

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources  
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5/2/2025

Dear Municipal Clerk,

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is reaching out to make you aware of a reporting deadline that is approaching fast.

On September 20, 2024, an Act to Increase Kennel Safety (AKA Ollie's Law) was signed by Governor Maura Healey. The passing of Ollie's law placed responsibility on MDAR to work with an advisory committee to draft and promulgate regulations for the operation of commercial boarding and training kennels, including dog daycares. Additionally, Ollie's Law now mandates municipal clerks report to MDAR the number and type of kennel licenses they have issued each year.

**Upcoming Deadline** As part of the new kennel licensing procedures, all municipalities must annually provide MDAR with a list of all licensed kennels. This list will include all types of licensed kennels; personal kennels (more than 4 dogs on a single premises), commercial kennels (1 or more dogs, held for boarding, daycare, overnight stays, or training), commercial breeder kennels, domestic charitable kennels, and veterinary kennels (holding dogs for non-medical reasons). Definitions of these kennel types can be found in M.G.L. Chapter 140, section 136A. **The list of kennels must be received by MDAR no later than June 1, 2025.**

MDAR has created an online portal for municipalities to make the process easier. Within the portal the information can either be entered manually or uploaded as an Excel spreadsheet.

Kennel Reporting Portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/kennel-reporting-for-municipalities>

Kennel Reporting Excel Template: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/kennel-reporting-excel-template/download>

For further information regarding changes in the kennel licensing laws, please refer to our webpage here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ollies-law-information>

Ollie's Law does state that all municipalities must have a process for issuing and revoking kennel licenses. A municipality cannot choose not to issue kennel licenses, if kennels (by definition) are allowed in the municipality. A licensing authority must specify the type of kennel license, and the maximum number of animals allowed in that kennel. The maximum number of animals allowed must appear on the kennel license. The maximum number of animals will be determined by the animal control officer and the licensing authority following the required kennel inspection.

We appreciate your cooperation as we navigate the new kennel licensing requirements created by Ollie's Law and we will continue to support you if you have any questions regarding the new protocols.

If you would like us to update our clerk contact list, you need assistance with the portal or if have any questions, please contact [sheri.gustafson@mass.gov](mailto:sheri.gustafson@mass.gov)

Sincerely,

Michael Cahill, Director  
Division of Animal Health,  
MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources