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PA DOG LICENSING

WHAT ARE PENNSYLVANIA'S DOG LAWS?

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer (<http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/PA%20Dog%20Licensing/Pages/County-Treasurers.aspx>).
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- You must have a current kennel license if you operate a facility that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away or transfers a total of 26 or more dogs in any one calendar year.
- Owners of dogs and cats 3 months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination. It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

THE DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE IS CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Enforcing licensing and control of dogs

- Enforcing kennel licensing and inspections
- Investigating dog bites
- Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
- Reimbursing individuals for dog-caused damage to livestock, poultry and domestic game birds
- Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required
- Funding counties and humane organizations to establish dog control facilities
- Providing educational services concerning dog ownership in Pennsylvania
- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law

PUPPY LEMON LAW:

In an effort to ensure that consumers buying a dog in Pennsylvania know their new pet has a clean bill of health, Pennsylvania's dog sellers and breeders must now post a visible notice that informs consumers of their rights under the state's Dog Purchaser Protection Act, also known as the "Puppy Lemon Law". Sellers and breeders must also provide a written copy of the consumer's rights at the time of the sale.

For more information on Pennsylvania's "Puppy Lemon Law", or to file a complaint, visit the [Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/consumers.aspx?id=63) (<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/consumers.aspx?id=63>)


CONTACT

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

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FORMS

 [Dog License Application](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/PA%20Dog%20Licensing/Documents/Dog%20License%20Application.pdf)

(<http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/PA%20Dog%20Licensing/Documents/Dog%20License%20Application.pdf>)

(http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Pages/default.aspx#ctl00_PlaceHolderMain_SiteMapPath1_SkipLink)
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KENNEL LICENSING

Act 119, the new dog law, was signed into law by Governor Rendell on October 8, 2008. This legislation was enacted to help Pennsylvania to rid its reputation as the 'Puppy Mill Capitol of the East.' The updated law is designed to greatly improve the treatment dogs receive while in commercial kennels. Under the old law, dogs could spend their entire lives in cramped, stacked cages with no opportunity to exercise and very little care, but no more. Now, dogs will benefit from larger cage sizes without wire flooring, and mandatory exercise periods and care by a trained veterinarian. The Canine Health Board was also established by Act 119 of 2008 to develop guidelines for commercial dog kennels in Pennsylvania. These improvements will help to ensure that the pets' families one day welcome into their home will be happier and healthier.

GENERAL RULES OF LICENSURE:

Any person who keeps or operates a kennel shall, on or before January 1 of each year, apply to the department for a Kennel License. A kennel is defined as any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel. Kennels shall be classified by type and the fee for the license shall be determined by kennel type, the number of dogs housed, kept, harbored, boarded, sheltered, sold, given away or transferred in or by the kennel. A separate license shall be required for each type of kennel and every location at which a kennel is kept or operated. When two or more licensed kennels are operated by the same person at the same location, each kennel shall be inspected and licensed. Kennel license applications must be renewed annually and applications must be received by January 1. All kennel licenses expire on December 31 of each calendar year.

KENNEL TYPES (DEFINITIONS):

Kennel - Any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act.

Private Kennel - A kennel not meeting the definition of "commercial kennel" where dogs are kept or bred by their owner, for the purpose of hunting, tracking and exhibiting in dog shows, performance events or field and obedience trials.

Pet Shop Kennel - Any kennel or person that acquires and sells dogs for the purpose of resale, whether as owner, agent or consignee, and sells or offers to sell such dogs on a retail basis.

Dealer Kennel - A kennel operating within the Commonwealth which:

1. publicly or privately sells or offers for sale any dog as an owner, agent or assignee for a fee, commission or percentage of the sale price;
2. transfers dogs at wholesale for resale to another; or
3. offers or maintains dogs at wholesale for resale to another. The term does not include a pound, shelter or common carrier or a kennel defined elsewhere in this section.

Rescue Network Kennel - A kennel that utilizes rescue network kennel homes with the goal of ultimately transferring the dog to a permanent owner or keeper through any means of transfer.

Research Kennel - Any Federal research kennel or other research kennel duly registered with and inspected by the Federal Government under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544, 7U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) and its attendant regulations.

Boarding Kennel - Any establishment available to the general public where a dog or dogs are housed for compensation by the day, week or a specified or unspecified time. The term shall not include a kennel where the practice of veterinary medicine is performed if the kennel is covered by the provisions of the act of December 27, 1974 (P.L. 995, No. 326), known as the "Veterinary Medicine Practice Act." The term shall include any establishment available to the general public that, for consideration, takes control of dog(s) from the owner for a portion of a day for the purposes of exercise, day care or entertainment of the dog. For the purpose of this term, each time a dog enters the kennel it shall be counted as one dog. This term does not include any establishment engaged in only dog grooming or dog training. The term shall include any boarding facility physically detached from the veterinary practice which is operated

by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine, whether or not this facility is on the same premises as a building or structure subject to the provisions of the "Veterinary Medicine Practice Act."

Non-Profit Kennel - A kennel registered under the law of this Commonwealth as a nonprofit entity or a nonprofit animal control kennel under sections 901 and 1002. The term shall include kennels operated by approved medical and veterinary schools and nonprofit institutions conducting medical and scientific research, which shall be required to register, but shall not be required to pay any of the license fees set by this act, and which may use their own identification tags for dogs within their kennels without being required to attach tags hereinafter prescribed while dogs are within such kennels, if approved by the secretary.

Commercial Kennel - A kennel that breeds or whelps dogs and:

1. sells or transfers any dog to a dealer or pet shop-kennel, or
2. sells or transfers more than 60 dogs per calendar year.

Dealer - A person who:

1. publicly or privately sells or offers for sale any dog belonging to another person for consideration, a fee or a commission or percentage of the sale price,
2. transfers dogs at wholesale for resale to another, or
3. offers or maintains dogs at wholesale for resale to another.

Out-of-State Dealer - A person who does not reside in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and who:

1. Sells or offers for sale a dog in this Commonwealth belonging to another person, for any type of consideration, fee, commission or percentage of the sales price; or
2. transfers a dog in this Commonwealth for resale to another or any type of consideration, fee, commission or percentage of the sales price.

PENNSYLVANIA KENNEL INSPECTIONS:

Kennel inspections records are available online in the [Kennel Inspection Database](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Services/Pages/Dog-Kennel-Inspections.aspx) (<http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Services/Pages/Dog-Kennel-Inspections.aspx>).

**NOTE: you will need to enable pop-ups to view kennel inspection reports*

KENNEL CLOSINGS:

A Kennel Closing application must be submitted in order to close a licensed kennel. Once received, a dog warden will perform closing inspection to officially close the kennel. Kennel owners who desire to voluntarily close their kennel should feel free to consult with the Office / your dog warden for help in re-homing kennel dogs. We are very willing to provide assistance in locating opportunities for placement of dogs.


CONTACT


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FORMS

 <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2015%20Kennel%20License%20Application.pdf>2017 Kennel License Application (/ layouts/download.aspx? SourceUrl=http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2017%20Kennel%20License%20Application%209.7.16.docx)

 <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2015%20Kennel%20License%20Application.pdf>2017 Kennel License Application Instructions (/ layouts/download.aspx? SourceUrl=http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2017%20Kennel%20Application%20Instructions.docx)

 <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2015%20Kennel%20License%20Application.pdf>2017 Out-of-State Dealer License Application (/ layouts/download.aspx? SourceUrl=http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2017%20Out%20of%20State%20Dealer%20Application.docx)

(/ layouts/download.aspx? SourceUrl=http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2017%20Out%20of%20State%20Dealer%20Application.docx)  <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/DogLaw/Kennel%20Licensing/Documents/2015%20Out%20of%20State%20Dealers%20List.pdf>2017 Out of

Kennel Classes and Annual License Fees

Kennel Class I

To keep or operate a private kennel, pet shop-kennel, research kennel, rescue network kennel, dealer kennel or kennel for a total of **50 dogs or less** of any age during a calendar year - **\$75**

Kennel Class II

To keep or operate a private kennel, pet-shop kennel, research kennel, rescue network kennel, dealer kennel or kennel for a total of **51 to 100 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$200**

Kennel Class III

To keep or operate a private kennel, pet shop-kennel, research kennel, rescue network kennel, dealer kennel or kennel for a total of **101 to 150 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$300**

Kennel Class IV

To keep or operate a private kennel, pet shop-kennel, research kennel, rescue network kennel, dealer kennel or kennel for a total of **151 to 250 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$400**

Kennel Class V

To keep or operate a private kennel, pet shop-kennel, research kennel, rescue network kennel, dealer kennel or kennel for a total of **251 to 500 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$500**

Kennel Class VI

To keep or operate a private kennel, pet shop kennel, research kennel, rescue network kennel, kennel or dealer kennel for a total of **more than 500 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$750**

Boarding Kennel Class I

To keep or operate a boarding kennel having the capacity to accommodate a total of **1 to 10 dogs** at any time during a calendar year - **\$100**

Boarding Kennel Class II

To keep or operate a boarding kennel having the capacity to accommodate a total of **11 to 25 dogs** at any time during a calendar year - **\$150**

Boarding Kennel Class III

To keep or operate a boarding kennel having the capacity to accommodate **26 or more dogs** at any time during a calendar year - **\$250**

Nonprofit Kennel

To keep or operate a nonprofit kennel - **\$25**

Kennel Class C-I

To keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total of **50 dogs or less** of any age during a calendar year - **\$75**

Kennel Class C-II

To keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total of **51 to 100 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$200**

Kennel Class C-III

To keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total of **101 to 150 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$300**

Kennel Class C-IV

To keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total of **151 to 250 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$400**

Kennel Class C-V

To keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total of **251 to 500 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$500**

Kennel Class C-VI

To keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total of **more than 500 dogs** of any age during a calendar year - **\$750**