

## Kennel and Commercial Kennel Licenses

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### Issue

Describe when a person must obtain a town kennel license or a state commercial kennel license.

### Summary

Under Connecticut law, a person must obtain a town kennel license if he or she breeds dogs more than twice a year at a single location ([CGS §§ 22-327](#) and [22-342](#)). A person must obtain a commercial kennel license if boarding other owners' dogs or cats, but not if boarding three or fewer dogs or cats in his or her residence ([CGS §§ 22-327](#) and [22-344](#), as amended by [PA 19-156](#)).

Relatedly, state law requires the owner of a dog six months of age or older that is not kept under a kennel license to obtain a license from the town clerk in the town where the dog is kept ([CGS § 22-338](#)). It also permits a town to require anyone who keeps 10 or more dogs capable of breeding to obtain a specific license from the town clerk ([CGS § 22-344c](#)).

### Kennel License

By law, a "kennel" is a pack of dogs kept under one ownership at a single location and bred for show, sport, or sale ([CGS § 22-327\(7\)](#)).

A kennel owner or keeper must obtain a kennel license from the town clerk in the town in which the kennel is located if he or she breeds more than two litters of dogs a year. If they do not breed more than two litters a year, obtaining the license is discretionary. The law requires a kennel owner or keeper to keep on each dog, when it is at large, a collar or harness that has a tag with the (1) kennel license number, (2) name of the town issuing the license, and (3) license year ([CGS § 22-342\(a\)](#)).

The state agriculture commissioner, the chief animal control officer, or any state animal control officer may inspect a kennel and its associated facilities, or have it inspected by a Connecticut-licensed veterinarian the commissioner appoints. If, in the commissioner's judgment, a kennel is not in good repair and kept in a sanitary and humane manner, or if the commissioner finds that communicable or infectious disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist, he may (1) issue orders to correct the conditions and (2) quarantine the premises and animals. If the kennel owner or keeper fails to comply with the orders, the commissioner must revoke or suspend the owner's or keeper's kennel license ([CGS § 22-342\(b\)](#)).

An owner or keeper who breeds more than two dog litters annually and fails to (1) have an active kennel license or (2) allow for a kennel inspection, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to six months imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both ([CGS § 22-342\(e\)](#)).

## **Commercial Kennel License**

Under state law, a "commercial kennel" is a place maintained for boarding or grooming dogs or cats, including veterinary hospitals which board or groom for non-medical purposes ([CGS § 22-327\(3\)](#)).

Commercial kennel operators must generally obtain a commercial kennel license from the state agriculture department. However, state law exempts people who board up to three dogs or cats in their residence from needing to be licensed. People who maintain a commercial kennel and advertise their services must include their license number in each advertisement ([CGS § 22-344\(a\)](#)).

By law, the agriculture commissioner or his agents may inspect a commercial kennel. If in his judgment, the commercial kennel is not maintained in a sanitary and humane manner or in a way that protects public safety, or if he finds that contagious, infectious, or communicable disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist, he may (1) fine the commercial kennel up to \$500 for each affected animal, (2) issue orders as necessary to correct the conditions, and (3) quarantine the premises and animals.

Additionally, if the commercial kennel owner or keeper fails to comply with the commissioner's orders or applicable state laws or regulations, the commissioner may revoke or suspend the commercial kennel's license. People operating without a license or after their licenses are revoked or suspended are subject to a fine of up to \$200 ([CGS § 22-344\(g\)](#)).

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