

2026 KENNEL LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FORM

Town of Reading
Town Clerk
16 Lowell Street - Reading MA 01867
781-942-9050

Your license application to maintain a kennel must be completed and returned by January 15th each year.

A Kennel License is required for Commercial Boarding or Training Kennels, Commercial Breeder Kennels, Personal Kennels. Please see Kennel definitions on reverse side:

Inspection process: Before the Town Clerk can issue the Kennel License; the Health Department - Animal Inspector must inspect the proposed Kennel, file a report on the inspection, and favorably recommend that the Kennel meets all requirements. Please allow 2 weeks for inspection. See Dog Control Laws - General Bylaws 8.8

Animal Inspector Approval

Date of Approval

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Breeder Kennel | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Kennel | \$150.00 |

Date: _____

Kennel License No: _____

Issued to: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Email Address: _____

Owner Name: _____

Owner Address: _____

All dogs within Reading MA must wear a tag

The holder of a license for a Commercial Kennel shall cause each dog to be in possession of and to wear a tag from the Resident community.



Please return this form to Town Clerk's Office with check payable to Town of Reading. We will forward the form to the Animal Inspector to schedule kennel inspection.

This License Expires December 31, 2026

Kennel Definitions:

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; provided, however, that "commercial boarding or training kennel" shall not include an animal shelter or animal control facility, a pet shop licensed under section 39A of chapter 129, a grooming facility operated solely for the purpose of grooming and not for overnight boarding or an individual who temporarily, and not in the normal course of business, boards or cares for animals owned by others.

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.

Kennel: a pack or collection of dogs on a single premise, including a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, personal kennel or veterinary kennel.

Personal Kennel: a pack or collection of more than 4 dogs, 3 months old or older, owned or kept under single ownership, for private personal use; provided, however, that breeding of personally owned dogs may take place for the purpose of improving, exhibiting or showing the breed or for use in legal sporting activity or for other personal reasons; provided further, that selling, trading, bartering or distributing such breeding from a personal kennel shall be to other breeders or individuals by private sale only and not to wholesalers, brokers or pet shops; provided further, that a personal kennel shall not sell, trade, barter or distribute a dog not bred from its personally-owned dog; and provided further, that dogs temporarily housed at a personal kennel, in conjunction with an animal shelter or rescue registered with the department, may be sold, traded, bartered or distributed if the transfer is not for profit.

Shelter: a public animal control facility or other facility which is operated by an organization or individual for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect or abuse

Veterinary Kennel: a veterinary hospital or clinic that boards dogs for reasons in addition to medical treatment or care; provided, however, that "veterinary kennel" shall not include a hospital or clinic used solely to house dogs that have undergone veterinary treatment or observation or will do so only for the period of time necessary to accomplish that veterinary care.