



Corporate Services

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Regional District of Central Okanagan

Guide to obtaining a Kennel License

Both the RDCO Dog Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw and the Zoning bylaws of the RDCO and each of the municipalities participating in the dog control service, determine the requirements for obtaining a kennel license for dogs. The participating local government jurisdictions in the dog control service are the Central Okanagan East and Central Okanagan West Electoral Areas, the City of Kelowna, the District of Lake Country, the District of Peachland and the District of West Kelowna.

The zoning bylaw for each government jurisdiction is a document that specifies permitted land use regulations for every property. It states whether or not a kennel is permitted and any other conditions that must be met.

The Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw applies to all participating government jurisdictions. The bylaw states that a kennel license is required in order to keep more than two dogs per household or premises.

There are two types of kennels: a Hobby Kennel where 3 to 20 dogs may be kept, and a Service Kennel where more than 20 dogs may be kept. In addition, the dog bylaw limits the number of dogs that may be kept based on the size of the property.

Note: kennel license requirements do not apply to veterinary hospitals which keep dogs inside a closed building at all times and other dog services businesses which hold dogs inside a closed building and do not provide overnight care.

To find out if you meet the requirements for a kennel operation permit:

1. Contact your Municipality or Regional District where you live, to find out what zone your property is designated as.
 - Ask whether a kennel is a permitted use. The zoning bylaw may further specify the type of kennel as a service or hobby kennel, which limits the number of dogs that may be kept on your property.
 - Ask about any additional conditions specific to the permitted use of a kennel license on your property. For example, additional conditions may include setback requirements or an application to the Agricultural Land Commission.
 - If you do not meet all the zoning conditions, talk to staff with the local government office to investigate whether you may apply for a Development Variance Permit application.

2. Review the **RDCO Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw No. 1343** for kennel requirements and standards, and any restrictions to the number of dogs you are permitted for hobby kennels, based on the size of your property. A complete copy of Bylaw No. 1343 can be viewed at www.regionaldistrict.com/dogs.
3. In the Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw, Hobby kennel means a house or property where 3 to 20 dogs are kept or are intended to be kept. Where your zoning allows hobby kennels, check the dog bylaw for additional limits to the number of dogs you may keep, based on the size of your lot. The limitations based on the size of a property are:
 - For .25 to 1 hectare (.6178-2.47 acres), a maximum of 4 dogs are permitted.
 - For 1 to 4 hectares (2.47-9.884 acres), a maximum of 8 dogs are permitted.
 - Any properties greater than 4 hectares (9.884 acres) may keep up to 20 dogs.
4. In the dog bylaw, Service kennel means a facility or property on which more than 20 dogs are kept or are intended to be kept, subject to all other applicable bylaws. Additional information for Service Kennels are described in the dog bylaw, including:
 - must be located on a zone that allows Service Kennels
 - Kennel Operation Permit fee is \$125 each year.
 - Minimum standards for outdoor fences/pens are described in Schedule "C" of the dog bylaw.
 - Kennel standards are described in Schedule "D" of the dog bylaw.
Where a kennel fails to continue to meet the requirements of Schedule "D", the permit will be considered to be invalid and will be cancelled.
5. Dogs are to be held within the hobby or service kennel building between the hours of 8pm and 7am and prior to issuance or renewal of a Kennel Operation Permit, the kennel may be inspected by a Dog Control Officer.
6. Fill out an application (attached) for a kennel license with the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Applications must be submitted to Dog Control at 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4, or in person only, at 890 Weddell Place, Kelowna. More information about responsible dog ownership and kennels may be obtained by contacting the Dog Control at 250-469-6284, or www.regionaldistrict.com/dogs
7. Contact your Municipality or Regional District to investigate whether you require a business license. This requirement is in addition to the kennel license required in the dog bylaw, where the kennel is a business operation, as the keeping of more than two dogs may not be for business purposes.

Note: Under Bylaw No. 1343, any Dog Service businesses which hold dogs inside a closed building and do not provide overnight care, do not require a kennel operation permit, but they will require a business license.
8. If you are planning to move to a new property, repeat steps 1-7 above because your kennel license may not be transferable to a new property.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN KENNEL LICENSE APPLICATION FORM

Regional District of Central Okanagan Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw No. 1343

Name(s) of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Location/Address of the Kennel: _____

Legal Description: Lot: _____ Plan: _____ Zoning: _____ Lot Size: _____

Name of the Kennel: _____

Number of Dogs to be kept: • Hobby Kennel: _____ • Service Kennel _____

The following information must be provided by the applicant in support of this application:

- A site plan showing the location of all the kennel buildings to be used for the kennel operation including • the sizes and layout of all the pens within the kennel buildings (1/4 inch per foot scale), and • sizes and location of all outside runs.
• Proof of building permit (RDCO only)
• Where the applicant is not the owner of the property, authorization of the property owner to allow a kennel operation to occur.
• For Hobby Kennels – a letter indicating that dogs will be kept inside the home and a fenced or penned area is designated outside (show on plan).

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

For Regional District of Central Okanagan Use Only

- Application Approved Application Denied
Inspected by Dog Control Officer

Dog Control Officer Comments: _____

Approved by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Print Name)