



We're getting a dog or cat!

If you're considering purchasing a dog or cat from a breeder in Texas be sure to check if they are required to be licensed.

A Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation breeder license is required for anyone who possesses 11 or more adult intact female dogs or cats and breeds them for direct or indirect sale and who sells, offers to sell or exchanges at least 20 animals in a calendar year.

TDLR enforces rules and laws in an effort to maintain health and safety standards for each dog or cat in a TDLR licensed breeding facility.

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

Licensed 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;
- training of onsite personnel;
- grooming;
- veterinary care;
- sales and transfers; and
- transportation standards.

By law, TDLR must revoke a breeder license for a conviction or deferred adjudication 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.

Not all dealers are required to be licensed. Here are steps you can take when dealing with a licensed breeder:

- Ask the breeder for their TDLR license number or check their license status with TDLR at (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/>).
- Check whether the licensed breeder has ever been subject to disciplinary actions or sanctions by TDLR (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/cimsfo/fosearch.asp>).
- Ask for references and call or email those references.
- Meet the licensed breeder in person and examine the breeding facility. Look at the animals. Do they look healthy? Are they acting normally? Is the kennel or cattery clean? Is there plenty of room for the animals to exercise?
- Get a full medical history for the animal. Ask whether the breed has any typical, long-term health conditions.

Here are some of the most common code violations committed by TDLR-Licensed Breeders:

- Not giving breeding females adequate rest between breeding cycles.
- Not including their TDLR license number and TDLR licensing statement in each contract for sale or transfer.
- Not sufficiently heating or cooling sheltered housing facilities to protect animals from temperature or humidity extremes.
- Not documenting or following an appropriate plan for daily exercise of animals. A veterinarian must approve the plan.
- Not providing appropriate training to employees who are responsible for caring for dogs or cats. The training should include basic animal care and handling, prevention of infectious disease, and kennel sanitization.
- Not having each breeding animal examined by a veterinarian at least once every 12 months.
- Not having a written health care management protocol that includes all required health care records.

TDLR pays up to a \$1,000 reward for information about unlicensed breeding activity that leads to disciplinary action against an individual. Violations can be reported online (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints/>) 24 hours a day, or by phone during normal business hours at (800) 803-9202. Complaints can be filed anonymously.

LICENSED BREEDERS CONSUMER PROTECTION