Report on

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023

Attila Márton

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Introduction

As societal expectations around animal welfare, responsible ownership, and transparency in the pet sector continue to evolve, there is growing attention on the structure and dynamics of the dog population across Europe. This 2023 report presents an updated analysis of the distribution of Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) pedigree dogs within the European Union (EU), extending the time series with the most recent data available from FEDIAF for 2023 and FCI registration statistics up to 2024.

Unlike the previous edition, this update does not involve a retrospective recalculation of earlier years. Instead, it builds directly on the refined 2022 baseline and adds the new figures as an additional layer of insight. The integration of the 2023 FEDIAF dog population estimates provides the most comprehensive snapshot to date of dogs living in EU households, while updated FCI registration data for 2023 and 2024 allow a more nuanced view of recent trends in pedigree dog breeding and ownership.

The data confirm a pattern already observed in earlier reports: **the total number of owned dogs in the EU continues to grow, whereas the proportion of FCI pedigree dogs within this population is gradually declining**. In 2023, the estimated household dog population in the EU (excluding Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta) rose again to approximately 69.4 million, while the share of FCI pedigree dogs decreased slightly to 13.61%, continuing the downward trajectory recorded since 2019. It is essential to underline that **FEDIAF figures capture only dogs living in households and do not include stray or free-roaming dogs**, which may be numerous in certain regions.

At the same time, the EU institutions are preparing new legislation aimed at safeguarding the welfare of dogs and cats. In this regulatory context, robust and transparent data on the composition of the dog population – including the role of responsibly bred, traceable pedigree dogs – is of increasing relevance to lawmakers, authorities, and stakeholders.

Given that **FCI does not hold exclusive rights to registering pedigree dogs**, the figures presented here reflect only those registrations managed by FCI member organisations. Within these boundaries, this report seeks to offer an updated and realistic perspective on the place of FCI pedigree dogs in the EU's owned dog population. By documenting current trends and highlighting regional differences, it provides a factual basis for ongoing discussions on canine welfare, breeding policy, trade in dogs, and broader societal attitudes towards dog ownership in Europe.

London, 14 November 2025

Attila Márton

Conclusion

Distribution

The updated EU average distribution of FCI pedigree dogs in 2023 is **13.61%,** with a standard deviation of **14.39%,** calculated for the 24 EU member states for which a consistent FEDIAF time series is available (excluding Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta). As in previous years, these figures are based on industry estimates of the owned pet dog population and therefore do not include shelter or free-roaming dogs, which means the total canine population in several countries is likely higher than reported.

Across the EU, **13 of the 24 countries** with complete data fall below the EU average distribution, while **11 countries** exceed it. This confirms that FCI pedigree dogs remain a clear minority within the owned dog population in most member states, and that there is substantial diversity between countries.

Trends

The 2023 update confirms the continuation of the long-term trend identified in previous editions of this report: **the relative share of FCI pedigree dogs in the EU household dog population is gradually declining, even as the total number of dogs continues to grow.** Between 2019 and 2023, the estimated owned dog population in the 24 analysed EU countries increased from about **56.9 million to 69.4 million dogs**, an expansion of roughly **22%**. Over the same period, the estimated proportion of **FCI pedigree dogs has fallen from 14.95% (2019) to 13.61% (2023)**.

These patterns have important implications for canine welfare policy and regulation. FCI does not hold exclusive rights to register pedigree dogs, and the data in this report reflect only the registrations managed by FCI member organisations. In parallel, the European Union is preparing dedicated legislation on the welfare of companion animals (dogs and cats). In this context, the findings underscore two key points: first, that **most dogs in Europe live outside organised pedigree frameworks**, and second, that **ethical, traceable breeding under NCO oversight represents a structured and accountable part of the sector**.

Ensuring that future EU-level measures are evidence-based, proportionate and targeted at the entire dog population – while recognising the contribution of responsible pedigree breeding to health, welfare and transparency – will be essential. The trends documented in this report provide a critical factual basis for that discussion and highlight the need for continued collaboration between policymakers, veterinary professionals and National Canine Organisations across Europe.

Detailed Figures and Charts

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

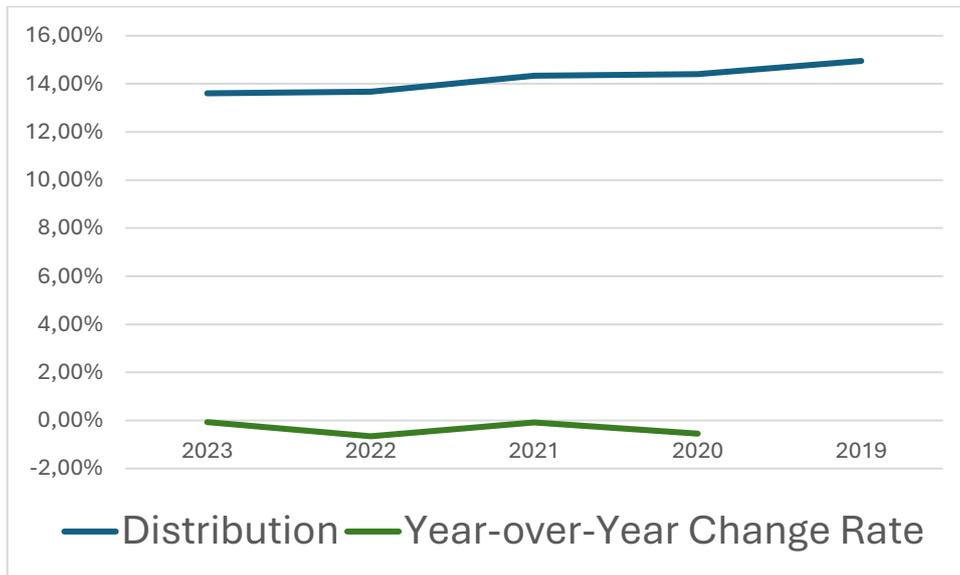| Country	Overall population	FCI Pedigree dogs	Distribution	Deviation
Austria	836 000	88 655	10,60%	-3,00%
Belgium	2 052 000	205 926	10,04%	-3,57%
Bulgaria	729 000	39 251	5,38%	-8,22%
Croatia	709 000	111 774	15,77%	2,16%
Cyprus	59 000	11 243	N/A	N/A
Czech Republic	2 229 000	445 719	20,00%	6,39%
Denmark	641 000	219 594	34,26%	20,65%
Estonia	250 000	50 191	20,08%	6,47%
Finland	805 000	496 077	61,62%	48,02%
France	7 600 000	2 374 850	31,25%	17,64%
Germany	10 500 000	747 089	7,12%	-6,49%
Greece	652 000	85 328	13,09%	-0,52%
Hungary	2 772 000	202 445	7,30%	-6,30%
Ireland	517 000	189 866	36,72%	23,12%
Italy	8 766 000	1 648 697	18,81%	5,20%
Latvia	271 000	33 892	12,51%	-1,10%
Lithuania	614 000	74 005	12,05%	-1,55%
Luxembourg	72 000	2 792	N/A	N/A
Malta	74 000	17 848	N/A	N/A
Netherlands	1 777 000	362 970	20,43%	6,82%
Poland	8 440 000	503 531	5,97%	-7,64%
Portugal	3 008 000	153 189	5,09%	-8,51%
Romania	4 251 000	147 413	3,47%	-10,14%
Slovakia	909 000	122 449	13,47%	-0,14%
Slovenia	301 000	41 594	13,82%	0,21%
Spain	9 463 000	573 413	6,06%	-7,55%
Sweden	1 062 000	519 595	48,93%	35,32%
TOTAL (excluding Cyprus, Luxembourg, and Malta)	**69 359 000**	**9 437 512**	**13,61%**	**14,39%**

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

FCI Pedigree Dog Distribution in the EU – 2023

- Overall population
- FCI Pedigree dogs

Tendency of Distribution

— Distribution — Year-over-Year Change Rate

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Distribution	13,61%	13,67%	14,33%	14,41%	14,95%
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-0,07%	-0,66%	-0,08%	-0,54%	

Excluding Cyprus, Luxembourg, and Malta

FCI Pedigree Dog Distributions in the EU per Country in 2023 (Austria – Hungary)

FCI Pedigree Dog Distributions in the EU per Country in 2023 (Ireland – Sweden)

Percentages of FCI Pedigree Dog Distributions in the EU per Country – 2023

Deviations of FCI Pedigree Dog Distributions in the EU per Country – 2023

Tendencies in Overall Dog Population and New FCI Pedigree Registration in the EU and Its Member States – Charts

European Union - Total

Austria

Belgium

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Bulgaria

Croatia

Czech Republic

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Denmark

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

Estonia

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

Finland

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

France

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

Germany

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

Greece

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Hungary

Ireland

Italy

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Latvia

Lithuania

Netherlands

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Poland

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

Portugal

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

Romania

FCI Pedigree Dogs — Overal Population

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Sweden

Number of Yearly Registered FCI Pedigree Dogs in the EU – 2011 – 2024.

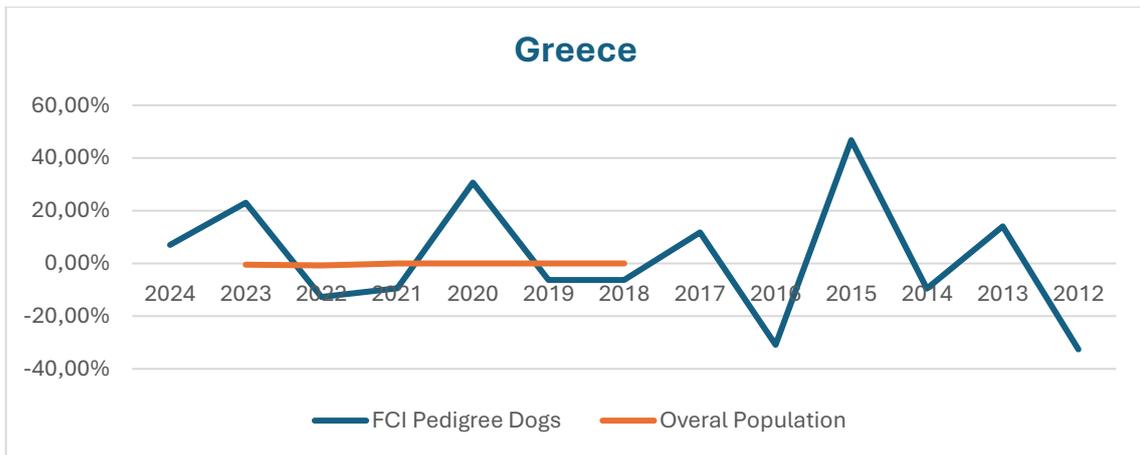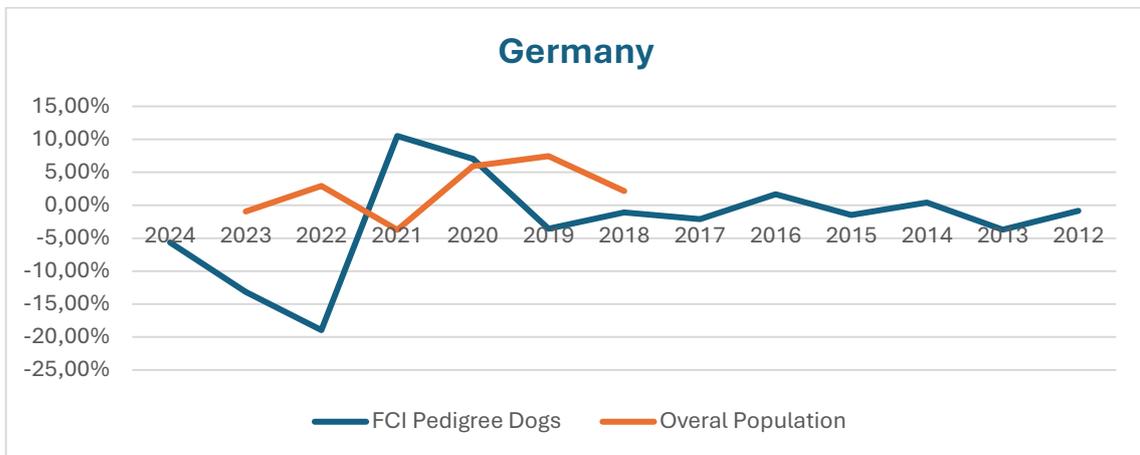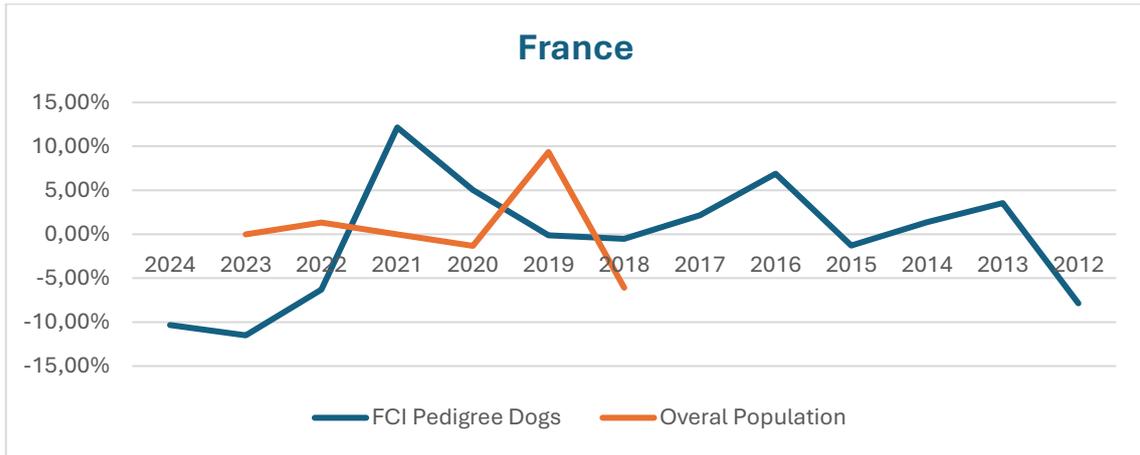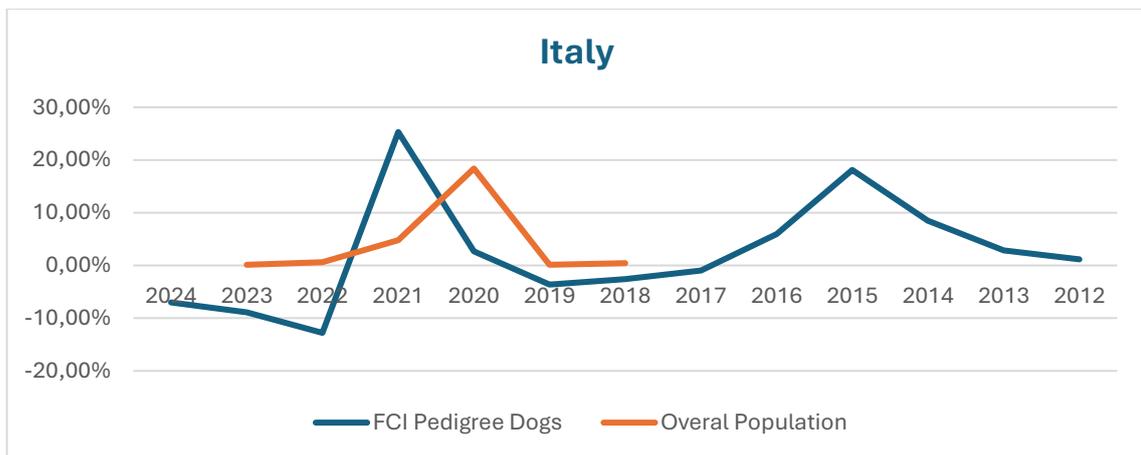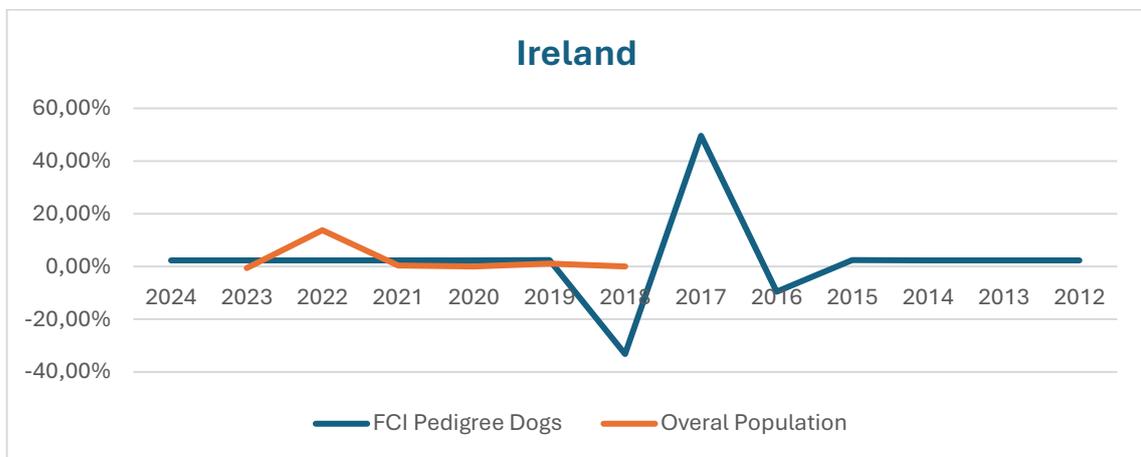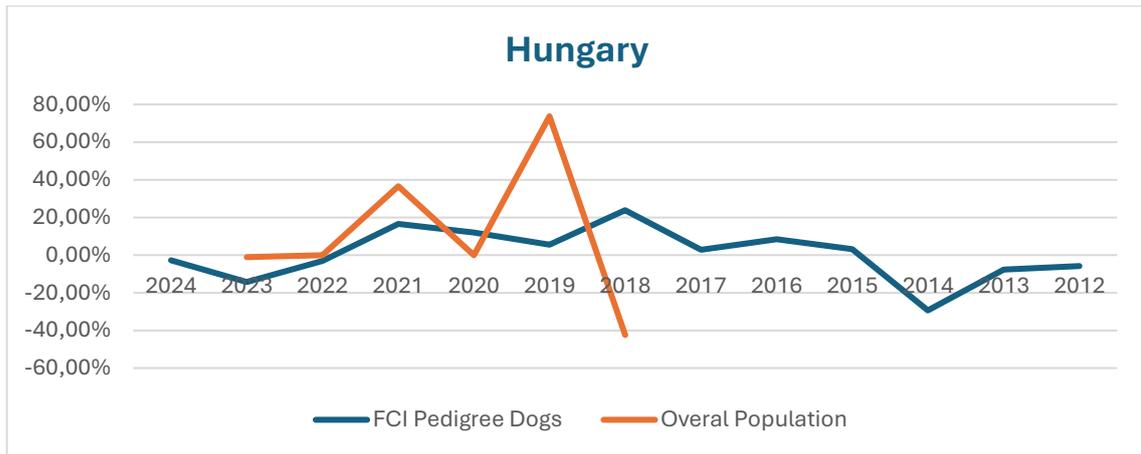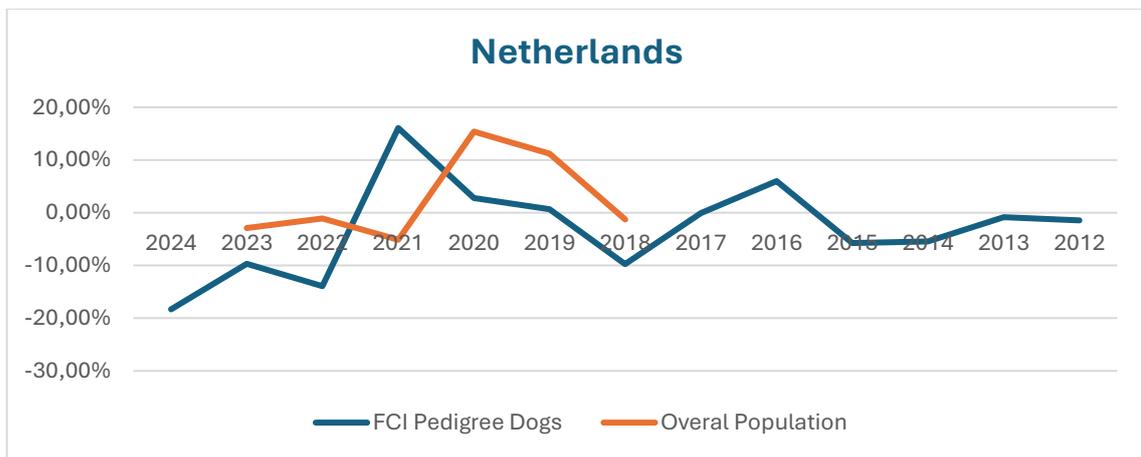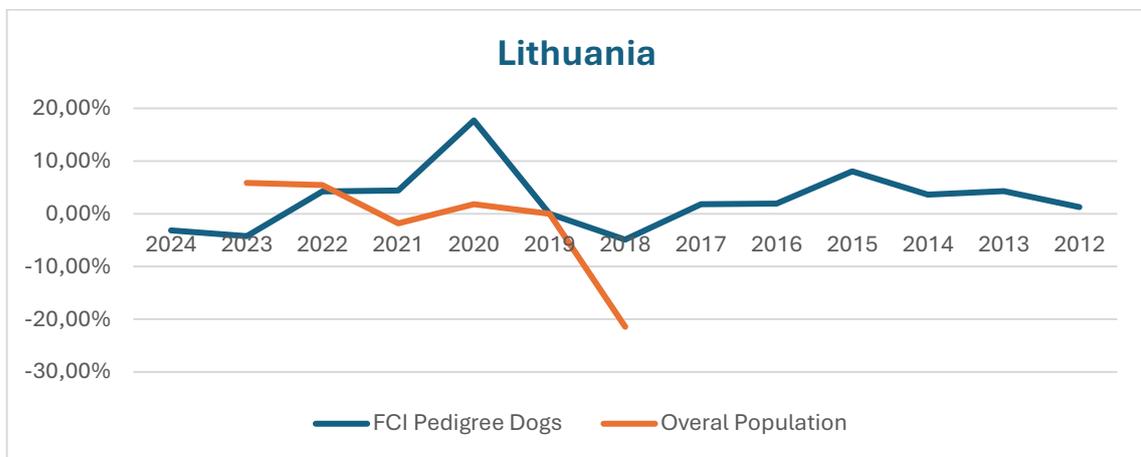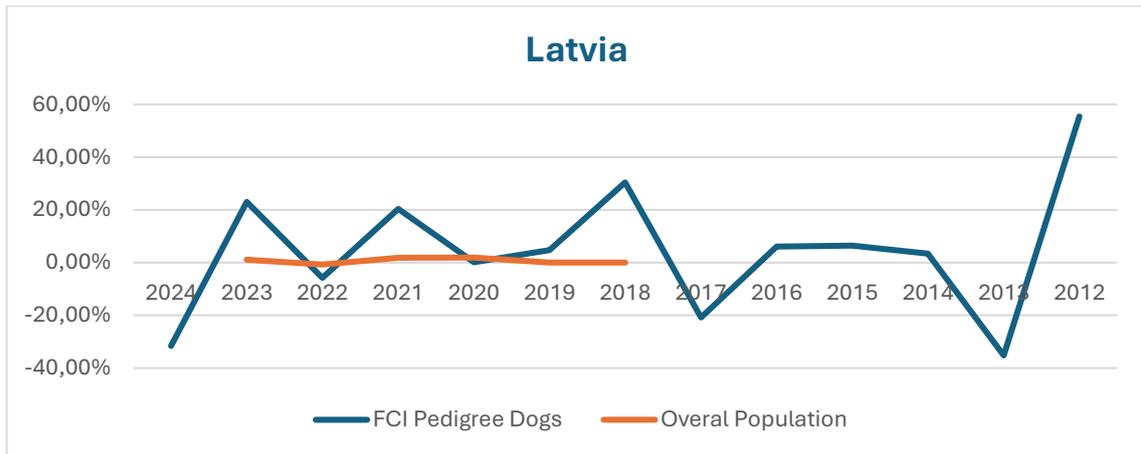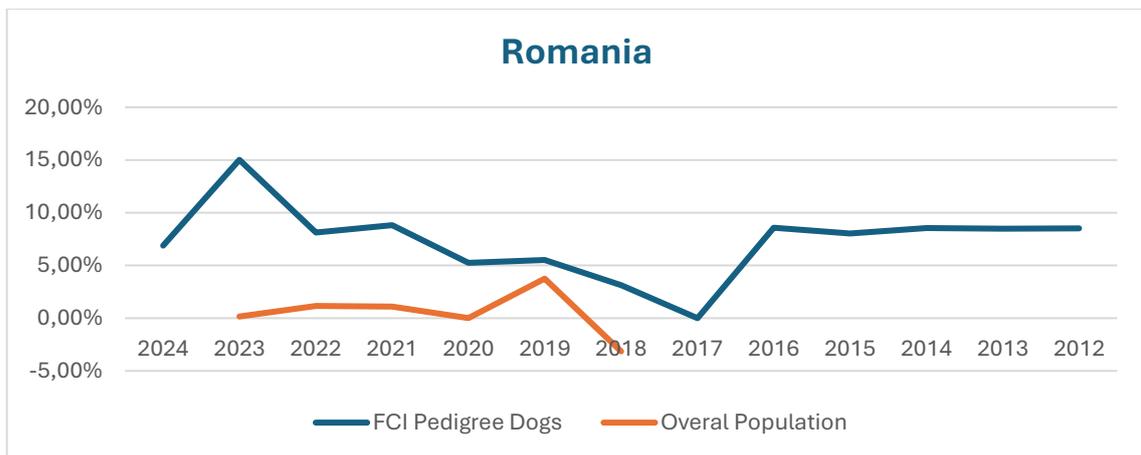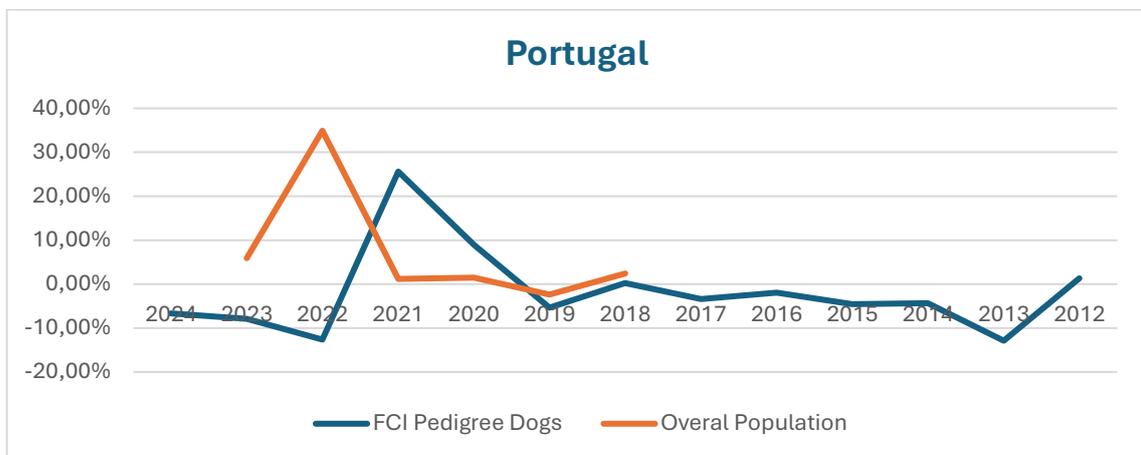| Country	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Austria	7 844	7 747	9 350	9 565	8 557	8 705	8 690	8 736	9 090	9 162	9 053	9 212	8 952	9 320
Belgium	16 108	17 399	19 727	24 462	23 978	23 496	22 998	23 515	17 968	15 194	17 189	19 183	16 123	16 301
Bulgaria	3 537	3 775	3 663	3 554	3 448	4 160	4 254	4 414	4 225	3 878	3 881	3 237	3 038	2 839
Croatia	10 645	10 876	11 387	14 083	12 040	10 552	10 157	10 705	10 619	10 852	10 503	10 876	10 957	11 972
Cyprus	927	962	1 000	1 038	1 078	1 120	1 163	1 202	1 151	1 174	1 355	678	696	714
Czech Republic	43 885	44 153	48 235	54 853	47 626	44 427	43 694	42 060	41 132	40 401	39 138	37 875	38 241	39 764
Denmark	19 280	19 203	22 481	28 292	23 742	21 589	20 687	20 555	22 311	20 441	20 293	20 118	20 566	20 294
Estonia	4 112	4 764	5 532	5 945	5 189	5 030	4 872	4 938	4 522	4 537	4 862	4 580	4 123	4 263
Finland	43 542	46 249	52 195	52 771	51 297	47 749	49 890	49 051	48 639	49 362	48 874	49 535	52 374	50 003
France	204 802	228 422	258 110	275 407	245 553	233 802	234 073	235 312	230 341	215 510	218 320	215 365	207 987	225 709
Germany	56 851	60 253	69 381	85 602	77 461	72 364	75 036	75 876	77 509	76 234	77 373	77 044	80 022	80 709
Greece	10 107	9 440	7 670	8 791	9 700	7 421	7 916	8 443	7 557	10 937	7 453	8 240	7 221	10 710
Hungary	22 285	22 929	26 738	27 590	23 660	21 126	20 008	16 156	15 704	14 489	14 045	19 888	21 536	22 884
Ireland	19 776	19 317	18 875	18 441	18 014	17 595	17 182	25 717	17 189	18 998	18 538	18 109	17 692	17 286
Italy	149 179	160 403	176 004	201 800	161 053	156 859	162 788	167 123	168 696	159 204	134 767	124 196	120 749	119 379
Latvia	3 231	4 718	3 833	4 070	3 381	3 377	3 223	2 471	3 119	2 940	2 760	2 669	4 119	2 650
Lithuania	8 030	8 291	8 660	8 308	7 956	6 759	6 759	7 107	6 981	6 847	6 337	6 115	5 862	5 789
Luxembourg	214	230	247	265	285	305	327	247	281	298	307	315	320	303
Malta	2 164	2 149	2 134	2 119	2 105	2 090	2 075	1 356	1 278	1 200	1 342	1 413	1 484	1 700
Netherlands	26 161	32 029	35 465	41 193	35 491	34 524	34 300	38 000	38 023	35 880	38 065	40 250	40 596	41 193
Poland	57 737	60 898	68 964	75 646	16 609	51 132	53 676	53 000	48 583	12 043	62 980	32 800	31 200	32 223
Portugal	14 005	15 006	16 297	18 659	14 854	13 635	14 408	14 378	14 879	15 173	15 900	16 627	19 086	18 833
Romania	21 842	20 433	17 766	16 432	15 098	14 347	13 595	13 182	13 182	12 141	11 238	10 354	9 544	8 796
Slovakia	12 988	12 363	15 126	15 947	13 905	12 957	12 878	12 570	12 116	11 578	3 009	11 106	11 718	11 352

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Slovenia	4 264	4 208	4 873	5 117	4 336	3 880	3 757	3 819	3 871	3 866	3 867	3 688	4 079	4 214
Spain	46 317	49 935	64 488	69 545	40 646	55 459	56 262	59 836	59 942	59 339	57 961	60 406	67 090	78 256
Sweden	41 415	44 680	49 507	62 894	57 076	51 454	50 531	51 059	51 049	50 234	51 111	52 253	53 395	56 062
GRAND TOTAL	**851 248**	**910 832**	**1 017 707**	**1 132 389**	**924 139**	**925 914**	**935 198**	**950 828**	**929 957**	**861 912**	**880 521**	**856 132**	**858 770**	**893 518**
TOTAL (excluding Cyprus, Luxemburg, and Malta)	**847 943**	**907 491**	**1 014 326**	**1 128 966**	**920 670**	**922 399**	**931 634**	**948 023**	**927 247**	**859 240**	**877 517**	**853 726**	**856 270**	**890 801**
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**0**	**-10,53%**	**-10,15%**	**22,62%**	**-0,19%**	**-0,99%**	**-1,73%**	**2,24%**	**7,91%**	**-2,08%**	**2,79%**	**-0,30%**	**-3,88%**	**0,88%**

(Data in black cells are estimated.)

Overall Dog Population in the EU
based on the FEDIAF Reports – 2017 - 2023

Country	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Austria	836 000	837 000	837 000	827 000	641 000	827 000	640 000
Belgium	2 052 000	2 029 000	1 340 000	1 325 000	1 320 000	1 315 000	1 315 000
Bulgaria	729 000	752 000	750 000	741 000	740 000	740 000	740 000
Croatia	709 000	735 500	360 000	350 000	350 000	350 000	350000
Cyprus	59 000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Czech Republic	2 229 000	2 208 000	2 205 000	2 200 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 150 000
Denmark	641 000	643 000	610 000	607 000	600 000	595 000	590 000
Estonia	250 000	243 500	235 000	235 000	230 000	210 000	200 000
Finland	805 000	797 000	760 000	755 000	810 000	810 000	800 000
France	7 600 000	7 600 000	7 500 000	7 500 000	7 600 000	6 950 000	7 400 000
Germany	10 500 000	10 600 000	10 300 000	10 700 000	10 100 000	9 400 000	9 200 000
Greece	652 000	655 000	660 000	660 000	660 000	660 000	660 000
Hungary	2 772 000	2 800 000	2 800 000	2 050 000	2 050 000	1 180 000	2 050 000
Ireland	517 000	520 000	457 000	455 000	455 000	450 000	450 000
Italy	8 766 000	8 755 000	8 700 000	8 300 000	7 011 000	7 002 000	6 970 000
Latvia	271 000	268 000	270 000	265 000	260 000	260 000	260 000
Lithuania	614 000	580 000	550 000	560 000	550 000	550 000	700 000
Luxembourg	72 000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Malta	74 000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Netherlands	1 777 000	1 830 000	1 850 000	1 950 000	1 690 000	1 520 000	1 540 000
Poland	8 440 000	8 109 000	6 466 732	7 850 000	7 750 000	7 600 000	7 550 000
Portugal	3 008 000	2 840 000	2 105 000	2 080 000	2 050 000	2 100 000	2 050 000
Romania	4 251 000	4 244 000	4 195 000	4 150 000	4 150 000	4 000 000	4 130 000
Slovakia	909 000	911 000	920 000	890 000	915 000	900 000	910 000
Slovenia	301 000	299 000	295 000	295 000	295 000	290 000	270 000
Spain	9 463 000	9 313 000	9 313 000	6 733 097	6 733 000	6 270 000	6 270 000
Sweden	1 062 000	1 051 000	890 000	890 000	890 000	880 000	880 000
TOTAL (excluding Cyprus, Luxemburg, and Malta)	**69 359 000**	**68 620 000**	**64 368 732**	**62 368 097**	**59 850 000**	**56 859 000**	**58 075 000**
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**1,08%**	**6,60%**	**3,21%**	**4,21%**	**5,26%**	**-2,09%**	

(Data in black cells are estimated.)

Tendencies in Overall Dog Population and New FCI Pedigree Registration in the EU and Its Member States – Charts

TOTAL (excluding Cyprus, Luxemburg, and Malta)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	847 943	907 491	1 014 326	1 128 966	920 670	922 399	931 634	948 023	927 247	859 240
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-6,56%	-10,53%	-10,15%	22,62%	-0,19%	-0,99%	-1,73%	2,24%	7,91%	-2,08%
Overal Population	N/A	69 359 000	68 620 000	64 368 732	62 368 097	59 850 000	56 859 000	58 075 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	1,08%	6,60%	3,21%	4,21%	5,26%	-2,09%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Austria	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	7 844	7 747	9 350	9 565	8 557	8 705	8 690	8 736	9 090	9 162
Year-over-Year Change Rate	1,25%	-17,14%	-2,25%	11,78%	-1,70%	0,17%	-0,53%	-3,89%	-0,79%	1,20%
Overal Population	N/A	836 000	837 000	837 000	827 000	641 000	827 000	640 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-0,12%	0,00%	1,21%	29,02%	-22,49%	29,22%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Belgium	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	16 108	17 399	19 727	24 462	23 978	23 496	22 998	23 515	17 968	15 194
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-7,42%	-11,80%	-19,36%	2,02%	2,05%	2,17%	-2,20%	30,87%	18,26%	-11,60%
Overal Population	N/A	2 052 000	2 029 000	1 340 000	1 325 000	1 320 000	1 315 000	1 315 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	1,13%	51,42%	1,13%	0,38%	0,38%	0,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Bulgaria	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	3 537	3 775	3 663	3 554	3 448	4 160	4 254	4 414	4 225	3 878
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**-6,29%**	**3,05%**	**3,07%**	**3,07%**	**-17,12%**	**-2,21%**	**-3,62%**	**4,47%**	**8,95%**	**-0,08%**
Overal Population	N/A	729 000	752 000	750 000	741 000	740 000	740 000	740 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**N/A**	**-3,06%**	**0,27%**	**1,21%**	**0,14%**	**0,00%**	**0,00%**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Croatia	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	10 645	10 876	11 387	14 083	12 040	10 552	10 157	10 705	10 619	10 852
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**-2,12%**	**-4,49%**	**-19,14%**	**16,97%**	**14,10%**	**3,89%**	**-5,12%**	**0,81%**	**-2,15%**	**3,32%**
Overal Population	N/A	709 000	735 500	360 000	350 000	350 000	350 000	350 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**N/A**	**-3,60%**	**104,31%**	**2,86%**	**0,00%**	**0,00%**	**0,00%**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Czech Republic	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	43 885	44 153	48 235	54 853	47 626	44 427	43 694	42 060	41 132	40 401
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**-0,61%**	**-8,46%**	**-12,06%**	**15,17%**	**7,20%**	**1,68%**	**3,88%**	**2,26%**	**1,81%**	**3,23%**
Overal Population	N/A	2 229 000	2 208 000	2 205 000	2 200 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 150 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**N/A**	**0,95%**	**0,14%**	**0,23%**	**10,00%**	**0,00%**	**-6,98%**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Denmark	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	19 280	19 203	22 481	28 292	23 742	21 589	20 687	20 555	22 311	20 441
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**0,40%**	**-14,58%**	**-20,54%**	**19,16%**	**9,97%**	**4,36%**	**0,64%**	**-7,87%**	**9,15%**	**0,73%**
Overal Population	N/A	641 000	643 000	610 000	607 000	600 000	595 000	590 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	**N/A**	**-0,31%**	**5,41%**	**0,49%**	**1,17%**	**0,84%**	**0,85%**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Estonia	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	4 112	4 764	5 532	5 945	5 189	5 030	4 872	4 938	4 522	4 537
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-13,69%	-13,88%	-6,95%	14,57%	3,16%	3,24%	-1,34%	9,20%	-0,33%	-6,68%
Overal Population	N/A	250 000	243 500	235 000	235 000	230 000	210 000	200 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	2,67%	3,62%	0,00%	2,17%	9,52%	5,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Finland	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	43 542	46 249	52 195	52 771	51 297	47 749	49 890	49 051	48 639	49 362
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-5,85%	-11,39%	-1,09%	2,87%	7,43%	-4,29%	1,71%	0,85%	-1,46%	1,00%
Overal Population	N/A	805 000	797 000	760 000	755 000	810 000	810 000	800 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	1,00%	4,87%	0,66%	-6,79%	0,00%	1,25%	N/A	N/A	N/A

France	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	204 802	228 422	258 110	275 407	245 553	233 802	234 073	235 312	230 341	215 510
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-10,34%	-11,50%	-6,28%	12,16%	5,03%	-0,12%	-0,53%	2,16%	6,88%	-1,29%
Overal Population	N/A	7 600 000	7 600 000	7 500 000	7 500 000	7 600 000	6 950 000	7 400 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	0,00%	1,33%	0,00%	-1,32%	9,35%	-6,08%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Germany	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	56 851	60 253	69 381	85 602	77 461	72 364	75 036	75 876	77 509	76 234
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-5,65%	-13,16%	-18,95%	10,51%	7,04%	-3,56%	-1,11%	-2,11%	1,67%	-1,47%
Overal Population	N/A	10 500 000	10 600 000	10 300 000	10 700 000	10 100 000	9 400 000	9 200 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-0,94%	2,91%	-3,74%	5,94%	7,45%	2,17%	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Greece	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	10 107	9 440	7 670	8 791	9 700	7 421	7 916	8 443	7 557	10 937
Year-over-Year Change Rate	7,07%	23,08%	-12,75%	-9,37%	30,71%	-6,25%	-6,24%	11,72%	-30,90%	46,75%
Overal Population	N/A	652 000	655 000	660 000	660 000	660 000	660 000	660 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-0,46%	-0,76%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Hungary	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	22 285	22 929	26 738	27 590	23 660	21 126	20 008	16 156	15 704	14 489
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-2,81%	-14,25%	-3,09%	16,61%	11,99%	5,59%	23,84%	2,88%	8,39%	3,16%
Overal Population	N/A	2 772 000	2 800 000	2 800 000	2 050 000	2 050 000	1 180 000	2 050 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-1,00%	0,00%	36,59%	0,00%	73,73%	-42,44%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ireland	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	19 776	19 317	18 875	18 441	18 014	17 595	17 182	25 717	17 189	18 998
Year-over-Year Change Rate	2,38%	2,34%	2,35%	2,37%	2,38%	2,40%	-33,19%	49,61%	-9,52%	2,48%
Overal Population	N/A	517 000	520 000	457 000	455 000	455 000	450 000	450 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-0,58%	13,79%	0,44%	0,00%	1,11%	0,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Italy	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	149 179	160 403	176 004	201 800	161 053	156 859	162 788	167 123	168 696	159 204
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-7,00%	-8,86%	-12,78%	25,30%	2,67%	-3,64%	-2,59%	-0,93%	5,96%	18,13%
Overal Population	N/A	8 766 000	8 755 000	8 700 000	8 300 000	7 011 000	7 002 000	6 970 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	0,13%	0,63%	4,82%	18,39%	0,13%	0,46%	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Latvia	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	3 231	4 718	3 833	4 070	3 381	3 377	3 223	2 471	3 119	2 940
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-31,52%	23,09%	-5,82%	20,38%	0,12%	4,78%	30,43%	-20,78%	6,11%	6,50%
Overal Population	N/A	271 000	268 000	270 000	265 000	260 000	260 000	260 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	1,12%	-0,74%	1,89%	1,92%	0,00%	0,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Lithuania	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	8 030	8 291	8 660	8 308	7 956	6 759	6 759	7 107	6 981	6 847
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-3,15%	-4,26%	4,24%	4,42%	17,71%	0,00%	-4,90%	1,80%	1,96%	8,05%
Overal Population	N/A	614 000	580 000	550 000	560 000	550 000	550 000	700 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	5,86%	5,45%	-1,79%	1,82%	0,00%	-21,43%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Netherlands	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	26 161	32 029	35 465	41 193	35 491	34 524	34 300	38 000	38 023	35 880
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-18,32%	-9,69%	-13,91%	16,07%	2,80%	0,65%	-9,74%	-0,06%	5,97%	-5,74%
Overal Population	N/A	1 777 000	1 830 000	1 850 000	1 950 000	1 690 000	1 520 000	1 540 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-2,90%	-1,08%	-5,13%	15,38%	11,18%	-1,30%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Poland	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	57 737	60 898	68 964	75 646	16 609	51 132	53 676	53 000	48 583	12 043
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-5,19%	-11,70%	-8,83%	355,45%	-67,52%	-4,74%	1,28%	9,09%	303,41%	-80,88%
Overal Population	N/A	8 440 000	8 109 000	6 466 732	7 850 000	7 750 000	7 600 000	7 550 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	4,08%	25,40%	-17,62%	1,29%	1,97%	0,66%	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Portugal	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	14 005	15 006	16 297	18 659	14 854	13 635	14 408	14 378	14 879	15 173
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-6,67%	-7,92%	-12,66%	25,62%	8,94%	-5,37%	0,21%	-3,37%	-1,94%	-4,57%
Overal Population	N/A	3 008 000	2 840 000	2 105 000	2 080 000	2 050 000	2 100 000	2 050 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	5,92%	34,92%	1,20%	1,46%	-2,38%	2,44%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Romania	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	21 842	20 433	17 766	16 432	15 098	14 347	13 595	13 182	13 182	12 141
Year-over-Year Change Rate	6,90%	15,02%	8,12%	8,83%	5,24%	5,53%	3,13%	0,00%	8,57%	8,04%
Overal Population	N/A	4 251 000	4 244 000	4 195 000	4 150 000	4 150 000	4 000 000	4 130 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	0,16%	1,17%	1,08%	0,00%	3,75%	-3,15%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Slovakia	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	12 988	12 363	15 126	15 947	13 905	12 957	12 878	12 570	12 116	11 578
Year-over-Year Change Rate	5,06%	-18,27%	-5,15%	14,69%	7,32%	0,61%	2,45%	3,75%	4,65%	284,78%
Overal Population	N/A	909 000	911 000	920 000	890 000	915 000	900 000	910 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	-0,22%	-0,98%	3,37%	-2,73%	1,67%	-1,10%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Slovenia	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	4 264	4 208	4 873	5 117	4 336	3 880	3 757	3 819	3 871	3 866
Year-over-Year Change Rate	1,33%	-13,65%	-4,77%	18,01%	11,75%	3,27%	-1,62%	-1,34%	0,13%	-0,03%
Overal Population	N/A	301 000	299 000	295 000	295 000	295 000	290 000	270 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	0,67%	1,36%	0,00%	0,00%	1,72%	7,41%	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Distribution of FCI Pedigree Dogs in the European Union in 2023.

Spain	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	46 317	49 935	64 488	69 545	40 646	55 459	56 262	59 836	59 942	59 339
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-7,25%	-22,57%	-7,27%	71,10%	-26,71%	-1,43%	-5,97%	-0,18%	1,02%	2,38%
Overal Population	N/A	9 463 000	9 313 000	9 313 000	6 733 097	6 733 000	6 270 000	6 270 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	1,61%	0,00%	38,32%	0,00%	7,38%	0,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Sweden	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
FCI Pedigree Dogs	41 415	44 680	49 507	62 894	57 076	51 454	50 531	51 059	51 049	50 234
Year-over-Year Change Rate	-7,31%	-9,75%	-21,29%	10,19%	10,93%	1,83%	-1,03%	0,02%	1,62%	-1,72%
Overal Population	N/A	1 062 000	1 051 000	890 000	890 000	890 000	880 000	880 000	N/A	N/A
Year-over-Year Change Rate	N/A	1,05%	18,09%	0,00%	0,00%	1,14%	0,00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Methodology

In preparing the 2023 update of this report, a structured and transparent methodology was employed to incorporate newly available data and refine the assessment of FCI pedigree dog distributions across the European Union (EU). The approach remains consistent with previous editions, ensuring comparability over time while integrating two key new datasets:

the 2023 overall dog population estimates provided by FEDIAF and the 2024 FCI pedigree registration figures.

The methodological framework continues to rely on the combination of officially reported data from National Canine Organisations (NCOs), industry-level estimates of the total dog population, and established assumptions regarding canine demographics. Where data gaps persist, the report follows the same estimation logic applied in earlier analyses, ensuring continuity and methodological stability.

Interpretation

The updated analysis reflects the latest available information on the distribution and trends of FCI pedigree dogs within the EU. While the core calculations of pedigree dog distribution remain based on the refined 2022 dataset, the inclusion of **FEDIAF's 2023 dog population estimates** and the **2024 FCI registration data** provides an expanded context for understanding ongoing developments.

The findings continue to show that FCI **pedigree dogs represent a minority within the total owned dog population**, though their proportional distribution varies markedly across member states. These cross-country differences illustrate the influence of cultural preferences, ownership practices, and regulatory environments on the prevalence of pedigree dogs.

The analysis considers the following elements:

- **Yearly registration data:** The number of newly registered FCI pedigree dogs per year, aggregated over a period consistent with the average lifespan of dogs to estimate the active pedigree population.
- **Total dog population estimates:** Broad approximations that include both pedigree and non-pedigree dogs, derived primarily from the most recent FEDIAF reports. For this edition, 2023 population figures are incorporated where available.

This approach enables a clearer understanding of longitudinal tendencies in both the absolute number and relative proportion of FCI pedigree dogs, helping stakeholders monitor developments in canine demographics and welfare-related trends across the EU.

General Limitations and Assumptions

Despite the improved availability of recent data, several limitations continue to affect the precision of the estimates and should be considered when interpreting the findings:

- **Lack of national-level records:** Comprehensive, standardised, and publicly accessible national data on dog populations and registrations remain unavailable in many EU countries, necessitating reliance on industry estimates.
- **Incomplete or missing FCI pedigree registration data:** The methodology assumes that available NCO-reported figures accurately reflect yearly FCI pedigree registrations. In some cases, missing or incomplete datasets required limited estimation, following the same procedures used in earlier reports.
- **Integration of new data:** While the current update incorporates newly released 2023 FEDIAF population estimates and the 2024 FCI yearly registration numbers, it should be noted that full EU-wide population data for 2024 are not yet available. Accordingly, certain trend assessments continue to rely on 2022-based distributions.

These considerations emphasise that, although the updated analysis enhances accuracy and completeness, the results should still be interpreted as **informed estimates rather than exact measurements**, especially in regions with limited transparency or significant free-roaming dog populations.

Assessment of the Total Dog Population in the EU

Challenges in Estimating the Dog Population

Accurately quantifying the total dog population in the European Union remains a persistent challenge. While several member states operate compulsory identification and registration systems, the availability, quality, and accessibility of national-level data vary significantly. This lack of harmonisation limits the ability to obtain a comprehensive, unified overview of canine demographics across the EU.

Furthermore, available figures generally focus on owned, household dogs. Free-roaming and stray populations—often substantial in certain regions—are not systematically captured in public datasets. As a result, even the most widely referenced estimates must be interpreted with caution, acknowledging that the true total dog population in some countries may be considerably higher.

Primary Data Source: FEDIAF

The primary source of total dog population data in this report continues to be the European Pet Food Industry Federation (FEDIAF). Their 2025 industry report, presenting figures for 2023, represents the most recent and coherent dataset currently available.

FEDIAF's estimates are widely used by policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders, and primarily reflect the number of pet dogs living in private households.

It is important to emphasise that these figures **do not include stray or free-roaming dogs**. Consequently, countries with sizeable non-owned dog populations may experience a proportionally larger discrepancy between the reported and actual totals. Nevertheless, the FEDIAF dataset remains the only source offering consistent cross-country estimates across nearly all EU member states.

Data Sources and Methodological Changes

The 2023 update introduces several notable improvements in data coverage. For the first time, Cyprus, Luxembourg, and Malta are included in the FEDIAF dataset, enhancing the completeness of the EU-wide overview. Their addition reflects ongoing efforts to broaden and harmonise the collection of pet population statistics across Europe.

However, historical population figures for these newly added countries are not available. As a result, their earlier years remain unrepresented in longitudinal comparisons, and the trend analyses continue to build upon the countries with established multi-year datasets.

Limitations in Data and Coverage

While the inclusion of additional countries in the 2023 dataset represents a meaningful improvement, several limitations continue to influence the precision and interpretability of the total population estimates:

- **Uneven data availability:** Despite improvements, not all EU member states provide comprehensive or transparent national records. In such cases, reliance on industry-level estimates remains necessary.
- **Exclusion of stray populations:** The FEDIAF figures reflect household dogs only and do not capture the full picture in regions with significant free-roaming populations.
- **Incomplete historical series:** Because Cyprus, Luxembourg, and Malta appear in the dataset only from 2023 onward, long-term comparative analyses remain constrained.

Despite these limitations, the FEDIAF dataset continues to offer the most reliable and harmonised basis for assessing the total dog population across the EU. Its consistent methodology allows for meaningful year-on-year comparisons and provides essential context for evaluating the proportion and distribution of FCI pedigree dogs within the broader canine population.

Estimation of the Total FCI Pedigree Dog Population

Overview

The estimation of the total FCI pedigree dog population continues to rely on a combination of officially reported annual registration figures, established demographic assumptions, and a structured approach to filling data gaps. Building on the methodology used in previous editions, this 2023 update incorporates all available registration data up to 2024, including several newly calculated estimates for countries where recent or historical figures were missing. The aim remains to provide a realistic and transparent approximation of the active FCI pedigree dog population across the EU.

Assumptions

- **Average Life Expectancy:** The calculation assumes an average canine life expectancy of **10 years**, consistent with veterinary demographic data and with prior versions of this report. This assumption underpins the cumulative registration method, whereby registrations from the past decade are treated as the current active population.
- **Consistency of Registration Growth Rates:** Missing data points were estimated using consistent multi-year growth trends. Countries with incomplete records were modelled using **CAGR-based extrapolations**, selecting time periods that best reflected stable registration patterns. This approach ensures alignment with the long-term dynamics observed in each country's dataset.

Methodology

- **Data Sources:** The analysis is based on annual FCI pedigree dog registrations from 2010 to 2024, as reported by National Canine Organisations (NCOs)[1]. Where official data were not available, estimates were produced using the same methodological logic employed in previous reports.
  The 2024 figures now incorporated include both officially submitted data and the newly calculated estimates generated as part of this update.
- **Data for Germany:** As in earlier editions, FCI statistics do not include German registrations. Population estimates for Germany were derived from figures published by the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH)[2].

- **Life Expectancy-Based Cumulative Calculation:** The active FCI pedigree population for each country was estimated by summing the yearly registrations over the preceding ten-year period.
  This method assumes a **steady-state demographic structure**, in which the annual inflow of newly registered pedigree dogs broadly balances the annual outflow due to natural mortality.

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[1] https://fci.be/en/statistics/
[2] https://www.vdh.de/ueber-den-vdh/welpenstatistik/

- - **Estimation for Missing Data:**
    - ○ **Linear Interpolation:** Applied where short gaps existed between reported registration values.
    - ○ **Growth Rate Application (CAGR):** Used for countries with multiple missing years or discontinuous reporting patterns. The selected growth intervals were country-specific and based on stable, representative periods within each national dataset.
    This methodology was used to estimate all missing values incorporated into the updated 2024 data column.

Rationale

The rationale for this approach remains grounded in three key considerations:

- *Data availability:* Full population counts of FCI pedigree dogs are not systematically recorded in all EU member states. Registration data therefore provide the most consistent and reliable proxy for estimating the active pedigree population.
- *Simplicity and feasibility:* In the absence of complete demographic datasets, complex modelling would introduce greater uncertainty. The cumulative registration method offers a practical and transparent alternative that can be applied uniformly across countries.
- *Reasonable assumptions:* The assumption of a 10-year canine life expectancy is supported by veterinary and demographic research, providing a credible foundation for estimating the active population based on registration inflows.

Considerations and Limitations

- **Variability in Life Expectancy:** Although the assumed 10-year lifespan aligns with average canine demographics, significant breed-level variation may influence actual turnover rates.
- **Incomplete or Inconsistent National Data:** Despite improvements, several countries continue to lack comprehensive year-on-year reporting. The estimates included in this update—particularly those newly calculated for 2024—reflect the best available approximation based on observable trends.

Conclusion

Despite inherent data limitations, the methodology provides a robust, consistent, and replicable framework for estimating the total FCI pedigree dog population across the European Union.

By integrating the most recent registration data, including the 2024 estimates, this updated assessment offers an essential reference for stakeholders engaged in canine welfare, breeding policy, veterinary science, and the broader understanding of dog population dynamics within the EU.