

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Ollie's Law Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Time: 9:00AM-10:30 AM

Location: Zoom Webinar <https://www.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 840 0281 2719

Passcode: animal

Posted at 2:30PM 2/5/2026

AGENDA

I. Attendance

Advisory Committee roll call

II. Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of 1/6/2026 meeting minutes (vote required)

III. Review of statute and Advisory Committee recommendations

“Section 174G. (a) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations for commercial boarding or training kennels, including those located at a private residence, which may include, but not be limited to, licensing, inspection, compliance and enforcement, use of best practices and operation, provider and staff to animal ratios, fire and emergency planning, injury reporting, group sizes and supervision, minimum housing and care requirements, indoor and outdoor physical facility requirements, utilities, body language interpretation, breed familiarity, dog handling, insurance, proper education and training of commercial boarding or training kennel staff, including, but not limited to, dog daycare staff, operational safety standards, risk management and consumer education and protection.”

IV. Unlicensed Kennels and Enforcement

A. Discussion of possible penalties

B. Language review from kennel regulations from other states.

- North Carolina:

The requirement for a boarding kennel license from the Animal Welfare Section also applies to in-home boarding services for dogs and/or cats. This includes providing boarding services advertised through online pet-service companies and other online lists. Operating a boarding facility without a valid license could result in up to a \$5,000 civil penalty for each violation. In addition, operation of a boarding kennel without a valid license is a Class 3 misdemeanor where each day of operation constitutes a separate offense

- Pennsylvania

(7) A person who operates a kennel without first obtaining the appropriate type and class of kennel license from the department commits a misdemeanor of the third degree. ((a.1) amended Oct. 23, 2023, P.L.114, No.18)

(a.2) Civil penalties and remedies.--The following shall apply to civil penalties and remedies for unlicensed kennels: (1) In addition to proceeding under any other remedy available at law or in equity for a violation of a provision of this act or a rule or regulation adopted or order issued under this act, the secretary may assess a civil penalty, in addition to any penalty under section 903(c), against an unlicensed kennel of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 for each day it operates in violation of this act. The penalty shall be premised on the gravity and willfulness of the violation, the potential harm to the health and safety of the animals and the public, previous violations and the economic benefit to the violator for failing to comply with this act. ((1) amended Oct. 23, 2023, P.L.114, No.18)

V. Discussion: Will there be a roll-out period for kennel regulation compliance?

VI. MDAR kennel correspondence

VII. New Business

A. Open floor for any new items Advisory Committee members wish to raise.