



## **King County**

Department of Executive Services  
Records and Licensing Services Division  
Regional Animal Services

# **Licenses for pet-related businesses**

## **Kennels**

A kennel is a place where four or more adult dogs are kept, whether by the owners of the dogs or by persons providing facilities and care, whether or not for compensation, but not including a small animal hospital or clinic or pet shop. An adult dog is one of either sex, altered or unaltered, that has reached the age of six months or older.

Zoning approval is necessary prior to the issuance of a King County kennel license. If you are interested in a kennel license, please contact Zoning at (206) 296-6600 to determine if a kennel is a permitted use for your prospective location.

Once you have obtained the required permits and approval from Zoning, call (206) 296-2710 to schedule an appointment with the animal control inspector for your area.

## **Hobby kennels and catteries**

A hobby kennel and/or cattery is a noncommercial kennel and/or cattery at or adjoining a private residence, where four or more adult cats or dogs or combination of cats and dogs, are bred or kept for exhibition, for organized shows, field, working, and/or obedience trials, or for the enjoyment of the species. Adult dogs and/or cats are those dogs and/or cats that are over 6 months of age.

The maximum number of animals allowed per household is determined by the zoning code where you reside. For unincorporated King County, Title 21A applies; your local city zoning ordinance applies if you live within the boundaries of the city. Regardless of the number allowed, all dogs and cats must be individually licensed. Also, in most areas, if zoning allows you to possess more than three pets, a hobby kennel license is required from King County Animal Control.

In addition to zoning compliance, a Hobby Kennel License review will take into consideration additional elements including the following:

- Animal size
- Type and characteristics of the breed
- The facility specifications/dimensions in which the dogs and cats are to be maintained
- The zoning classification in which the hobby kennel or cattery will be maintained

Additionally, all open runs areas shall be completely surrounded by a 6 foot fence set back at least 20 feet from all property lines; provided this requirement may be modified for hobby catteries as long as the open run area contains the cats and prohibits the entrance of children. "Open run area" means that area, within the property lines of the premises on which the hobby kennel or hobby cattery is to be maintained, where the dogs and cats are sheltered or maintained. If there is no area set aside for the sheltering or maintaining the dogs within the property lines of the premises, the 20 ft. setback does not apply. The property lines of premises not containing an open run area must be completely surrounded by a 6 foot fence.

A hobby kennel and/or cattery must be maintained in a manner that compatible with your neighbors. When applying for a hobby kennel and/or cattery license you will be asked to contact your neighbors regarding their approval and/or disapproval. Surrounding neighbors to be contacted would include anyone who would be affected by the maintenance of the hobby kennel and/or cattery. You will also be requested to provide a diagram of the layout of your property indicating the distances of the run or kennel areas from neighboring property lines, fencing heights etc. A separate diagram should also indicate where your neighbors are located in relation to your home and/or kennel or fenced area, their names, addresses and telephone numbers. Neighbors may be contacted to seek their input on the compatibility of the kennel in the neighborhood.

The application fee for a hobby kennel or cattery is \$50.00 per year. Licenses expire one year from date of application. In addition to the annual fee, each pet must also be licensed. For additional information regarding a hobby kennel and/or hobby cattery license, or to schedule an appointment with an inspector for your area, call (206) 296-2710.

## **Guard Dog Trainers, Guard Dog Purveyors, and Guard Dogs**

If you are engaged in training dogs as guard dogs, you are required to license with King County as a Guard Dog Trainer. The license fee is \$50.00 each year. Licenses expire one year from the date of application. Licenses are not transferable and are valid only for the person for which issued. The applicant must also provide a legal description or business address of the premises at which the applicant desires to train the guard dogs and a written statement of acknowledgment from the property owner that the applicant has the owner's permission to carry on the activity of guard dog training at said location for the duration of the license.

Any person or firm engaged in supplying guard dogs to members of the public is required to have a Guard Dog Purveyor's License. The license fee is \$250.00 per year and expires one year from date of application. The applicant must provide a legal description or address from which the applicant desires to supply guard dogs and a statement of whether the applicant owns or rents the premises to be used for the purpose of purveying guard dogs. If the applicant rents the premises, the application shall be accompanied by a written statement of acknowledgment by the property owner that the applicant has the property owner's permission to purvey guard dogs on the premises for the duration of the license. Additionally, a written acknowledgment by the applicant that prior to the actual commercial sale or purveyance of any and all guard dogs, the licensee shall coordinate with the Animal Control Authority in properly marking the guard dog and in notifying all customers of the guard dog purveyor that the customer is required to register the guard dog and pay the appropriate registration fee prior to the animal performing guard dog functions.

If you desire to use a guard dog, you must register the guard dog with King County Animal Control. The registration fee is \$100.00 per year. The license expires one year from date of application. The applicant is required to provide a legal description or business address of the premises which the applicant desires to employ a registered guard dog to prevent unauthorized intrusion, a statement whether the applicant owns or rents the premises to be guarded. If the applicant rents the premises, the application must be accompanied by a written statement of acknowledgment from the property owner that the applicant has the owner's permission to use a guard dog on the premises to prevent unauthorized intrusion for the duration of the registration, a description of the guard dog for purposes of identification, acknowledgment by the applicant that the premises to be guarded has

devices, such as fencing, to prevent general access by the public during those times the guard dog is used for purposes of protecting said premises and persons for unauthorized intrusion. This acknowledgment must also contain a statement that the premises is properly signed to forewarn the public of the presence of a guard dog, and finally, acknowledgment by the applicant that the guard dog will be maintained in such a manner as to ensure the safety of the public and the welfare of the animal.

For additional information regarding a King County guard dog trainers license, King County guard dog purveyors license or guard dog registration, please call (206) 296-2710.