



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Pet Store Laws by State

STATE	LAW/ORDINANCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Alabama	AL Code 11-51-90.2	States that pet retailers must be licensed under Sector 453 (Misc. Store Retailers) but gives no specific requirements. State does not regulate retail pet stores.
Arizona	AZ ST §44-1799.04	Must maintain sanitary conditions, provide adequate water and nutrition, adequate and comfortable housing, regular veterinary care, and shall not offer for sale any animals under 8 weeks old. Violations punishable as a class 1 misdemeanor.
Arkansas	AK Code 4.97.104-109	Must be registered with the State Board of Health. Any authorized person is entitled to inspect the premises, failure to make premises or records available to an authorized person is a Class A misdemeanor. Every retail pet store required to be registered shall post a public notice on each of its premises, failure to post notice is a Class A misdemeanor. It is unlawful for a retail pet store to knowingly give, sell, exchange, barter, or otherwise transfer an animal to any other person if the ultimate destination of the animal is research or killing for dissection punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.
California	CA Health and Safety Code Sect. 122145-122220.	A pet dealer shall maintain a written record on the health, status, and disposition of each dog and each cat for a period of not less than one year after disposition of the dog or cat. Must provide animals with adequate sanitation, water, nutrition, shelter, comfort, exercise, and socialization. Action may be prosecuted in the name of the people of the State of California by the district attorney for the county where the violation occurred in the appropriate court or by the city attorney in the city where the violation occurred.
Colorado	CO ST §35.80.105-1117	Any person operating a pet animal facility shall possess a valid pet animal facility license issued by the commissioner in accordance with this article and any rules and regulations adopted by

		the commissioner. Each location of a pet animal facility shall be separately licensed. The commissioner may deny, refuse to renew, or revoke any license authorized under this article if the applicant or licensee has been convicted of cruelty to animals pursuant to article 9 of title 18, C.R.S., or any similar statute of any other state. Sale of any species of non-human primate, cats or dogs under 8 weeks old, or small rodents under 4 weeks old not permitted.
Connecticut	CT ST §435.22.344	No person shall maintain a pet shop until he has obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such pet shop under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and humane treatment of animals and the protection of the public safety. The commissioner may, at any time, inspect or cause to be inspected by his agents any such shop. All animals sold must first be seen by a veterinarian.
Delaware	DE Commerce and Trade Code §4001-4009	Seller shall maintain the written record on the health, status and disposition of each dog sold by the seller for a period of not less than 2 years following such sale. Every seller shall post in a conspicuous location a notice stating that purchasers of animals have specific rights under law and that a written statement of such rights is available upon request. No direct mention of seller regulations or licensing.
Florida	FL ST §828.29	Discusses health requirements and consumer guarantee for animals transported into the state for sale but no regulations or licensing for retail pet sellers.
Georgia	GA Health Code § 31-12-9.	In addition to its other powers in the control of preventable diseases, the department may by rule, regulation, and order provide for the licensing, registration, supervision, and investigation of all firms or persons importing, purchasing, breeding, or selling any birds or animals as pets, or any birds or animals which are customarily kept as pets, and may require all such firms or persons to comply with reporting and record-keeping requirements and marking, banding, or other identification requirements.
Illinois	§225 ILCS 605	No person shall engage in business as a pet shop

		operator, dog dealer, kennel operator, cattery operator, or operate a guard dog service, an animal control facility or animal shelter or any combination thereof, in this State without a license therefore issued by the Department. All licensees under this Act shall maintain records of the origin and sale of all dogs, and such records shall be made available for inspection by the Secretary or the Department upon demand. Licensees must maintain sanitary conditions, insure proper ventilation, provide adequate nutrition, and provide human care and treatment to all of its animals. The Department may refuse to issue or renew or may suspend or revoke a license at any time.
Iowa	IA ST §552B.1-8	A broker must be registered with the States. A broker may not sell an animal unless the animal has been examined by a licensed veterinarian. Brokers must also display a statement of buyer's rights in their establishment. Violations of this Act punishable as a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.
Kansas	KS ST §47-1703-1708	It shall be unlawful for any person to act as or be a pet shop operator unless such person has obtained from the commissioner a pet shop operator license for each pet shop operated by such person. Application for each such license shall be made in writing on a form provided by the commissioner. The license period shall be for the license year ending on June 30 following the issuance date. The commissioner may refuse to issue or renew or may suspend or revoke any license or permit required under K.S.A. 47-1703 at any time. In addition to or in lieu of any other civil or criminal penalty provided by law, the commissioner, upon a finding that a person has violated or failed to comply with any provision of the Kansas pet animal act or any rule and regulation adopted hereunder, may impose on such person a civil fine not exceeding \$1,000 for each violation or requirement to attend an educational course regarding animals and their care and treatment.
Maine	ME ST §4451-4462	Pet dealers must be licensed with the United States Department of Agriculture. All animals sold must be first examined by a veterinarian. Purchasers must be provided with all information regarding the animal purchased and their rights as consumers. A person who fails to meet a requirement of this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$100 per violation may be

		adjudged.
Massachusetts	MGL 140-138a	All shops must be licensed by the commissioner of agriculture. All animals to be sold must be inoculated and certified by an accredited veterinarian. No shop can sell animals less than 8 weeks of age. Whoever is convicted of a violation of any of these sections may be punished by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars for each such offense. In addition thereto or in lieu thereof, the commissioner of agriculture may, after notice and hearing, revoke or suspend a pet shop, kennel, and boarding kennel license providing any person, firm or corporation maintaining such pet shop, kennel and boarding kennel violates any of these regulations.
Michigan	MCL 287.333-339b	No person shall operate a pet shop unless he has first received a license from the department of agriculture under the provisions of this act. The license fee is \$150.00. The director of agriculture shall not issue a license to operate a pet shop until he has inspected the premises. Shops may not sell animals less than 8 weeks of age. All animals must be inoculated by a certified veterinarian. If a person violates this act the director may suspend or revoke a license and/or impose an administrative fine of not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation.
Minnesota	MN ST §347.33-39	Any dealer must be licensed by the Board of Animal Health. The annual license fee is \$100 for each dealer licensed. The license shall be displayed upon the premises. The Board of Animal Health shall cause to be inspected from time to time all dealers licensed hereunder and all records required. The Board of Animal Health may as hereinafter set forth revoke or suspend the license of any person, firm, or corporation, for violation. Violation of any provision after revocation of a license or during a period of suspension shall constitute a misdemeanor.
Missouri	MO ST §273.327-331	No person shall operate a shop unless he has obtained a license for such operations from the director. The license fee shall range from \$100.00-\$500.00 per year. The director may refuse to issue or renew or may revoke a license if material and

		deliberate misstatement in the application, conviction of any violation of any state or federal law relating to the disposition or treatment of animals, or failure to provide adequate food, water, housing or sanitary facilities for animals. Operation of a pet shop without a valid license shall constitute a class A misdemeanor. A license shall be issued only upon inspection by the state veterinarian.
Nevada	NV ST §574.450-510	Any animals offered for sale must be examined by a veterinarian. Information regarding the animal's birth, source, lineage, and medical history must be posted near the animal's enclosure. An animal may not be separated from its mother until it is no longer nursing. Any violation of these acts may be punishable by a fine of up to \$1000.00.
New Hampshire	NH ST §437.1-13	No person, firm, corporation or other entity shall engage in the business of selling live animals or birds customarily used as household pets unless the premises on which they are housed, harbored or displayed for such purposes are duly licensed and inspected by the department of agriculture, markets, and food of the state of New Hampshire. Applications for licenses shall be made annually to the department accompanied by a license fee of \$200. Inspections of all premises shall be made at reasonable times, but in no case less frequently than every 6 months. Any duly appointed agent of any humane society or S.P.C.A. incorporated in the state of New Hampshire acting under the authority and direction of the department or an official representative of the department may make said inspections at any reasonable time. All animals sold must be examined by a licensed veterinarian. Any person who violates any provision of this subdivision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition, any person or owner who violates any of the provisions of this subdivision or rule adopted under it may be subject to an administrative fine levied by the commissioner not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation.
New Jersey	NJ ST §4:19.15.8-10 NJ ST §56:8.95-96	Any person who operates a pet shop shall apply to the clerk or other official designated for a license. The annual license fee for a pet shop shall \$10.00. The Board may revoke the license if it is determined that the shop failed to maintain proper hygiene and exercise or

		sold a substantial number of animals that the shop knew to be unfit for sale. All animals sold must be examined by a veterinarian. The State Department of Health may hold hearing to suspend or revoke a shop's license at any time.
New Mexico	NM ST §77.18.1	No direct mention of retail pet stores must does regulate the sale of any subhuman primate, skunk, raccoon, fox or other sylvatic carnivore to be kept as a pet by the department of health.
New York	NY AGM Law 401-406	All animals sold must be examined by a veterinarian. Housing must provide adequate space, ventilation, lighting and temperature, and sanitation. Animals must be provided with proper nutrition and water. Animals must be handled in a way that does no harm them. Each pet dealer shall keep and maintain records for each animal purchased, acquired, held, sold, or otherwise disposed of. No person shall operate as a pet dealer unless they are licensed by the commissioner. Licensing fee is \$100.00. The commissioner may decline to grant/renew, suspend, or revoke such license at any time. The commissioner or his agents shall inspect the dealer's facilities at a minimum yearly. Any dealer who violates this act may be punishable by loss of license or a fine of no les than 50 but no more than 1000 dollars.
North Carolina	NC ST §19A.29-35.	All dealers must be licensed by the Board of Agriculture. License fee is \$50.00. The Board may revoke or suspend a license due to mistreatment of animals or falsehoods in the licensing application. Any dealer who operates without a license is charged with a class 3 misdemeanor and may be punished with a fine of \$5-25.00. Any dealer whose license was revoked due to mistreatment will be punished with a class 3 misdemeanor and may be punished with a fine of \$5.00-1000.00.
Oregon	OR House Bill 2928	Retail pet sellers must provide animals with proper veterinary care, nutrition, and water. Must also provide adequate ventilation, space, comfort, and temperature in shelters. Stores may not sell animals that are not fully weaned. The State Department of Agriculture

		may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$500 on an owner of a retail pet store who violates this act.
Pennsylvania	PA ST §2341-2349 P.L.784, No.225	All animal dealers must be licensed by the department. License fee is \$50.00. License must be posted in place of business. The department may deny to renew, suspend, or revoke the license at any time. The department may inspect any records of license holders.
Tennessee	TN Code 44.17.104-116	Dealers must be licensed by the commissioner. Licensing fee for retail dealers ranges from \$125-1000 depending on the number of animals sold per year. License will only be issued after an inspection of the facility. The commissioner may refuse to renew, suspend or revoke a license on grounds of distrust, cruelty, or violation of regulations. Violations of this act punishable as a class c misdemeanor.
Vermont	VT ST §4301-4304	Consumers have the right to return the animal sold due to health problems. Dealer may challenge the return. Commissioner may assess administrative penalties not to exceed \$1,000.00, for violations of this chapter.
Virginia	VA Code §3.1-796.78 VA Code §59.1-200	Dealers may not sell an animal without animal history certificate. Certificate must state animal's breed, sex, age, color, date of birth, breeder's name and address, registration number, date of examination by licensed veterinarian, and a statement of all vaccinations issued to the animal. If any part of this certificate proves false, the consumer may return the animal for refund or exchange. Violations of this act are punishable as violations of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act of 1997.
Wisconsin	WI ST §95.69-	No dealer shall operate without a license from the department of agriculture. Licensing fee is \$75.00. Department has right to revoke license. Those still operating after removal of license shall receive a fine of no less than \$500 but no more than \$1000.