



Business License Department  
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## Regulations for All Licensed Kennel Facilities Pierce County Code, Chapter 5.24

### Building Requirements:

- Building construction must be structurally sound and maintained with all applicable permits (building, zoning etc.) PCC 17C.20, 17C.30
- Water, heat and electricity must be supplied with all applicable permits. Water must be at sufficient pressure and quantity to clean indoor housing facilities and primary enclosures. PCC 17C.20, 17C.30
- Toilet and hand washing facilities with hot and cold running water are required for any facility that is open to the public or has employees. Kennel operators should note that the number of employees or customers served may impact the water system classification and level of regulation. Contact the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for more information at (253) 798-6470.
- A drainage system shall be connected to a sanitary sewer or on-site sewage system which conforms to county standards and be designed to rapidly remove water and excreta. Facilities served by an on-site sewage system (septic system) must receive Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department approval before directing any kennel-related wastewater, wash water, or excreta to the on-site sewage system. Contact the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for more information at (253) 798-6470.
- Licensed kennel facilities need to have operational smoke alarms and fire extinguishers on site. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)i
- Licensed kennel facilities must have a Fire Evacuation plan posted with exit routes and a plan for temporary confinement.
- Adequate space must be provided to allow each animal to turn about freely, to stand, sit, and lie down. The animal must be able to lie down while fully extended without the animal's head, tail, legs, face, or feet touching any side of an enclosure and without touching any other animal in the enclosure when all animals are lying down simultaneously. The interior height of the enclosure must be at least six inches higher than the head of the tallest animal in the enclosure when it is in a normal standing position. Each enclosure must be at least three times the length and width of the longest animal in the enclosure, from tip of nose to base of tail and shoulder blade to shoulder blade. RCW 16.52.310 2(a)
- Licensed kennel facilities must have floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the animals' feet and legs from injury. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)v

- Licensed kennel facilities must be provided with sufficient lighting to allow for observation of all animals at any time of day or night. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)i
- Licensed kennel facilities where animals are kept must be sufficiently ventilated at all times to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels and prevent moisture condensation. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)i
- Noise emanating from kennels in unincorporated Pierce County must not create a public nuisance. A “public nuisance noise” is any noise which unreasonably annoys, injures, interferes with, or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of three or more persons residing within separate residences in the same community or neighborhood, although the extent of the damage may be unequal. PCC 8.72.100

Restraint Requirements:

- Licensed kennel facilities that use chains and/or tethers must have a written owner consent. Facilities that use chains, must use chains that are adequate to restrain the animal, but appropriate size and weight for the animal. The use of chains, pinch/prong collars, or choke chains as collars is prohibited. For facilities that use tethers, the tether must be connected to a collar or harness on a swivel or in a manner that prevents entanglement. The tether must not cause injury, disfigurement or physical impairment to the animal. An animal must have access to food, water and shelter while restrained. PCC 6.03.010(N)
- For any licensed kennel facilities that use muzzles, the facility must have a written owner consent. A muzzle is used a manner that will not cause injury to the animal or interfere with its vision or respiration but shall prevent it from biting any person or animal.

Animal Care Requirements:

- Each animal that is over the age of four months must be provided with a minimum of one exercise period during each day for a total of not less than one hour of exercise during such day. RCW 16.52.310.2(b)
- Veterinary care must be provided without delay when an animal is sick or injured. Animals requiring euthanasia must be euthanized only by a licensed veterinarian. RCW 16.52.310.2(e)
- An employee must be on duty at all times during operating hours for any facility. An employee is also required to come and feed, water, and do the necessary cleaning of animals on days the facility is closed. RCW 16.52.310 2(d).
- All animals in the same enclosure at the same time must be compatible, as determined by observation. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)viii
- Animals with aggressive disposition must never be placed in an enclosure with another animal, except for breeding purposes. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)viii
- Breeding females in heat may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with sexually mature males, except for breeding purposes. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)viii

- Breeding females and their litters may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with other adult animals. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)viii
- Animals under quarantine or treatment for a communicable disease shall be separated from other animals to minimize dissemination of the disease. PCC 6.08.040.A
- Adequate care means food or feed appropriate to the species for which it is intended. Both food and water must be in sufficient quantity, quality, and form appropriate to sustain the animals and should be in containers designed and situated to allow the animal easy access. RCW 6.03.010. Food and water receptacles must be cleaned regularly and sanitized. All enclosures must contain potable water that is not frozen, is substantially free from debris, and is readily accessible to all animals in the enclosure at all times. RCW 16.52.310 2(d)
- Food and bedding must be stored in a dry area which is adequate to provide protection against infestation or contamination.
- Feces, hair, dirt, debris, and food waste, and disposable materials must be removed from enclosures at least daily or more often if necessary to prevent accumulation, to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests, odors, and to maintain sanitary conditions. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)vii
- Pens or runs can be covered with a sufficient layer of a disposable materials such as gravel, sand, shavings, coarse wood chips, hay, or straw that can be removed when contaminated by animal excreta and periodically changed to maintain sanitary conditions. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)i
- Housing facilities and primary enclosures must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)i
- Empty enclosures must be cleaned and sanitized prior to introduction of a new animal. RCW 16.52.310 2(c)i
- Every licensed kennel facility shall ensure that there is a completed Infection Control Check list readily available for staff members, customers, and the agent of the Auditor and/or of Pierce County.

#### **Grooming Parlors - PCC 5.24.070**

- Grooming parlors shall not board animals but only keep them for a reasonable time in order to perform the business of grooming.
- Animals need to be restrained so they do not fall or hang. PCC 6.03.010 N
- All equipment must be cleaned and sanitized after each animal has been groomed.
- Only one animal allowed per cage, unless requested by the owners of the animals.
- Hot and cold water must be convenient and in working condition for large sinks or tubs.
- All cages, pens or kennels used for holding animals must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- Licensed kennel facilities must enable all animals to remain dry and clean. Animals must be protected from extreme temperatures and weather conditions that may be uncomfortable or hazardous.

- Every licensed kennel facility shall ensure that there is a completed Infection Control Check list readily available for staff members, customers, and the agent of the Auditor and/or of Pierce County.

### **Records**

- Every licensed kennel facility shall maintain records for three years (current year and past two years) on all animals. Said records shall contain a list of the names and addresses of persons from whom animals are received and to whom animals are sold, traded, given away or groomed. All animal transactions shall be listed on the records and these records shall be made available for inspection by the Auditor and/or agent of Pierce County at all reasonable times for a specific reason. PCC 5.24.030 F
- Licensed kennel facilities must have a posted vaccination policy, either on their website, brochures, or at the facility.