

## **Pet Dealer and Breeder Licensing Program**

The first phase of the New York State Pet Dealer and Breeder Licensing Program, set forth in the General Business Law, Article 35-D, the Sale of Dogs and Cats, became effective February 12, 2001. This phase requires disclosure of information to consumers who purchase dogs and/or cats and mandates examination of each dog by a veterinarian prior to the sale.

The second phase of the program, set forth in the Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 26-A, Care of Animals by Pet Dealers, became effective July, 1, 2002. In addition to the requirements from the first phase, the second phase requires annual inspections and licensure of pet dealers and breeders.

According to the General Business Law, Article 35-D, the Sale of Dogs and Cats, the consumer has the following options within 14 days of the sale of the dog or cat:

- 1) The right to return the dog or cat and receive a refund of the purchase price including sales tax.
- 2) The right to return the dog or cat and to receive another dog or cat of equivalent value.
- 3) The right to retain the dog or cat and to receive reimbursement from a pet dealer for veterinary services from a licensed veterinarian of the consumers' choosing, for the purpose of curing or attempting to cure the dog or cat. The value of the services rendered to cure or attempt to cure the dog or cat shall not exceed the purchase price of same. The refund/reimbursement shall be made by the pet dealer no later than 10 days after receipt of signed veterinarian certification as required.

**George E. Pataki**  
Governor,  
New York State



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Commissioner,  
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# Questions & Answers



## About the New York State Pet Dealer and Breeder Licensing Program

New York State  
Consumer Protection Board

New York State  
Department of Agriculture & Markets

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## What is the Pet Dealer and Breeder Licensing Program?



The New York State Pet Dealer and Breeder Licensing Program requires annual inspection and licensure of pet dealers and breeding facilities that sell dogs and/

or cats to the public. Licensed facilities are inspected and rated satisfactory or unsatisfactory in the following categories: housing; advertising; sanitation; feeding and watering; required posted license and notices; handling; records of veterinary care; and records of purchases and sales.

## Who is required to be licensed and how often are they inspected?

Any person, firm, corporation, partnership or other association that sells more than nine dogs and/or cats per year directly to the public is required to be licensed. Two exemptions apply: duly incorporated humane societies and breeders selling less than twenty-five dogs and/or cats born and raised on the breeders' residential premises.\*

Licensed Pet dealers and breeders are subject to an annual inspection by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Pet dealers and breeders may be subject to additional inspections during the course of one year if a consumer complaint is received and deemed warranted for investigation by the Department.

## What are the requirements for Pet Dealers and Breeders?

Pet dealers and breeders must demonstrate adequate housing, veterinary care for the animals and disclosure of information regarding a dog's or cat's medical history.

Pet dealers and breeders are not allowed to sell dogs or cats less than eight weeks of age and they must use their New York State license number in their advertisements.



### What to look for when selecting a Pet Dealer:

- Has the pet store been licensed and inspected?
- Is the store sanitary and clean?
- Do the animals appear healthy?
- Does the pet dealer have their license displayed at their facility and are they using their license number in their advertisements?

### What to look for when selecting a Breeder:

- Has the breeder been licensed and inspected by the Department of Agriculture and Markets?  
(\*Note exemptions above)
- Will the breeder allow you access to the facility?
- Is the facility sanitary and clean?

Call the Division of Animal Industry at the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at 1-800-554-4501 if you have a concern relating to housing, veterinary care or sanitation.

*Visit our web site at [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us) for more information.*