



LICENSED BREEDERS AT A GLANCE

Statutes: Chapter 802, Occupations Code

Rules: 16 T.A.C. Chapter 91

Practice Act? Yes

Title Act? Yes

Inspections? Yes

Facilities? Yes

Equipment? No

Individuals? No

Number of Licensees: 168 (FY 25)

Webpage: www.tdlr.texas.gov/bre

Overview:

Dog and cat breeding is regulated in Texas. A breeder license is required for anyone who possesses five or more adult intact female dogs or cats and breeds them for direct or indirect sale.

There are new exceptions to licensing for dogs raised for breed or conformation shows.

Before issuing a license, TDLR inspects a breeding facility to make sure it meets standard of care requirements. TDLR then inspects a breeding facility at least once every 18 months. Other inspections may occur as needed.

Breeders must adhere to standards of care in these areas:

- indoor or outdoor housing;
- enclosures;
- compatible grouping of animals;
- exercise for dogs;
- feeding, watering, cleaning, and sanitation;
- housekeeping and pest control;
- onsite personnel;
- grooming;
- veterinary care;
- sales and transfers; and
- transportation standards.

(See Chapter 16 T.A.C. §91.100 to §91.202 for specific standards of care.)

By law, TDLR must revoke a breeder license for animal cruelty or neglect. TDLR can also revoke a breeder license if the licensee is convicted of other criminal charges that are not related to animal cruelty or neglect.

TDLR maintains a database of licensed breeders (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/>) that is searchable by the public.

The agency also maintains a database of breeders who have been subject to disciplinary actions or sanctions (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/cimsfo/fosearch.asp>).



Health Records

Breeders must keep detailed records on each animal housed in their facility, including:

- routine and preventive healthcare provided to each animal and that each animal received appropriate care and treatment for any injury, disease, or illness;
- a description of the animal;
- who the animal was purchased or obtained from;
- any microchip, tattoo or identification number;
- breeding dates; and
- the number of puppies or kittens per litter.

Annual Inventory

Breeders must submit an annual inventory of all animals that were in their facility during the previous year. The annual inventory must be completed and mailed directly to TDLR or uploaded to the TDLR website no later than February 1 each year.



| Annual License | Fees |
|---|-------|
| Dog or Cat Breeder (5-10 adult intact female animals) Original License and Renewal | \$150 |
| Dog or Cat Breeder (11-25 adult intact female animals) Original License and Renewal | \$300 |
| Dog or Cat Breeder (26 or more adult intact female animals) Original License and Renewal | \$500 |
| Out-of-Cycle Inspection (inspections required for serious or repeated violations relating to sanitation, shelter, food, water, and medical treatment) | \$150 |

MOST COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS FOR LICENSED BREEDERS

1. Standards of Care – Veterinary Care Breeding cycles

Breeding females must have adequate rest between breeding cycles as recommended by a veterinarian based on the breed, age, and health of the individual breeding female and documented by a veterinarian in the medical records related to each animal.

2. Responsibilities of Licensee – Mandatory Contract Provisions

A licensed breeder must include in each contract for the sale or transfer of an animal: (1) the license number; and (2) the following statement: "Dog and cat breeders are regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, P.O. Box 12157, Austin, Texas 78711, 1-800-803-9202, 512-463-6599, www.tdlr.texas.gov."

3. Standards of Care – Sheltered Housing Facilities

The sheltered part of sheltered housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently heated and cooled when necessary to protect the dogs and cats from temperature or humidity extremes and to provide for their health and well-being. The ambient

temperature in the sheltered part of the facility must not fall below 50 F (10 C) for dogs and cats not acclimated to lower temperatures, for those breeds that cannot tolerate lower temperatures without stress and discomfort (such as short-haired breeds), and for sick, aged, young, or infirm dogs or cats, except as approved by a veterinarian. Dry bedding, solid resting boards, or other methods of conserving body heat must be provided when temperatures are below 50 F (10 C). The ambient temperature must not fall below 45 F (7.2 C) for more than 2 consecutive hours when dogs or cats are present, and must not rise above 85 F (29.5 C) for more than 2 consecutive hours when dogs or cats are present.

4. Standards of Care – Exercise of Dogs

A licensee must develop, document, and follow an appropriate plan to provide dogs with the opportunity for daily exercise. The plan must be approved by a veterinarian and documented by a veterinarian in the medical records related to each dog. The plan must include written standard procedures to be followed in providing the opportunity for exercise.

5. Standards of Care – On-Site Personnel

Each employee of a licensed facility whose duties or responsibilities include the handling of or caring for a dog or cat must have the appropriate training including basic animal care and handling, prevention of infectious disease, and kennel sanitization.

6. Standard of Care – Veterinary Care

Each animal used for breeding must be examined by a veterinarian at least once in every twelve-month period. The annual examination must be conducted in accordance with practices established under the Veterinary Licensing Act and documented by a veterinarian in the medical records related to each animal.

7. Standards of Care – Routine and Preventative Care

Failure to have the written health care management protocol contain all required health care records, including all authorized exemptions approved by a veterinarian.

The **Licensed Breeders Advisory Board** has nine members serving four-year terms, which includes:

- two members who are licensed breeders;
- two members who are veterinarians;
- two members who represent animal welfare organizations each of which has an office based in this state;
- two members who represent the public; and
- one member who is an animal control officer as defined in Section 829.001, Health and Safety Code.