



Newton City Clerk
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459
617-796-1200



2024

Kennel License Application

License renewals are required by April 1st each year.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140 Kennel Licenses

Section 137A. (a) A person maintaining a kennel shall obtain a kennel license. An owner or keeper of less than 4 dogs, 3 months old or older, who does not maintain a kennel may elect to secure a kennel license in lieu of licensing the dogs under section 137 and shall be subject to this section, sections 137B and 137C and so much of section 141 as it relates to violations of this section to the same extent as though the owner or keeper were maintaining a kennel. In the case of an applicant for initial licensure and in the case of an applicant for license renewal, a licensing authority shall not issue a kennel license until a kennel has passed inspection by an animal control officer.

(b) A kennel license shall be in lieu of any other license for a dog kept at a kennel during any portion of the period for which the kennel license is valid. A kennel licensee shall cause each dog kept in its kennel to wear, while it is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to which a tag shall be securely attached. The tag shall have inscribed upon it the number of the kennel license, the name of the city or town issuing the license and the year of issue. Tags shall be furnished to the owner or keeper by the licensing authority in quantities not less than the number of dogs kept in the kennel. The issuing city or town shall determine the period of time for which a kennel license shall be valid, including the date of issuance of the license through the date on which the license expires, inclusive, and shall further determine the fee for the issuance and renewal of the license. To determine the amount of the license fee for a kennel, a dog under the age of 6 months shall not be counted in the number of dogs kept in a kennel. The name and address of the owner of each dog kept in a kennel, if other than the person maintaining the kennel, shall be kept at the kennel and available for inspection by an animal control officer, natural resource officer, deputy natural resource officer, fish and game warden or police officer.

(c) The licensing authority shall issue a kennel license without charge to a domestic charitable corporation incorporated exclusively for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect, or abuse or for the relief of suffering.

Types of Kennels That Must Be Licensed:

Under Massachusetts State Law, any collection of 5 or more dogs at a single property must have a Kennel License. Before a Kennel License can be issued, the City of Newton Animal Control Officers must inspect and approve the facilities in which the animals are housed.

There are five types of Kennels that must be licensed:

- 1. Personal Kennel:** A pack or collection of 5 or more dogs at a single property, 3 months old or older, owned or kept under single ownership, for private personal use.
Fee: up to 5 dogs - \$50.00; 6 to 10 dogs - \$75.00; 11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Copy of a Rabies Certificate for each dog over 6 months old must be provided to Clerk's Office
- 2. Commercial Breeder Kennel:** An establishment, other than a personal kennel, engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or exchange to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops in return for consideration.
Fee: up to 5 dogs - \$50.00; 6 to 10 dogs - \$75.00; 11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Copy of a Rabies Certificate for each dog over 6 months old must be provided to Clerk's Office
- 3. Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel:** An establishment used for boarding, holding, day care, overnight stays or training of animals that are not the property of the owner of the establishment, at which such services are rendered in exchange for consideration and in the absence of the owner of any such animal.
Fee: up to 5 dogs - \$50.00; 6 to 10 dogs - \$75.00; 11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Copy of a Rabies Certificate for each dog over 6 months must be available for Animal Control
- 4. Veterinary Kennel:** A veterinary hospital or clinic that boards dogs for reasons in addition to medical treatment or care.
Fee: up to 5 dogs - \$50.00; 6 to 10 dogs - \$75.00; 11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Copy of a Rabies Certificate for each dog over 6 months must be available for Animal Control
- 5. Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel:** A facility operated, owned or maintained by a domestic charitable corporation registered with the department or an animal welfare society or other nonprofit organization incorporated for the purpose of providing for and promoting the welfare, protection and humane treatment of animals, including a veterinary hospital or clinic operated by a licensed veterinarian, which operates consistent with such purposes while providing veterinary treatment and care. Fee: No Charge

Kennel License Application 2024

Tag Number: _____

Applied: _____

Inspected: _____

Full Name of Owner/Business

Street Address Zip Code

Phone # E-Mail Address

Type of Kennel (Please circle appropriate amount)


Personal	up to 5 dogs \$50.00	6 to 10 dogs \$75.00	11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Commercial Breeder	up to 5 dogs \$50.00	6 to 10 dogs \$75.00	11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Commercial Boarding/Training	up to 5 dogs \$50.00	6 to 10 dogs \$75.00	11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Veterinary Kennel	up to 5 dogs \$50.00	6 to 10 dogs \$75.00	11 to 20 dogs - \$100.00
Domestic Charitable Corp.	No Charge		

Signed under the penalties of perjury. Signature is required and indicates that the information you have provided is accurate and complete, that you understand that your facility will be inspected by Newton's Animal Control Officers which is required before a Kennel License can be issued, and that you understand the Animal Control Officers will be calling you to set up a mutually agreeable time for the visit.

Kennel Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of a Rabies Certificate for each dog over 6 months must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office with this application.

There are two [2] ways to submit your Kennel License Application:

 In person at the City Clerk's Office: Bring this form with your payment of cash, check or credit card to the City Clerk's Office at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 5pm.

 By Mail: Mail this form with a check made payable to the City of Newton.

Once your application and payment are received, Newton's Animal Control Officer will contact you to set up an appointment to inspect your facility. Animal Control Officers will make certain that the kennel is being maintained in a sanitary and humane manner and that all records are being properly kept as required by law.

Animal Control Officers will inspect the following:

1. Ventilation – Is the area where the animals are kept adequately ventilated?
2. Sanitation – Are the cages, floors, bed mats and blankets clean?
3. Food - Is there a proper food source?
4. Disease - Is the environment disease free?
5. Overcrowding - Is there overcrowding of animals?
6. Rabies Vaccination - Are the rabies vaccination records for each animal up to date?
7. Disinfection – What means are used to disinfect and clean the area?

Once your facility has been inspected and approved, the kennel license and tags will be issued to you by mail.

Massachusetts General Law Chap 140

Inspection of kennels-revocation-suspension-reinstatement-nuisance

Section 137C. The mayor of a city, the selectmen of a town, the police commissioner in the city of Boston, a chief of police or an animal control officer may at any time inspect a kennel or cause the inspection of a kennel. If, in the judgment of such person or body, the kennel is not being maintained in a sanitary and humane manner or if records are not properly kept as required by law, such person or body shall, by order, revoke or suspend the license for the kennel. Upon the petition of 25 citizens, filed with the mayor of a city, the selectmen of a town or the police commissioner in the city of Boston setting forth a statement that such citizens are aggrieved or annoyed to an unreasonable extent by a dog maintained in such city or town due to excessive barking or other conditions connected with a kennel constituting a nuisance, the mayor, selectmen or police commissioner, as the case may be, shall, within 7 days after the filing of the petition, give notice to all parties in interest of a public hearing to be held within 14 days after the date of such notice. The mayor, selectmen or police commissioner shall, within 7 days after the public hearing, investigate or cause to be investigated the subject matter of the petition and shall, by order, either suspend or revoke the kennel license, otherwise regulate the kennel, or dismiss the petition. Written notice of an order revoking or suspending the license, regulating the kennel, or dismissing the petition shall be mailed immediately to the officer issuing the license and to the holder of the license. Within 10 days after the order, the holder of the license may bring a petition in the district court within the judicial district in which the kennel is maintained, addressed to the justice of the court, praying that the order be reviewed by the court. After notice to all parties as the court may consider necessary, the court shall review the action, hear the witnesses and affirm the order unless it shall appear that it was made without proper cause or in bad faith, in which case the order shall be reversed. The decision of the court shall be final and conclusive upon the parties. A person maintaining a kennel after the license to maintain a kennel has been so revoked, or while such a license is suspended, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$250.