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According to present legislation, Hungarian private veterinarians have to register each dog that is identified with a microchip into the Hungarian dog database within 8 days. Please note that only veterinarians are licenced to microchip animals in Hungary, and every dog has to be microchipped the latest in the age of 4 months, when obligatory Rabies vaccination is due). The data are based on the dog owner’s attestation.

In Hungary, pet passport is only mandatory for dogs travelling to other countries, until that happens, dog owners only have to use a vaccination book, issued by a veterinarian to keep track of the data and the vaccinations of the animal.

As mentioned rabies vaccination is mandatory in Hungary for dogs above the age of 4 months. Mandatory rabies vaccination has to be registered in our national database, Ebregiszter. Because of this practice, the first person indicated under the heading of “owner” in the pet passport is not necessarily the first owner/breeder of the dog, but the person, who requested the passport.

Dog commercial transport is one of the priorities of the veterinary authorities in Hungary. Nébih has started targeted central inspections, many dog trader companies are under the spotlight. There are veterinarians currently under investigation, and there are some veterinarians who had already been suspended, fined or prosecuted.

The recent change in relevant EU and national legislation is also helping the authorities to be able to strengthen the control on traceability of commercial dog consignments.

To be able to trace back traded dogs to their first owner, Hungarian legislation has been recently modified in line with the new provisions of the EU Animal Health Law, and its joint legislation. From the 1st April 2021 all dog breeders in Hungary will have to get a unique registration number, and from 21st April, 2021, all dog trading companies that operate as so called dog assembly center (Gene Profession will be categorized like this) will have to have an up-to-date register of the birth places of the dogs they trade, and also the breeders’ unique number.

All authorities are facing the problem that there is no objective, accepted rule or guidance on how to check the age of a puppy. To solve this, the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office has prepared a guideline on how to determine the age of a puppy based on teething. This draft document has been sent amongst others to the NVWA for evaluation, to establish a common ground. The draft document is under evaluation at the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, EU PAWS Voluntary dog subgroup, as well.

In addition to what has been described, we are, of course, also investigating the suspicion of illegal trade in animals reported to our office.

According to our TRACES data analysis 6577 dogs were dispatched from Hungary to the Netherlands in 2020.

The Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office and the NVWA are currently closely cooperating with each other on the problems of dog trade, trying to find possible solutions through recent bilateral online meetings.