



## Dog ownership registration requirements

You have chosen to own a dog. Your new pet is certainly a great asset, but dog ownership comes with many duties. The most important duties related to registration are set out below:

### 1. Entry in the Upper Austrian Dog Registry via the local authority for the primary place of residence<sup>1</sup>

If the dog is older than twelve weeks, it must be registered with the local authority for the primary place of residence **within three days** and providing the following information:

1. The name and primary address of the dog owner
2. Breed, colour, gender, and age of the dog
3. Name and primary address of the person who last owned the dog

The registration must also include:

1. The certificate of general competence required for dog ownership<sup>2</sup> ; and
2. Proof that the dog *is covered by liability insurance*.
3. Proof of *registration in the pet database* in accordance with the Animal Protection Act.

The reported data are stored in the Upper Austrian Dog Registry.

### **ATTENTION:**

If there is **a change in the reported liability insurance**, the dog owner must inform the local authority of this change **within four weeks and present the new liability insurance policy**. The same applies for any **other changes to the insurance policy**.

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<sup>1</sup> Upper Austrian Dog Ownership Act 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Further information on the courses in Upper Austria can be found on the homepage of the Federal Government of Upper Austria under the heading Topics/Security and Order/Administrative Police/ Upper Austria. Dog Ownership Law

## **2. Issuing of the official dog tag by the local authority for the owner's primary residence**

The process of registration in the Upper Austrian Dog Registry includes issuing the *official dog tag*.

The dog owner must ensure that the official dog tag issued for the dog is visibly worn on the dog's collar or harness when the dog is in public.

When the dog ownership is discontinued, the dog tag must be returned to the local authorities.

## **3. Payment of the dog tax to the local authority for the owner's primary residence**

The annual dog tax must be paid to the local authority within two weeks of registration.

## **4. Marking the dog by means of a microchip AND notification of the chip number to the federal pet database<sup>3</sup>**

Please note: the dog owner must always take **two steps**!

1. The microchip will be implanted by a veterinarian of your choice and at your own expense. The chip is inserted into the left side of the dog's neck through a needle, like an injection. The procedure is almost painless. The chip is unbreakable and lies, inert, in the tissue of the neck.
2. The microchip's code number must now be registered with the Federal Government's pet database.

All dogs kept on federal territory must be identified/chipped by a veterinarian using a numeric-coded, electronically-readable microchip, at the owner's cost. Puppies must be chipped no later than at the age of three months, and always before ownership is transferred for the first time.

Microchip identification with a globally unique number code ensures that a dog can be uniquely identified. This is necessary in order to quickly return escaped dogs to their rightful owners, avoiding long stays in an animal shelter.

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<sup>3</sup> § 24a Animal Protection Law

A microchip is only useful if the numeric code and the data of the dog and its owner are registered in a database.

Therefore, each dog owner is required to register their pet **within one month** of identification/chipping, import or transfer; registration is carried out via an online portal:

- By the owner themselves, using their citizen's card;
- By the local authority after the data has been reported to them by the owner (district administration authority);
- By the veterinarian who carries out the chipping or vaccination on behalf of the owner (The veterinarian charges for this service); or
- By another reporting office – this may be an animal shelter or another private database that also registers the dog in accordance with § 24a of the Animal Protection Act.

You will receive a *registration number* as confirmation of the registration. This number is your proof of a successful registration. Insist that the registration number is issued to you!

The following **master data** must be reported and entered:

1. *Personal data* of the keeper of the dog (where they are not the owner of the dog) as well as the personal data of the owner:
  - a. Name
  - b. Type and number of an official photo ID card
  - c. Delivery address
  - d. Contact details
  - e. Date of birth
  - f. Date of the start of ownership
  - g. Date of transfer of possession and name of the new owner (name and number of an official photo ID) or death of the dog.

*Data about the dog:*

- h. Breed
- i. Gender
- j. Date of birth (at least year)
- k. Identification number (microchip number)
- l. In the case of a dog who has undergone surgery for medical reasons, an indication of the exact reason for the surgery, and the veterinarian who performed the operation, or other reasons (e.g., seizure)
- m. Country of birth
- n. Optional: number of any pet ID card,
- o. Optional: date of last rabies vaccination with details of the vaccine, if available.

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**For more information on dog ownership:**

- Homepage of the Federal Government of Upper Austria [www.land-Oberoesterreich.gv.at](http://www.land-Oberoesterreich.gv.at), under the heading Topics/Security and Order/Administrative Police/Upper Austria. Dog Ownership Act <https://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/95653.htm>
- My best friend – Upper Austrian Dog Guidebook - The Manual of the Upper Austrian Dog-Ownership Act, published by the Directorate of the Interior and Local Affairs; can be requested free of charge, is available at municipal offices and can be found on the Internet at:  
<https://www2.land-Oberoesterreich.gv.at/internetpub/InternetPubPublikationDetail.jsp?SessionID=SID-C7580A34-3F3AC197&xmlid=pages%2F95653.htm&pbNr=1161&dest=ooe>