

## News for King County Pet Businesses

### Dear Pet Business Operator,

Welcome to 2019!

This past year was a busy one, and 2019 looks to be the same. Currently, we have 408 facilities with 547 permits on record. This year we will be undergoing a division-wide rate study to determine future permit fees; fees for 2019 are unchanged. We will be providing more information as this study gets underway.

The Health & Environmental Investigators that will be visiting and assisting are:

Garrett Turner—206.263.1877, [garrett.turner@kingcounty.gov](mailto:garrett.turner@kingcounty.gov)  
Leah Helms —206.263.8450, [leah.helms@kingcounty.gov](mailto:leah.helms@kingcounty.gov)

We are dedicated to the protection of public health and the environment by working to keep both people and animals healthy. We really appreciate your cooperation in protecting the public's health by complying with code requirements and contacting us with questions or feedback.

—The *Pet Business Program*

### Where to find pet food recall information?

Pet food recalls happen frequently for various reasons. Recalls occurred during 2018 due to bacterial contamination (*Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *Clostridium botulinum*, *E. coli*), low thiamine levels, and elevated levels of copper, vitamin D, and beef thyroid hormone. The risk of bacterial contamination is highest in raw pet foods. A recent recall of a raw pet food occurred due to *Salmonella* contamination that caused illness in a person.



- ◆ CDC's safe handling of pet food/treats: [www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/pet-food-tips.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/pet-food-tips.pdf)
- ◆ Up-to-date pet food/treat recalls at: [www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/RecallsWithdrawals/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/RecallsWithdrawals/default.htm)

## What is the purpose of the infection control plan requirement?

A previous look into which violations were most commonly cited on inspections showed that the lack of developing and maintaining an infection control plan (ICP) was the most common — one in four of all violations was a lack of an ICP.

**The Pet Business Code requires that pet shops, commercial kennels, pet daycares, animal shelters, groomers, and poultry retailers develop and maintain an ICP that includes:**

- ⇒ the schedule for cleaning and disinfection of cages, surfaces and equipment
- ⇒ proper methods for handling and disposal of soiled animal bedding, litter, and waste
- ⇒ disinfectants to be used
- ⇒ personal protective measures, such as gloves and handwashing, to be used by staff
- ⇒ identification of a licensed veterinarian/practice that is available for or routinely consulted on animal health, disease prevention, immunization and parasite control

The ICP must be maintained on the premises and made available for examination during inspection or upon request. Routine ICP use will help you make sure you have customized infection control procedures and provides a way to ensure all staff are aware of and following procedures. We are able to assist you with developing recommendations for your facility.

Find ICP templates at [www.kingcounty.gov/petbusiness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/petbusiness)

**Routine infection control precautions are key to preventing spread of disease within facilities** and include:

**Isolation** is the single most important step to containing disease; maintaining an isolation space is a code requirement. Effective isolation for respiratory viruses requires a physically enclosed room since they are airborne. Ensure that only limited, designated staff/volunteers enter isolation areas; use separate coveralls or other full clothing coverage, gloves, boots or shoe covers; use separate cleaning, feeding and treatment supplies; and attend to the space last (cleaning, animal care).

**Adequate PPE** is necessary to prevent spread of disease on staff hands and clothing. Wear disposable gloves when handling infected animals or cleaning contaminated cages. Change clothes between work and home.

**Thorough cleaning and disinfection** will decrease the risk of spreading disease by fomites like kennel surfaces, crates, food/water bowls, collars/leashes, toys, and beds. Ensure you are following the recommended contact time for disinfectants, practicing frequent handwashing with soap and water, and regularly laundering clothing and bedding.

**If you have concerns about disease in your facility, please call us right away.** Developing a plan to address infection control and taking quick action can reduce the impact to the animals and the facility.

## Do you host adoption events at your facility?

Adoption events don't have to cost a lot or involve a huge investment of time, but you need to do some planning to host a successful event. The goal is to bring animals to people in a festive, fun atmosphere so you can increase the animals' exposure to the public and better their chances of adoption.



If you invite rescue groups or shelters to participate, you should communicate your policies and procedures with the group/shelter ahead of the event. **You should inquire as to whether the rescue group or shelter, if in King County, is permitted by Public Health as our code requirements help ensure the health and well-being of the animals. You should also inquire about the source of the animals, ensuring compliance with import requirements (WAC 16-54-170).**

**We recommend these policies and procedures for groups/shelters you invite to an adoption event at your facility:**

- ✓ All animals should be at least 8 weeks of age, healthy, vaccinated a minimum of one week before the event, and spayed or neutered before the event (unless too young).
- ✓ Veterinary records should accompany each animal, including proof of vaccination and spaying/neutering. Vaccinations should include rabies vaccine if the animal is 12 weeks of age or older.
- ✓ Animals on current medications for an infectious disease or parasite infection should not be brought for adoption. If the 1st round of treatment has been given (e.g. 1st deworming medication dose), the adopter can give follow-up care.
- ✓ Cage cards or summary sheets should be visible at all times.
- ✓ Cats should be housed in a separate area from dogs.
- ✓ Animals that are less than 4 months of age should be kept separate from each other, unless they come from the same litter or have been together before the event. Use one area just for puppies or just for kittens.
- ✓ Don't allow animals in travel carriers — crates/cages should be large enough to hold the cat, a litter box, and a water dish, or to comfortably house the dog and a water dish.
- ✓ Groups/shelters should perform their adoption interviews, respond promptly and professionally to post-adoption complaints or questions, and accept returned animals.
- ✓ All volunteers should be trained on policies and procedures and their specific job.

A great resource for adoption events can be found at: <https://bestfriends.org/resources/how-conduct-successful-adoption-events>

## Rabbit biosecurity — keep them healthy!

Biosecurity measures are practices intended to reduce the spread



of infectious diseases and are essential for protecting animal health. **Rabbit breeders and owners are encouraged to adopt these biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of the spread of disease, including rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHD).**

RHD is a serious viral disease of European rabbits and pet rabbits that are derived from the European rabbit that spreads easily and quickly. RHD does not affect people but has serious implications for rabbit populations with high rates of illness and death. The RHD virus spreads among rabbits through secretions including saliva, runny eyes and nose, urine, feces and contaminated bedding, food and water. It can also be spread by humans, wildlife and insects on contaminated clothing, fur, and other surfaces. The virus can survive for long periods of time in the environment and remain infectious to animals.

### People and equipment

- 👤 Minimize access to the premises and restrict contact with rabbits to only those people necessary for their care
- 👤 Wash hands, clean and disinfect boots, and wear farm- or premises- dedicated clothing before caring for rabbits
- 👤 Do not share equipment with other rabbit breeders or owners
- 👤 Regularly clean and disinfect equipment, waterers, feeders and other items, following manufacturer directions
- 👤 Remove manure regularly
- 👤 Maintain good ventilation
- 👤 Reduce the potential spread of disease by avoiding travel to areas experiencing disease outbreaks

### Animals

- 👤 Monitor rabbits daily for illness — contact your veterinarian immediately with any concerns
- 👤 Prevent contact of rabbits with wild rabbits and other animals; minimize outdoor exercise areas
- 👤 Manage and minimize exposure to insects, birds, and rodents
- 👤 Isolate all new rabbits and returning show rabbits, and any sick rabbits, from contact with other rabbits for at least 30 days (*note: for RHD protection, isolate for 60 days*)
- 👤 Provide care for isolated rabbits after handling other rabbits

### Feed, water, bedding

- 👤 Obtain feed from suppliers with quality control programs
- 👤 Do not collect and use wild plants as a food source
- 👤 Store feed and bedding indoors or in sealed containers