and well-being of the animals, as well as the potential risk to public health from the existence of venous-transmitters of the said illness. In the event that the dog is not put to sleep, following an opinion of a veterinary and with the responsibility of the owner of the owned dog, all supportive therapeutic and precautionary measures are taken and it is mandatory to register them in the booklet of illnesses of mandatory declarations kept by each veterinary while the NRCA is also updated yearly.

2. All stray dogs, irrespective of their clinical appearance, when first collected, are put through a serological examination for the detection of special *Leishmania app* title of antibodies against *Leishmania app* by a proven verified method (such as *Leishmania Rapid Test*). Taking into account the rules of health and well-being of the animals, and the potential risk to public health from the existence of venous-transmitters of *Leishmania app*, the dogs are put to sleep if the result of the examination is positive and its non-reversible course is verified by a veterinary with additional hematological and parasitological examinations. If following an opinion of a veterinary the clinical appearance and its hematological and parasitological examinations allow therapy, then the dogs are kept in a closed air space, or a fenced space, with appropriate protective window nets throughout the duration of its therapy. The therapy is prescribed by the veterinary, in accordance to proposed therapeutic protocols and the use of licensed medicine by the National Organization for Medicine or the European Organization for Medicine. The prescription includes the therapeutic protocols and is signed and stamped by the treating veterinary, kept on file at the shelter, or the municipality, and in case of adoption the owner carries a copy.

3. If the dogs of par. 2 are adopted, it is obligatory to inform in writing the new owner of the title of special antibodies against *Leishmania*. Thereafter, the owner is under an obligation to take the responsibility in writing and to carry out the most appropriate and complete therapy and prevention, while parallelly being monitored and checked by the municipal veterinary, or the veterinary department of the relevant prefecture. The new owner is under an obligation to keep all the coupons, documents from laboratories and other examinations, as well as the prescription which includes the therapeutic protocol for *Leishmania* as signed and stamped by the treating veterinary, during the lifetime of the animal and to show it whenever required.

4. For those animals that were found positive for *Leishmania* (owned or stray), every six months all necessary precautionary measures are taken, a veterinary examination is carried

out and detection of the title of special antibodies against Leishmania app, in order to evaluate the course of the illness. All documents of laboratory examinations are kept in file. The results and the precise title of special antibodies in the animals being re-evaluated every six months are filled out in the special place provided on the NRCA by the treating veterinary of the animal, or the person responsible for the shelter.

5. The documentary evidence described hereunder must be available to the veterinary department of the Prefectures and Regional Unity of the country for inspection. Moreover, the veterinary makes a note saying «positive to leishmania» in the electronic booklet of every dog found positive to leishmania.

6. The management of working dogs of the armed forces and security forces that have contracted leishmania is carried out according to special provisions applicable to the armed forces.

CHAPTER L'

SHELTERS FOR COMPANION ANIMALS AND PARKS

Article 28

Shelters for companion animals

1. Animal shelters are set up and operated by municipalities, municipal legal persons or municipal associations, intermunicipal collaborations or developmental municipal organizations of article 2 of Law 4674/2020 (A' 53), animal loving partnerships and non-profit animal loving organizations registered with the relevant sub register of the NRCA and natural persons. The shelters are duly operating under the condition that they are registered with the sub register of Companion Animal Shelters of par. 23 of article 2 and provided that there is daily presence of personnel (including the volunteers) at the shelter for at least eight (8) hours a day.

2. All companion animal shelters:

(a) Are under an obligation to register on a web site run by them all microchipped animals kept at the shelter. The animals are uploaded on the web site within forty-eight (48) hours of their arrival at the shelter irrespective of whether they are microchipped yet or not. For each animal the web site, as a minimum, shows a picture of the animal, the microchip number (where available), the date of arrival at the shelter, and the link that takes the user to the adoption platform of article 9. Animals which have been adopted, moved to other facilities, reintroduced to their familiar environment, or have died, remain on the web site for at least

one (1) year with the corresponding note as regards the reason for which the animal is no longer at the shelter. The shelter's web site link is uploaded at the web site of the relevant municipality and the Shelter Sub Register of the NRCA. Each shelter's web site has information on the adoption of animals as well as the name of the veterinary that looks after the animals at the shelter. In exceptional circumstances and following a specially justified opinion of the committee of par. 8 of article 10 an animal may not be included on the municipality's web site and the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals.

(b) Specify their visiting times each week which are at least eight (8) per week, from dawn till dusk, out of which one (1) during the weekend. Visiting hours are uploaded on the shelter's web site. Visitors must be able to see each animal uploaded at the shelter's web site.

3. Setting up and operating animal shelters is allowed outside residential areas, urbanised areas as well as areas that are about to be urbanised, forests and public grasslands of clauses a' and b' of par. 5 of article 3 of Law 998/1979 (A' 289). Moreover, these shelters must: (a) be five (5) kilometres away from the end of the town (b) be easily accessed by car.

4. The shelter may set rules for the well-being of the animals and its orderly operation which must be adhered to by the public during their visit. These rules must be uploaded on the shelter's web site.

5. Municipal and non-municipal shelters are allowed to return sterilized animals kept at their facilities back to their familiar environment from where they were collected and to places set out with the decision of par. 5 of article 45 following a permission of the Committee of par. 8 of article 10. In this case, before the animal is returned, the NRCA is updated with the details of the relevant municipality.

6. Shelters are under an obligation on a yearly basis, until the 15 February of each year, to notify to the relevant municipality and to upload on their web site the operations' account for the past year which, as a minimum, includes the number of animals kept at the beginning of each year, new entries during the year, adoptions, deaths, and transports of animals to other facilities.

7. A decision to put a companion animal, kept at a shelter, to sleep is taken exclusively following the procedure for stray animals as this is set out in par. 7 and 8 of article 10.

8. Shelters, breeding areas, as well as any other animal accommodation must draw up a plan for managing natural disasters and especially forest fires, and for removing with safety the animals kept which must be updated every year. It is mandatory to upload the plan on the shelter's web site.

Article 29

Specifications for the setting up and operation of companion animal shelters

1. Companion animal shelters can keep dogs, cats and the rest of the companion animals.
2. Companion animal shelters must:
 - (a) Strictly adhere to health and cleanliness rules as well as the well-being rules for the animals kept at the shelter. Specifically, utensils used to feed and water the animals must be carefully cleaned daily.
 - (b) To have a drinking water supply, or an appropriate water tank, which ensures that there is enough water for the animals kept and also for the cleaning of the facility.
 - (c) Have appointed at least one (1) person responsible for the operation of the shelter and the well-being of the animals kept at the shelter and to collaborate with at least one (1) veterinary who, if there is no suitable area at the shelter, will make sure that animals that need medical care or therapy are kept elsewhere. Moreover, the veterinary responsible for the sanitary supervision conditions of the shelter is also responsible:
 - (ca) for the veterinary examination of all incoming animals, for the periodic check of all animals kept at the shelter and their vaccination,
 - (cb) for declaring to the competent veterinary authorities cases of illnesses for which there is a mandatory obligation to make a declaration,
 - (cc) to report to the competent veterinary authority the precautionary vaccinations per illness for which there is a mandatory obligation to make a declaration,
 - (d) To have the necessary equipment for feeding the animals kept at the shelter and also to ensure their constant access to drinking water.
 - (e) At least once (1) every two (2) months they must conduct a general decontamination of the facility as well as the extermination of insects, exo-parasites and harmful rodents.
 - (f) To immediately remove the shelter's garbage and to throw it at appropriate areas.
 - (g) To have suitable areas at the facility where the animals kept can be protected from the cold, the heat and adverse weather conditions.
 - (h) To store animal feed at suitable places so that it is not exposed to the weather conditions.
 - (j) To have suitable areas for exercise according to the type of the animals kept at the shelter. Especially for dogs, alternatively, to make sure they are walked on a leash twice (2) a day for at least thirty (30) minutes.
 - (k) Not to keep in the same area non sterilized dogs and cats and in general to make sure that the animals do not reproduce.

3. The place where dogs are kept must be separate from where cats and the rest of the companion animals are kept. In any case it must be ensured that different species of animals are not present in the same place.

4. In addition to the above, fenced areas for keeping animals must also meet the following requirements:

a) For dogs a height of at least one meter and seventy (1.70) centimeters high and an area of at least four (4) square meters. If that space accommodates more than one dog, then its area must be increased by four (4) square meters for every extra dog.

b) For cats a height of at least one (1) meter and an area of at least two (2) square meters. If that space accommodates more than one cat, then its area must be increased by two (2) square meters for every extra cat.

c) For the rest of the companion animals the height must be such that the animal can remain in its natural posture and its movements not restrained.

5. Specifically for shelters operated by municipalities, their legal persons, or associations of municipalities:

a) a total area of forty (40) square meters for:

aa) administration office, management and personnel and

ab) warehouse for feed and materials

b) Optionally a medical clinic and a recovery area for sick animals.

6. Each shelter is under an obligation to have on its web site an analytical list of the number of animals of each species kept at the shelter which must be updated at least every week as well as to keep an updated inspection book and decontamination book.

7. Articles 28 and 29 are exclusively applicable as regards the specifications for setting up and operating companion animal shelters.

8. If during an inspection of a companion animal shelter by the competent veterinary and sanitary authorities it is found that the requirements of articles 28 and 29 are not met, then the person responsible for the shelter is punished with a fine of ten thousand (10.000) euro or with the suspension of operation of the shelter for up to six (6) months. If the offence is repeated, then the shelter may be permanently shut down. The sanctions are imposed following a decision of the Governor of the prefecture of the relevant area, following a recommendation from the competent veterinary department and they are enforced with the help of the police. Shelters which operate without a license from 31.3.2022 onwards will be sealed by the veterinary authorities with the help of the police.

9. If the shelters send animals for adoption abroad, they must comply as a minimum with the requirements of Law 2017/1992 (A' 31) and EU Regulation 2019/2025 of 28 June 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (L 314).

Article 30

Setting up and operation of fenced dog parks

1. Each municipality may set up and operate fenced dog parks to ensure that dogs have a place to exercise.
2. It is allowed to set up and operate fenced dog parks at the common usage areas within the city plan inside towns such as in squares, parks and groves. The space where the park is situated, and its size, do not alter the basic usage of the common area in which they are positioned. Dog parks cannot be set up and operated within a radius of fifty (50) metres from residents, schools, and hospitals.
3. The animals are allowed to move in the dog parks without a leash.
4. The owners, guards or persons accompanying the animals must remain inside the fenced dog part throughout the duration of their dogs stay in the dog park.
5. Fenced dog parks must have a proper fence and double exit/ entry doors so that dogs cannot exit while exercising without supervision.
6. Apart from the places determined by the procedure of article 57 of Law 2637/1998 (A' 200), it is allowed to have restricted areas for the exercise of dogs in controlled hunting areas as well as to conduct shows of dog hunting skills.
7. Compliance with the rules of operation of dog parks is ensured by the bodies monitoring and verifying offenses of article 3.

CHAPTER M'

PROMOTION OF THE LOVE TO ANIMALS AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

Article 31

Training, education, and promotion of animal love

The competent authorities of the Ministry of Interior and of Education and Religion, in collaboration with other competent bodies, will:

- (a) Organize educational seminars and make sure that the mass media promotes programs informing and educating people who are companion animal owners, people who are involved

in breeding, training, trading and keeping of these animals, as well as informing local communities as regards the legislation for the protection of animals.

(b) Promote, sensitize and develop the love to animal and responsible ownership of companion animals in kindergartens and primary and secondary schools by events, lectures, projections, seminars for dealing with and managing stray animals and other appropriate educational programs. Such programs to be an independent part of a unit dedicated to animals. The implementation of at least one (1) educational event on loving animals per year is ensured for each school classroom of the primary and secondary education following a suggestion of the Institute of Educational Policy (IEP). The know-how and scientific knowledge of the Observation Committee of article 39 are utilized in this matter.

Article 32

Training of Security Forces

The program of study of the School of Officers and the School of Policemen of the Greek Police, as well as that of the Port Guard Cadet School includes training regarding the protection of the well-being of companion animals.

Article 33

Complementary provisions for the protection of animals

1. Driven by the animals' best interest the competent district attorney can remove temporarily, or permanently, the companion animal, or animal of another category, from the possession of the offender of clauses e' and g' of par. 1 of article 9 and article 24 and the animal is handed over to a shelter for stray animals. The district attorney may prohibit the acquiring of another animal by the offender. Specifically for clause b' of par. 1 of article 24, the removal is final. The offender must bear the cost needed to restore the animal's health, its veterinary care and living expenses as proven by the receipts and verified by the relevant municipality.

2. Without prejudice to harsher sanctions, the competent district attorney, when acting on a media publication or complaint, can conduct an on-the-spot autopsy and with the assistance of a veterinary from the relevant prefecture, ascertain the conditions under which animals live in shelters for stray companion animals, breeding places and other accommodation. If the conditions are not in compliance with this present legislation, as well as with provisions governing the operation of the above bodies, the district attorney can issue a provisional decision setting out the measures that need to be taken by the person responsible for the

operation of the shelter, accommodation, or breeding place, and the time limit within which he must comply.

CHAPTER N'

SANCTIONS

Article 34

Penal sanctions

1. The illegal trading in companion animals under the terms of this present legislation is punishable with at least one (1) year imprisonment and a penal penalty/ fine of up to three hundred and sixty (360) daily units, each one amounting from ten (10) to fifty (50) euros.
2. Offenders of clause e' of the first part of clause f' of par. 1 of article 9, clauses c' and d' of par. 10 of article 8, par. 4 of article 22 as well as clause a' of par. 1 of article 24 are punished with imprisonment of at least one (1) year and a penal penalty/ fine of up to three hundred and sixty (360) daily units, each one amounting from ten (10) to fifty (50) euros. Offenders of par. 5 of article 23 and clause b' of par. 1 of article 24 are punished with imprisonment of up to ten (10) years and a penal penalty/ fine of up to five hundred (500) daily units, each one amounting from fifty (50) to one hundred (100) euros.
3. Offenders of article 23, except par. 5, are punished with imprisonment of up to two (2) years and a penal penalty/ fine of up to three hundred and sixty (360) daily units, each one amounting from ten (10) to fifty (50) euros.
4. Offenders of par.5 of article 9 as well as theft of any companion animal is punished with imprisonment of up to six (6) months and a penal penalty/ fine of up to three hundred (300) daily units, each one amounting from ten (10) to twenty (20) euros. The theft of a hunting dog or a service dog is punished with imprisonment of up to one (1) year and a penal penalty/ fine of up to three hundred and sixty (360) daily units, each one amounting from ten (10) to fifty (50) euros.
5. Offenders of articles 3,4,7,9,10 and 11 of Law 2017/1992 (A' 31) are punished with the sanctions of par. 2.
6. In the cases of par. 1 to 5 the report verifying the offence is drawn up by a competent authority and forwarded within ten (10) days to the competent municipality for the imposition of the sanctions provided hereunder.
7. In the cases of crimes under this legislation, each animal loving partnership or animal loving nonprofit organization active locally or nationally and registered with the NRCA, may take part in the trial, on its own right, to support the accusation, irrespective of whether it has suffered

monetary damage. The relevant declaration may be submitted either during the preliminary proceedings or on the date of the trial before the court, as per article 84 of the Code of Penal Procedure (Law 4620/2019. A' 96).

Article 35

Administrative sanctions

1. The administrative sanctions for the breach of the provisions of this present legislation are as follows:

No	OFFENCE	PROVISION	FINE AND OTHER SANCTIONS
1	Nonadherence of owner to the rules of protection and proper handling and non-adherence from the owner's part of the special requirements of par. 2 of article 2 to ensure their well-being	Article 2 par. 2	1.000€
2	Omission of microchipping and registering of bred, reproduced or sold dogs and cats for sale, as well as omission of registration of changes of their information and the information of the female progenitor	Article 4 par. 3	3.000€
3	Omission of complete and precise updating of the NRCA by the veterinary	Article 4 par. 6	300€
4	Untrue data registered by the vet on the NRCA or sample of genetic material sent to the LSAGMCA	Article 4 par. 6	2.000€
5	Omission of keeping an updated electronic health booklet or passport for companion animals intended for breeding or reproduction or sale	Article 8 par. 2	1.000 for the first animal, increased by 10% for every other/ next
6	Breeding, reproduction, or sale of companion animals in breach of par. 1,2,3 and 4 of article 8	Article 8 par. 1,2,3 and 4	3.000€
7	Omission of keeping a register for every female breeding animal by a breeder	Article 8 par. 6	1.000€ for the first animal,

			increased by 10% for every other/next
8	Fertilization of female breeding dogs before the second estrous cycle and before nine (9) months have passed from the last birth	Article 8 par. 7	2.000€ for the first animal, increased by 10% for every other/next
9	Reproduction after the ninth year of age of an animal, as well as breeding of the same animal more than six (6) times in its lifetime	Article 8 par. 8	2.000€ for the first animal, increased by 10% for every other/next
10	Breeding of a companion animal whose anatomic and physiological characteristics, or behavioral characteristics, can, depending on the type and race, prove to be harmful for the health and the well-being of the female breeding companion animal and its descendants	Article 8 par. 9	3.000€ for the first animal, increased by 10% for every other/next
11	The sale of dogs and cats of an age under twelve (12) weeks. The sale of dogs and cats in open air public spaces, including open air markets, as well as internet (electronic) shops that do not belong to duly operating breeding undertakings, reproducing and trading in companion animals	Article 8 par. 10 clause a', b', e' and f'	4.000€ per animal sold
12	Import and trading of amputated dogs	Article 8 par. 10 clause c'	2.000€ per animal
13	Breeding of amputated dogs	Article 8 par. 10 clause d'	1.000€ per animal
14	Online or on print advertisements a) for «mating» of companion animals, b) for the	Article 8 par. 11, 12, 13 and 14	1.000€

	sale of dogs and cats when the requirements of par. 13 of article 6 are not met, c) for the adoption of stray animals when the requirements of par. 14 of article 6 are not met		
15	Entry into the Greek state of a companion animal that is not microchipped or comes from facilities that do not meet the requirements of EU Regulation 2019/2035	Article 8 par. 15	500€
16	Omission of duly microchipping and registering a dog or cat, or declaring the loss of the companion animal, as well as omission to register with the NRCA all the necessary data concerning the owner or the companion animal and the changes thereof	Article 9 par. 1 clause b' and c'	300€
17	Omission of sterilizing a dog or cat or sending the genetic sample to the LSAGMCA	Article 9 par. 1 clause a'	1.000€
18	Omitting to observe the rules of well-being of a companion animal or to have an animal be examined by a veterinary or to have an animal properly vaccinated each year, as well as the amputation of the animal without a medical reason	Article 9 par. 1 clause d', e' and k'	1.000€
19	Not having an updated passport	Article 9 par. 1 clause f'	300€
20	Omitting to immediately clean the animal's environment from its excreta	Article 9 par. 1 clause h'	100€
21	Omitting to observe the rules of safely walking a dog Damage caused by a dog Omission to take measures to prevent an animal exiting from its owner's, or the person's accompanying it, or its guard's, property	Article 9 par. 2 and par. 3 clause a', b', c'	300€

22	Cat permanently living in a cage	Article 9 par. 4	300€
23	Removal of the animal's microchip without a medical reason	Article 9 par. 5	3.000€ and loss of professional permit of the veterinary for two (2) years
24	Not having an updated passport or a copy of its electronic booklet for a hunting dog which is in transit	Article 9 par. 6	500€
25	Untrue sample of genetic material for a companion animal sent to the LSAGMCA	Article 14	2.000€ and in case this is repeated, loss of the veterinary's permit for one (1) month
26	Not complying with the rules of the well-being, the hygienic provisions and police provisions concerning noise nuisance for companion animals kept at detached houses and flats Keeping more than three (3) companion animals in a flat of a building block, where the building regulation forbids keeping more companion animals	Article 15 par. 2, 3 and 4	500€ per animal
27	Transporting dogs and cats in breach of par. 1, 2 and 3 of article 17	Article 17 par. 1, 2 and 3	500€ per animal
28	Transporting a companion animal with the means of public transport without complying with the provisions of par. 4 of article 17	Article 17 par. 4	300€ per animal
29	No availability of required special cages on passenger boats to transport large animals	Article 18 par. 1	5.000€
30	Transporting a companion animal in breach of par. 2, 4, 6 and 10 of article 18	Article 18 par. 2, 4, 6 and 10	500€ per animal

31	Noncompliance of managing companies/ ship owners of itinerary vessels with the requirement to incorporate in their reservations system for reserving and issuing passenger tickets a relevant procedure/ field for registering microchip/identification information of companion animals being transported in connected to the available number of large cages.	Article 18 par. 7	5.000€
32	Transportation of companion animals inside luggage compartments in KTEL buses, tourist, or other buses	Article 17 par. 6	1.000€
33	Omitting by the persons responsible to take necessary measures for preventing the access of stray animals to garbage	Article 20	1.000€
34	Organizing an exhibition of companion animals without a permit	Article 22 par. 1	5.000€ per day of the event
35	Causing fear or pain to a companion animal during an event, or omitting to supervise a companion animal during an event, or omitting to use a muzzle, or removal of an aggressive companion animal from an event	Article 22 par. 2	1.000€ per animal
36	Presenting an amputated animal for participation in an exhibition and acceptance of the participation from the person organizing it	Article 22 par. 4	1.000€ per animal
37	Not having a printed copy of the electronic booklet or an updated passport of a companion animal participating in an exhibition	Article 22 par. 3	1.000€ for the first animal, increased by 10% for every other/next
38	Participation of an animal in a program or performance at a circus or theatre with a varied program	Article 23 par. 1	30.000€ for each animal kept

39	Participation of any type of animal at performances and other similar activities of the first part of par. 2 of article 23	Article 23 par. 2 first part	20.000€ for each animal kept
40	Use of an animal with the purpose of making a profit in an open-air public exhibition or in the context of upholding popular/ folklore or local traditions without complying with relevant conditions or as a prize in raffles and contests	Article 23 par. 2, second part, par. 3 and par. 10	10.000€ for each animal used
41	Breeding, training and participation of an animal in any type of fight	Article 23 par. 5, first part	40.000€ for each animal
42	Breeding, exporting or using a dog or cat or an equine or a type of ferret (<i>mustela putorius furo</i>) for the making of fur, skin, meat or the manufacture of medicine or other substances	Article 23 par. 5, second part	50.000€ for each animal
43	Abuse, bad and cruel treatment of any type of animal (drastic and non iatrogenic restriction of natural movement, non-acceptable methods of training, work not provided for the type of animal concerned, illegal reproduction, voluntary injury with simple bodily harm, abandonment)	Article 24 par. 1, clause a' and article 9 par. 1 clause g'	5.000€ to 15.000€ for each animal depending on the severity of the offence
44	Killing, torturing animals with the intention to cause extreme bodily pain or exhaustion, dangerous for their health, especially through poisoning, strangling, hanging, drowning, burning, heat stroke, electrocution, frostbite, crushing, amputation (nontherapeutic), shooting (causing injury or death), voluntary injury (grievous and dangerous bodily harm), dog fights, animal husbandry, sexual abuse of animals with the use of objects for the sadistic satisfaction of the perpetrator,	Article 24 par. 1 clause b' and par. 2	30.000€ to 50.000€ for each animal and for every incident

	abandonment of new born, as well as the selling, trading and presenting and the exchange through the internet of any audio-visual material such as videos, or other cinematic, or photographic, material which depicts any type of sexual act with animals, as well as any violent act or killing of small animals with the purpose of sexual gratification of the persons watching or participating in the.		
45	Abandonment of an injured animal following a road accident	Article 24 par. 3	500€
46	Refusal or with any means obstruction of the procedure for checking, carried out by competent supervising bodies that certify offences during the exercise of their duty to check as well as not giving or giving false, incomplete or inaccurate information and data		500€

2. The above-mentioned fines constitute a revenue for the municipalities within whose jurisdiction the offence took place.

3. Each time the offence is repeated, the fines are doubled. Operating licenses of offenders of articles 8, 22 and 23 are taken away for a period of one (1) month to one (1) year. Competent bodies for certifying the offences hereunder are those referred to in par. 6 of article 3.

4. The report/ act verifying the offence must include: (a) the competent authority and the deadline for filing objections before it, as per par. 5 (b) the offence and the article of the legislation to which the offence refers and (c) the amount of the fine. The report/ act verifying the offence is notified to the offender and a copy of the same is sent immediately to the competent, as per par.6, authority.

5. Objections against the report/ act verifying the offence are submitted before the head of the body which certified it within five (5) working days. The decision with which the objections are examined must be fully justified with reference to specific events and evidence. This decision is notified to the competent authority of par. 6.

6. If no objections are raised, or they are dismissed, the fine is imposed immediately by way of a decision of the head of the financial service of the municipality within whose jurisdiction the offence took place. If the deadline expires, then the whole of the fine is imposed by way of verification (in Greek “vevaiosi”) by the financial service of the municipality and payment collected as per of the Code of Public Revenue Collection (legislative decree 356/1974, A’ 90).

7. Especially for the offence of clause a’ and b’ of par.1 of article 9 concerning omission of sterilization, or the sending of the sample of the genetic material of the animal and non-timely microchipping and registering the companion animal, the decision for imposing the fine is issued by the competent municipality, verified (in Greek “vevaiosi”) by the financial service of the municipality and payment collected as per of the Code of Public Revenue Collection.

8. In case of repeated offences, the competent authority verifying the offence sets a reasonable deadline for its setting right and if the offender does not comply it imposes a new fine after each new verification.

9. Revenue from fines hereunder are registered independently in a special account at the municipality’s budget and are used exclusively for improving municipal shelters and veterinary clinics, setting up new ones and implementing this present legislation.

10. Par. 2 to 9 are not applicable in cases verified within the context of customs check for the offenses of clause c’ of par. 10 or par. 15 of article 6, or par. 6 of article 17. In these cases, the fines of par. 1 are imposed and collected by the competent customs authority as per the provisions of Law 2960/2001 (A’ 265).

Article 36

Offenders’ Register

All those who have been convicted by way of a final decision for the offence of the first part of clause f’ of par. 1 of article 9, clauses c’ and d’ of par. 10 of article 8, par. 4 of article 22, par. 5 of article 23 and clauses a’ and b’ of par. 1 of article 24 are registered with the offenders’ Register of par. 24 of article 2. Those registered with the said Register are not accepted by the NRCA as owners, or fosters, of companion animals, or responsible persons for legal persons, neither are they allowed to hold a position, as a volunteer or not, from which they can affect the well-being of an animal, indicatively including working at a shelter, zoo, livestock facility for a period at least ten (10) years from the final penal decision, except if the sanction imposed is for a longer period. In case of an irreversible acquitting decision the registration is deleted.

CHAPTER O'

COLLECTION, BURIAL, AND INCINERATION OF DEAD ANIMALS

Article 37

Collection, burial, and incineration of dead animals

1. The authorities responsible for cleaning the roads of the national, provincial, and urban network have the obligation to remove from the roads and pavements the dead animals and to make sure that they are incinerated or buried in a sanitary manner in accordance with the provisions of national and European legislation. Before incinerating, or the burial, of the animals the relevant municipality or the contracted veterinary of the company operating national roads, if any, are informed so that they can ascertain possible breached of this present legislation. In case of an owned animal its owner is informed.
2. The disposal of the dead animals like their incineration or sanitary burial are carried out in accordance with national and European legislation in force.
3. Incineration places and animal cemeteries are set up and operate by organizations of local administration and their associations, as well as by natural persons that fulfil the requirements of environmental licensing in accordance with Law 4014/2011 (A' 209). Organizations of local administration can also contract private incinerators and animal cemeteries in accordance with Law 4412/2016 (A' 147).

CHAPTER P'

ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION

Article 38

Competence of the Greek Ombudsman

The Ombudsman has the competence to act as a mediator regarding animal rights and the compliance with the relevant legislation.

Article 39

Special Observation Committee

1. By way of a decision of the Minister of Interior, a Special Observation Committee is set up with a five-year term with the possibility to be renewed. The committee consists by the President, who must be a respectable person, and six (6) more regular members as follows:
 - (a) one (1) representative from the Pan Hellenic Veterinary Association,

(b) one (1) representative from the animal loving partnerships or the animal loving nonprofit organizations registered with the Sub registry of Animal Loving Partnerships and Organizations of par. 23 of article 2 that have many years of activity and recognized work,

(c) one (1) representative from the Greek Ombudsman,

(d) two (2) representatives from the Central Association of Municipalities in Greece (KEDE) and

(e) the head of the Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior.

2. Specifically as regards the representatives of animal loving partnerships or the animal loving nonprofit organizations, these are elected by way of electronic ballot from all of the animal loving partnerships and nonprofit organizations registered with the Sub registry of Animal Loving Partnerships and Organizations of par. 23 of article 2 whose management is the result of legal elections.

3. The Committee of par. 1 has the following competences:

(a) To monitor the implementation of this present legislation.

(b) The scientific support of the competent authorities for the implementation and monitoring of the application of the legislation for companion animal protection by drawing up studies and compiling proposals periodically or following a specific request.

(c) The drawing up of studies and reports and compiling of proposals for the competent authorities for the adoption of the appropriate operations plan, the implementation of the necessary procedures, protocols, and international best practices and in general application of effective measures for resolving problems in companion animal protection.

(d) To offer its opinion to the competent authorities for separate matters connected to the protection of companion animals.

(e) The submission of proposals to the Ministry of Interior and any other competent ministry for the evaluation and improvement of this present legislation.

Article 40

Person responsible for matters pertaining to companion animals- Procedure for amending the Constitution of Internal Departments of municipalities

1. Every municipality must appoint an employee, or vice mayor, or a mandated officer, responsible for companion animal matters and with the duty to make sure that the operations program for the management of stray animals is properly implemented.

2. By way of exception from article 10 of Law 3584/2007 (A' 143) and specifically as regards the obligations deriving from this present, the amendment of the Constitution of Internal Departments of the municipalities is approved by the Financial Committee, following a suggestion from the executive committee. The opinion of the Official Council is given within one (1) month after it has been requested, otherwise it is deemed that it agrees.

Article 41

Basic Performance Indexes

1. The Department of Companion Animal Protection of the Directorate of Organization and Operation of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior, as the competent authority for supervising the implementation of the collection and management program for stray companion animals from the municipalities, may set Basis Performance Indexes in order to monitor the implementation of the operational programs of each municipality following the agreement of the Special Observation Committee of article 39.

2. The Basic Performance Indexes, which are fixed the latest two (2) months before the beginning of each year, include absolute targets, as well as comparative data in relation to the previous year. Each year municipalities must make public their yearly report with their results as regards the Basic Performance Indexes.

Article 42

Evaluation of enforcement

On the fifth year after this present legislation has been put into effect, an evaluation will take place of the whole of this legislation with the purpose of improving individual provisions or revisiting the whole of the framework for animal well-being. The evaluation procedure begins with a proposal of the Observation Committee of article 39 and an extended consultation takes place with all the parties involved.

CHAPTER Q'

OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 43

Subsidies for animal partnerships and non-profit organizations - Amendment of par. 1Aarticle 202 of Law 3463/2006

In par. 1A of article 202 of Law 3463/2006 (A'114), concerning the possibility of granting monetary subsidies by way of a city council decision, clause vii is added as follows:

«vii. To animal loving partnerships or nonprofit organizations, seated in the relevant municipality and registered with the Sub-registry of Animal Loving Partnerships and Organizations of the National Register for Companion Animals (NRCA), kept at the Ministry of Digital Governance. Additional condition for this subsidy is the drawing up of a relevant program of action of the partnership, or organization, for the corresponding municipality and its approval from the five-member Monitoring Committee of the operational program for the management of stray companion animals and the prevention of the creation of new ones of the relevant municipality». Under the same conditions the above partnerships and organizations can be granted subsidies from the relevant prefecture if they are active within the limits of its jurisdiction.

Article 44

Certification of professional adequacy of dog trainers

The professional adequacy of dog trainers, except from the dog trainers of working dogs of the armed forces and security forces, is certified by the National Organization of Certification of Skills and Vocational Guidance, according to Law 4762/2020 (A' 254).

PART B'

PROVISIONS GRANTING AUTHORITY, TRANSITIONAL, FINAL AND ABOLISHED

Article 45

Provisions granting authority

1. The terms for the creation and operation of the NRCA and its Sub-registers are set by common decision of the Ministers of Interior and Digital Governance. The same applies for the Pan Hellenic Adoption Platform for Stray Companion Animals, the specific contents of each Sub-register and the fields included in them, the matters concerning the procedure for identification and the giving of an access code to the certified users and to those who are granted access to the NRCA, matters pertaining to data transfer from the existing Register, the procedure and conditions for entering information in the register, the necessary documentation as well as any other relevant matter.
2. The specifications and equipment of the veterinary facilities that carry out the sterilizations, microchipping and registration of stray companion animals by volunteering veterinarians, the procedure and duration and any other relevant matter are set by a common decision of the Ministry of Interior and Rural Development and Food.

3. The categories of sensitive and vulnerable groups of par. 13 of article 4 can be made more specific by way of a decision of the City Council of each municipality and income criteria can be set or other criteria for the free of charge microchipping, registration with the NRCA, sterilizing and vaccination of companion animals (dogs and cats). Moreover, by way of a city council decision the amounts of clause f' of par. 1 of article 9 may be increased or decreased specifically for the vulnerable groups of the first part. With the same decision an additional amount may be set to cover the monthly keeping and feeding expenses that an owner handing over his animal to the municipality must pay each month that his animal is kept.

4. The anatomical and physiological characteristics, or the behavioral characteristic of animals, that may be deemed harmful for the health and the well-being of the female reproducing companion animal and the well-being of its descendants, forbidding its reproduction are set by a decision of the Minister of Rural Development and Food.

5. The details concerning the concentration of the population of stray animals in the areas where they are reintroduced/ returned and the delimiting of the areas in which reintroduction of animals is not allowed are regulated by way of a decision of the Execution Committee of the municipality, following an opinion by the the five-member Committee of par. 8 of article 10.

6. The funding, the procedure, the criteria and the manner of funding of the municipalities, the intermunicipal collaborations and the associations of municipalities for the purpose of implementing the present legislation and for any other related matter is set by way of a common decision of the Ministers of Interior and Finance, issued within three (3) months from the publication of this present legislation.

7. The amount of funding received by each municipality for the implementation of the actions under this legislation is set by way of a decision of the Minister of Interior, issued yearly, and taking into account, amongst other things, the performance of each municipality as regards the implementation of the targets of the operational program. In the event of serious noncompliance with the provisions hereunder, it is possible, following a decision of the Minister of Interior, issued after a suggestion from the Special Committee of article 39, to withhold some of the funds of the Central Independent Funds (KAP) that the municipality is entitled to, which can be up to the amount corresponding to up to two (2) months on a yearly basis.

8. The one-off subsidy received by the AABRF in accordance to par. 4 of article 13 and every other relevant matter are set by way of a decision of the Minister of Finance.

9. The details concerning the sending of genetic sample of the companion animal to the LSAGMCA by the owner of a dog or cat who does not wish to have his animal sterilized and every other relevant matter are set by way of a decision of the Minister of interior, following the agreement of the Board of Directors of the AABRF. With a similar decision it is possible to readjust the amount of the electronic fee of par. 2 of article 14 and to broaden the categories of animal owners obliged to send a sample of the genetic material of their animals to the LSAGMCA.

10. The standards that need to be met by means of transport of working animals, such as trailers, cages on or inside the body of the vehicle, is set by way of a decision of the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport.

11. The technical details for the development, operation, and support of the digital platform of article 25, and the terms and procedures for accessing of platform by the competent authorities of article 3.12 are set by a common decision of the Ministers of Interior and Digital Governance. The veterinary sanitary rules, and in general the terms for the deterrence of the risk of invasion in the country, or escape from the country, of epizootic illnesses, are set by way of a common decision of the Ministers of Finance and Rural Development and Food.

12. Specific matters concerning the procedure, the bodies, the necessary documentation and other details for the licensing of shelters for companion animals, in accordance with the standards of articles 28 and 29, and the administrative penalties/ fines imposed in case of breach of the same, are set by way of a common decision of the Ministers of Interior and Rural Development and Food. The sanctions may be a fine ranging from five hundred (500) euros to five thousand (5.000) euros and/or temporary close down of the shelter for up to six (6) months. In the event of relapse, the shelter may be permanently closed down.

13. The rules and working hours of fenced dog parks within the jurisdiction of each municipality, the defining of dogs as small size or large for the purpose of entering the parks, the maximum number of dogs per person and every other relevant matter pertaining to the proper operation of the fenced dog park are set by way of a decision of the city council.

14. The terms and conditions for the determination of places as controlled hunting areas, where it is allowed for dogs to exercise and for shows of hunting skills to take place, apart from the areas set by the procedure of article 57 of Law 2637/1998 (A' 200), are set by way of a common decision of the Ministers of Environment and Energy and Interior.

15. The specific contents of the programs of article 31, as well as the way, the criteria, the procedure and the amount of its funding may be set by a common decision of the Ministers Interior and Education and Religion.

16. The specific matters concerning the way and the procedure for collecting, distributing and readjusting the fines of par. 1 and 2 of article 35 and every other relevant matter are set by way of a decision of the Minister of Interior.

17. The competences of the Special Observation Committee of article 39 are made more specific by way of a decision of the Minister of Interior which is issued within six (6) months from the publication of this present legislation, together with the details of its operation and every other relevant matter.

18. Every necessary detail regarding the election of the animal loving partnerships or nonprofit organizations' representative of the committee of article 39 is regulated by way of a common decision of the Ministers of interior and Digital Governance.

Article 46

Transitional provisions

1. The Ministry of Digital Governance will file an application and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food will within thirty (30) days of the filing of the application hand over the existing «online electronic database» which includes the microchip codes, the details of the owners and the companion animals registered from the date that registration was assigned to it until the date of delivery of the database to the Ministry of Digital Governance. This transfer does not suspend the obligations of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food or its access to the NRCA as per the applicable provisions. Until its delivery the database continues to operate at the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

2. Until the NRCA starts to operate the microchipping and registration of dogs and cats continues to be conducted on the database of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. Those owners of dogs and cats who have already microchipped, or are about to microchip, their companion animals using the existing database, can, within a time limit of six (6) months from the date on which the NRCA will start to operate, complete their information on the basis of article 4. Deletions of registrations can take place by owners within the same time limit provided the animals are not in their ownership any more or are not alive.

3. Professional and amateur dog and cat breeders are under an obligation, within a time limit of six (6) months, from the date on which the NRCA will start to operate, to register with the Sub-register of Professional and Amateur Breeders.

4. Within six (6) months from publication of this present legislation, municipalities are under an obligation to carry out the necessary amendment to their Organization of Internal Service,

in accordance with article 10 of the Code of Municipal and Communal Employees, in order to organize and implement the management program for stray animals.

5. The year 2023 is set to be the first year of application of the Basic Performance Indexes of article 41 and their making public by the Department of Organization and Operation of the Local Administration must take place the latest until 31.10.2022.

6. Shelters in operation at the time when this legislation is published are under an obligation to comply with the requirements of articles 28 and 29 until 31.3.2022. Decisions concerning the sealing of shelters are suspended until the date above, except if following a report by competent bodies it is ascertained that the life of the animals kept is put to danger. Shelters that have been licensed until this legislation is put into force are under an obligation to comply as regards the requirements of articles 28 and 29 until 30.9.2023.

Article 47

Final and abolished provisions

1. The provisions of this present legislation do not prejudice other provisions of laws, or international conventions ratified by law that afford greater protection to any type of animal. Moreover, the provisions of the Sixth Book of legislative decree 86/1969 (A' 7) and the regulatory acts issued are not affected.

2. Wherever in the provisions of this present legislation reference is made to the Greek Kennel Club it also refers to any other partnership, following publication of this present legislation, that acquires the capacity of a member of the International Kennel Federation (Fédération Cynologique Internationale). The registration of a partnership with the International Kennel Federation is verified by way of a decision of the Minister of Interior.

3. Wherever in the provisions of this present legislation reference is made to the Greek Cat Club it also refers to any other partnership, following publication of this present legislation, acquires the capacity of a member of the International Cat Federation (Fédération Internationale Féline). The registration of a partnership with the International Cat Federation is verified by way of a decision of the Minister of Interior.

4. The prohibition of transport of companion animals of this present legislation are not applicable in cases where article 27 of Law 4662/2020 (A' 27) is applicable.

5. Especially when implementing article 27 of Law 4662/2020, in the event that an animal (companion or production) is not removed from a fenced area, provided its owner has the ability to move it and that can be proven, clause b' of par. 1 of article 24 of the present is applicable by analogy.

6. After this present legislation comes into force the following are repealed:

(a) Article 12 of presidential decree 44/2011 (A' 110)

(b) Articles 1 to 23 of Law 4039/2012 (A' 15)

(c) Par. 2 of article 4 and articles 6 and 7 of Law 1197/1981 (A' 24)

(d) Par. 6 of article 44 of Law 4384/2016 (A' 78)

(e) Article 19 of Law 4674/2020 (A' 53)

(f) Common decision of the Ministers of interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation and Agriculture with no 280262/3.12.2003

(g) Every general or specific provision that is contrary to the provisions of this present legislation.

[...]