



CITY OF TAUNTON

In the year two thousand and twenty-four

Chapter 191

ANIMALS

Be it ordained by the Municipal Council of the City of Taunton and by authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1: Article 1, Section 191-8 of Chapter 191 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Taunton, as amended, is hereby further amended by deleting said existing Section and replacing the same with the following:-

§ 191-8 Kennels.

- A. Definition. For purposes of this section, the word "kennel" shall mean one pack or collection of dogs on a single lot, whether maintained for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting, or other purposes, and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of dogs three months old or over owned or kept on a single lot irrespective of the purpose for which they are maintained.
- B. A public hearing before the Municipal Council shall be required prior to the issuance of a new Class I, Class II or Class III kennel license subject to MGL c. 140, § 137A. Annual renewals are also subject to a public hearing but may have the public hearing waived by majority vote of the Municipal Council. The owner of the property must be the petitioner for the kennel license.
- C. Kennel licenses shall be classified as Class I for keeping four to six dogs, Class II for keeping seven to 12 dogs, and Class III for keeping more than 12 dogs.
- D. The Municipal Council may authorize the issuance of a Class I license after public hearing and upon the applicant's written certification of the following:
 - (1) A fence shall be maintained on the property of sufficient height to keep all dogs on property and in conformance with all City Ordinances.
 - (2) That each dog to be kept on the premises has received all required shots and/or vaccinations.
 - (3) That each dog subject to the license is disease-free, adequately nourished and otherwise in good health.
 - (4) That the keeper of the dogs subject to the license will obey the leash law.
 - (5) That the keeper of the dogs under the license will obey the laws relating to excessively barking dogs.
 - (6) That the dogs will be housed or sheltered a minimum of 100 feet from the nearest residential dwelling.

- (7) That the premises upon which the dogs are to be kept shall be open to inspection by the Chief of Police or the Animal Control Officer at any time in accordance with MGL c. 140, § 137C.
 - (8) That the premises upon which the dogs are to be kept is subject to a special permit issued by the Municipal Council pursuant to § 440-502 of Chapter 440, Zoning, only if used for a commercial purpose.
 - (9) If dogs are to be housed outside, they must be appropriately housed in a structure that complies with this section as well as all other City Ordinances and any applicable state or local building codes.
- E. The Municipal Council may authorize the issuance of a Class II license after public hearing and upon the applicant's written certification of the following:
- (1) A fence shall be maintained on the property of sufficient height to keep all dogs on property and in conformance with all City Ordinances.
 - (2) That each dog to be kept on the premises has received all required shots and/or vaccinations.
 - (3) That each dog subject to the license is disease-free, adequately nourished and otherwise in good health.
 - (4) That the keeper of the dogs subject to the license will obey the leash law.
 - (5) That the keeper of the dogs under the license will obey the laws relating to excessively barking dogs.
 - (6) That the dogs will be housed or sheltered a minimum of 150 feet from the nearest residential dwelling.
 - (7) That the premises upon which the dogs are to be kept shall be open to inspection by the Chief of Police or the Animal Control Officer at any time in accordance with MGL c. 140, § 137C.
 - (8) That the premises upon which the dogs are to be kept is subject to a special permit issued by the Municipal Council pursuant to § 440-502 of Chapter 440, Zoning.
 - (9) That each dog shall have a shelter or dog house.
 - (10) That he or she will certify that all dogs shall be kept in shelter from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
 - (11) If dogs are to be housed outside, they must be appropriately housed in a structure that complies with this section as well as all other City Ordinances and any applicable state or local building codes.
- F. The Municipal Council may authorize the issuance of a Class III license after public hearing and upon the applicant's written certification of the following:
- (1) A fence shall be maintained on the property of sufficient height to keep all dogs on property and in conformance with all City Ordinances.
 - (2) That each dog to be kept on the premises has received all required shots and/or vaccinations.
 - (3) That each dog subject to the license is disease-free, adequately nourished and otherwise in good health.
 - (4) That the keeper of the dogs subject to the license will obey the leash law.

- (5) That the keeper of the dogs under the license will obey the laws relating to excessively barking dogs.
 - (6) That the dogs will be housed or sheltered a minimum of 250 feet from the nearest residential dwelling.
 - (7) That the premises upon which the dogs are to be kept shall be open to inspection by the Chief of Police or the Animal Control Officer at any time in accordance with MGL c. 140, § 137C.
 - (8) That the premises upon which the dogs are to be kept is subject to a special permit issued by the Municipal Council pursuant to § 440-502 of Chapter 440, Zoning.
 - (9) That each dog shall have a shelter or dog house.
 - (10) That he or she will notify the Animal Control Officer in writing of any change in the number of dogs kept on the premises.
 - (11) That he or she will certify that all dogs shall be kept in shelter from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
 - (12) That a kennel structure constructed in accordance with applicable building codes shall be erected or presently exists on the premises sufficient to house the number of dogs to be kept under the license. The structure shall:
 - (a) Have running water.
 - (b) Have shelter for each dog.
 - (c) Be located a minimum of 250 feet from any residential dwelling.
 - (d) Have a washable, disease- and water-resistant floor.
- G. The Animal Control Officer may suspend any kennel license issued hereunder if the licensee fails to comply with any item required under this section. The Municipal Council may suspend, revoke, or reinstate any kennel license, at a hearing for due process, if the licensee fails to comply with any item required under this section.
- H. Keeping of more dogs than are permitted under any class kennel license shall be grounds for revocation of the license.
- I. The Municipal Council may combine the special permit required in § 440-502 of Chapter 440, Zoning, the site plan review required under Article XV of Chapter 440, Zoning, and the license hearing.
- J. The application fee shall be \$50 for a new Class I, \$100 for a new Class II, and \$150 for a new Class III kennel license. The annual renewal fee shall be 1/2 the application fee for a new kennel license. The fee for the required zoning special permit and site plan review is included in the application fee. The petitioner shall be responsible for the newspaper advertising costs in addition to the filing fee in the event of a public hearing.
- K. In addition to the foregoing provisions regarding revocation and/or suspension of a kennel license, this section may be enforced by the Animal Control Officer pursuant to the provisions of § 191-4. Maintenance of any class kennel upon unlicensed premises or premises for which a kennel license has been issued but subsequently revoked shall constitute a violation, the fine for which shall be \$150 for the first offense and \$250 for each subsequent offense. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

- L. The requirements stipulated in Subsections D, E and F may be waived or reduced by a two-thirds vote of the Municipal Council upon a finding that the waiver or reduction will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare.


SECTION 2: All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

City of Taunton

Presented to the Mayor and Approved:

In Municipal Council

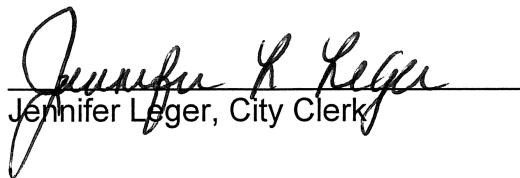
First Reading: June 4, 2024


Shaunna O'Connell, Mayor

Second Reading: June 18, 2024

Passed to be Ordained: June 25, 2024

Approved as to Form and Character:


Jennifer Leger, City Clerk


Matthew J. Costa, City Solicitor