

Dog Licensing in the Town of Braintree

As a result of the recent enactment of the Animal Control Act (Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012), the Town of Braintree updated the Town Ordinance (Chapter 6-100: Dogs & Other Animals) to bring the Ordinance into compliance with the provisions of the Animal Control Act. In addition to Chapter 6-100 of the Town Ordinance, MGL, c.140, sections 136A through 174E govern the ownership, care and handling of dogs and other animals.

The following is a summary of some of the effects of Chapter 193 on dog licensing in the Town of Braintree:

- Any owner of a dog over 6 months must license and provide proof of rabies vaccination during the licensing period.
- Licenses for dogs who have been spayed or neutered must be priced lower than licenses for “unaltered” or “intact” dogs;
- The licensing period, or the time during which licenses can be renewed without a late fee is a full three month period commencing Monday, April 1st and running through the close of business (4:30pm) on Friday, June 28th.
- Any owner renewing a license after the close of business on June 28th will be assessed a late fee of \$50.00 in addition to the license renewal fee.
- Online renewals must be submitted by the close of business (4:30pm) on June 28th to avoid the \$50.00 late fee.
- There are several different types of “kennels” as defined under the state laws including: “commercial boarding or training kennel”, “commercial breeder kennel” and “personal kennel”. The Town of Braintree, operating under its Zoning Bylaws and/or Ordinances does not allow for the operation of commercial boarding or training kennels or commercial breeder kennels as defined under M.G.L., c.140, §136A.
- A “personal kennel” is defined under the law as “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...”
- Licenses issued for Personal Kennels shall be issued in packs of five (5) license tags. Each pack of five (5) licenses shall be priced at \$50.00.
- Nothing shall prohibit any owner of more than 4 dogs from purchasing individual dog licenses nor shall anything prohibit an owner or keeper of less than 4 dogs, 3 months or older, who does not maintain a personal kennel from securing a Personal Kennel License.
- There is no license fee for any dog recognized as a Service Animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act; however any owner of a Service Dog must show proof of rabies vaccination and obtain the free dog license.
- If the tag becomes lost, the owner or keeper of the dog shall immediately secure a substitute tag at a cost of \$5.00.
- No license fee or portion thereof shall be refunded because of the subsequent death, loss, spaying or removal from the commonwealth or other disposal of the dog, nor shall a license fee or portion thereof paid by mistake be paid or recovered after it has been paid over to the Town.

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“Proof Statements”

PROOF OF SPAYED OR NEUTERED:

A certificate from the veterinarian who spayed or neutered the dog as proof that the dog is spayed or neutered; provided, however, that if the town clerk is satisfied that the certificate of the veterinarian who spayed or neutered the dog cannot be obtained, the clerk may instead accept a receipt of a bill from the veterinarian who performed such procedure or a statement signed under the penalties of perjury by a veterinarian registered and practicing in the commonwealth describing the dog and stating that the veterinarian has examined the dog, which appears to have been spayed or neutered and incapable of propagation.

PROOF OF RABIES VACCINATION:

A veterinarian's certification that the dog has been vaccinated; or certification that such dog is exempt from the vaccination requirement; or a notarized letter from a veterinarian that either of these certifications was issued relative to such dog.

OBTAINING A PERSONAL KENNEL LICENSE:

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.