

Commercial Dog and Cat Breeder Handbook



Glossary of Terms

Board: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Commercial breeder: A person who possesses or has an ownership interest in animals and is engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or for exchange in return for consideration, and who possesses 10 or more adult intact animals and whose animals produce more than five total litters of puppies or kittens per year.

Dog: A canine 28 weeks of age or older.

Puppy: A canine under 28 weeks of age.

Cat: A feline 28 weeks of age or older.

Kitten: A feline under 28 weeks of age.

Intact: An animal that has not been spayed or neutered, and is capable of reproducing.

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Commercial Breeders in Minnesota

A person who qualifies as a commercial breeder must be licensed with the Board of Animal Health and meet all requirements in Minnesota Statutes 347.58 to 347.64.

Please contact the Board at companion.animal@state.mn.us or 651-201-6824 if you or someone you know is interested in becoming, or qualifies as, a commercial breeder.

New Commercial Breeder

The licensing process requires a commercial breeder to be in compliance with all local ordinances and submit a complete application and fee to the Board. The fee is \$10 per adult intact animal, not to exceed \$250 total. The Board must perform an initial license inspection within 60 days of receipt of an application. During the inspection, a Board inspector will discuss program requirements with the applicant, and answer any questions about:

- Standards of care
- Developing a written veterinary protocol with a Minnesota licensed veterinarian
- Veterinary health certificates
- Record keeping and animal identification
- Brucellosis testing requirements

New Commercial Breeder Checklist

The following must be completed prior to licensure:

- Compliance with local ordinances
- License application
- License fee
- Veterinary Protocol
- Review program guidelines
- Inspection
- License



Annual Requirements

- **Fees:** All licensed commercial breeders are required to pay a fee of \$10 per adult intact animal up to a \$250 maximum by July 1 of the licensing year. The fiscal year for this program begins July 1 and ends June 30. The annual fee can be paid by check, money order, or online at www.mn.gov/bah.
- **Inspection:** Each commercial breeding facility must be inspected by an agent of the Board at least once each year to verify compliance with Minnesota statutes. The inspection will include inspection of the facilities, standards of care, identification of animals, records, and veterinary protocol.
- **Annual Report:** A commercial breeder must submit an annual report to the Board by July 1 of each licensing year. The Annual Report form must include the following information:
 - The current number of cats and dogs at the facility on the date of the report.
 - Number of animals during the preceding year that were:
 - Distributed (includes animals sold, traded, bartered, leased, brokered, and given away).
 - Euthanized.
 - Deceased from other causes.

Record Keeping and Animal Identification

A commercial breeder must maintain records including the following information for each animal at the facility for a minimum of 2 years:

- The name, address, and USDA license number (if applicable) from whom an animal was received.
- The date the commercial breeder received the animal.
- The animal's date of birth.
- The breed, sex, color, and identifying marks of the animal.
- Any identifying tag, tattoo, microchip, or collar number*.
- De-worming treatments, vaccinations, and name of the person who administered the vaccination.
- Medication received by the animal while in the possession of the commercial breeder.
- Any disease condition diagnosed by a veterinarian.

- The name and address of the person or entity to whom an animal was transferred.
 - All records must be made available to an agent of the Board at each inspection and upon request.
 - Inspection reports and records relating to animal care plans and veterinary care must also be made available during an inspection for any breeders also licensed by the USDA.

* Each animal must be uniquely identified.

Veterinary Protocol

A commercial breeder must establish and maintain a written protocol for disease control and prevention, euthanasia, and veterinary care at each facility.

The veterinary protocol must:

- Be updated at least every 12 months.
- Be signed and dated by the commercial breeder and veterinarian at least every 12 months.
- Be kept on site and available to the Board upon request, and at the time of an inspection.

Veterinary Health Certificates

A veterinary health certificate completed by a veterinarian must accompany any animal sold or otherwise distributed by a commercial breeder.

- This certificate verifies that a veterinarian examined the animal and that the animal is current with vaccinations and has no signs of infectious or contagious diseases.
- The certificate must be completed within 30 days prior to the sale or distribution.
- A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) must be used instead of a Veterinary Health Certificate for animals being distributed or exported out of Minnesota.
 - Work with a veterinarian or inspector to determine which certificate is appropriate.
- Used for movement of an animal within Minnesota.

See next page for an example of a veterinary health certificate.

**Veterinary Health Certificate
Minnesota Commercial Dog or Cat Breeders**

Animal Information		Breeder Information	
Species: <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> See supplemental pages		Name:	
Breed:		Address:	
Description:		City, State, Zip:	
Age/DOB:		Phone:	
Identification number/Name:		Email:	
Vaccinations		Brucellosis Test	
Product:	Date:	Test type: <input type="checkbox"/> ISAT <input type="checkbox"/> AGID <input type="checkbox"/> PCR	
Product:	Date:	Laboratory:	
Product:	Date:	Sample collection date:	
Product:	Date:	Test result:	
Veterinarian Certification			
Name (printed):		License number:	
Clinic name:		Clinic address:	
I certify, as a Minnesota-licensed veterinarian, that I inspected the described animal on the date indicated on this certificate and that they had no signs of infectious or contagious diseases at the time of inspection. To the best of my knowledge, the information on this certificate is accurate. No warranty is made or implied.			
Date inspected:		Signature:	

(In addition to this document, an Official Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required to accompany dogs or cats that are moved to another state.)

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Sample of Veterinary Health Certificate

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):

A CVI is used for animals leaving Minnesota and can be used in place of the Veterinary Health Certificate for movement within Minnesota. If a CVI is used in lieu of a veterinary health certificate:

- The CVI must indicate that the animal is current with vaccinations and has no signs of infectious or contagious diseases.
- Brucellosis test results for any adult intact dog that leaves the breeding facility must also be included on the CVI.

MINNESOTA CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION		41.
Revised August 2016		
1. Owner/Consignor's Name:	3. Consignor's Name:	10. Number in Shipment:
2. Owner/Consignor's Address:	4. Consignor's Address:	11. Personal Number (if different than owner's)
5. Origin Address (if different than above):	7. Destination (if different than above):	12. Herd or Flock Number:
6. Species: <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle <input type="checkbox"/> Horse <input type="checkbox"/> Swine <input type="checkbox"/> Goat <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep <input type="checkbox"/> Other	8. Reason for Movement: <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding <input type="checkbox"/> Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Show/Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding <input type="checkbox"/> Slaughter <input type="checkbox"/> Other	13. Current Name and Address:
(Official Stamp, Title or Other Parameters (1))	Description of Animal or Registry Name and Number	14. Date of last herd test:
9. Date of Inspection	15. Date of Issuance	16. Date of Expiration
17. Signature of Veterinarian	18. Signature of Owner/Consignor	19. Signature of Veterinarian
20. Date of Inspection	21. Date of Issuance	22. Date of Expiration

Sample of Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

Brucellosis (*Brucella canis*) Testing

- Any dog over the age of 28 weeks that is not spayed or neutered must be tested and found to be negative for canine brucellosis before leaving the facility.
- Samples must be collected by or under the direct supervision of a Minnesota-licensed veterinarian.
- Tests for canine brucellosis must be conducted by or under the direct supervision of a Minnesota-licensed veterinarian or personnel at an accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- Test type must be approved by the Board.
- Test results are valid for 60 days from the date of sample collection.
- All test results must be reported to the Board.
- Dogs determined by the Board to be infected with Brucellosis must be permanently quarantined and isolated from other dogs not known to be infected, or be euthanized.

Advertising

- A commercial breeder must prominently display the commercial breeder's license at each facility.
- A commercial breeder's state license number or a symbol approved by Board must be included in all of the commercial breeder's advertisements or promotions that pertain to animals being sold or traded including, but not limited to, all newspapers, Internet, radio, flyers, and social media sites including, and not limited to, Facebook.



*Licensed Commercial
Breeder Logo*

Notification of changes to commercial licensure

- A commercial breeder must notify the Board within 10 days of any change in address, name, management, or substantial control and ownership of the business or operation.
- A commercial breeder who no longer requires a license must notify the Board as soon as possible.
 - Notification should be done prior to dispersal of breeding animals to exit the program.
 - Adult dogs must undergo brucellosis testing through the end of the licensing period if they leave the facility.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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