



Volusia County Animal Services

Thinking of having a litter?



Cat and dog breeders in Volusia County are required to obtain a **Hobby Breeder Permit** from Volusia County Animal Services to ensure the protection of the animals and the consumer. *This person has one breed. They know the breed, the standard, the health issues and test for them. They produce a limited amount of litters a year and breed to preserve and protect the breed. They are actively involved with a breed club. They make use of contracts and place each puppy or kitten in the best possible home.*

What is a Hobby Breeder?

A Hobby Breeder is anyone other than a pet dealer who breeds a single breed of dog or cat to conform to an approved standard of competition. The owner of a hobby breeder facility must be in good standing and have registration privileges intact with the appropriate national animal registry. The owner must have three years' documented experience in show clubs and participation in show trials. [Volusia County Code of Ordinances Chapter 14 Section 14-56 Hobby Breeders](#) (see below)

How do I obtain a Hobby Breeder Permit?

Contact our office Monday through Friday (386/248-1790) to schedule a Hobby Breeder inspection. An Animal Control Officer will come to your property and determine if you are an eligible Hobby Breeder.



What is the cost of a Hobby Breeder Permit?

There is a yearly fee of \$50.00.

What are the Criteria for an eligible Hobby Breeder?

- Your property must be within these zoning classifications: A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, RR, RA, MH-3, MH-4, MH-8. To find out your property zoning click [here](#)
- Member with a National Animal Registry
- Minimum of 3 years documented experience in show clubs and show trails.
- Do not sell more than two litters or 20 puppies or kittens in a year.
- Dogs and cats identifiable by tattoo or implant.
- Facility inspected by the Animal Control Authority.
- License fee (\$50.00) paid to Volusia County Animal Control.
- Double fencing.

Do my permitted Animals need to be licensed?

Hobby Breeders are exempt from county license and mandatory spay and neuter for the one breed of dog or cat but must have a microchip or tattoo. Any other breed dog or cat on the property must have a county license and mandatory spay and neuter compliance.

I have a Hobby Breeder Permit, do I need to renew every year?

Yes. You will be mailed a renewal notice and an Animal Control Officer will contact you for an inspection date. If an inspection is not performed within 30 days of your annual renewal date, your Hobby Breeder Permit will be revoked.

Are there any other things I need to know as a Hobby Breeder?

Yes, Florida State Statute 828.29 requires that any dog or cat offered for sale must be no younger than 8 weeks of age and have an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate).



Sec. 14-56. - Hobby breeders.

(a)

Generally.

(1)

License required; fee. No person shall establish or maintain a hobby breeder facility without first obtaining an annual license from the animal control division. The license fee for such facility will be set by resolution of the county council and not be based on the number of animals maintained at the facility. A license shall be issued only after an inspection that determines that the minimum requirements and standards, as set forth herein, have been met. The license shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issue, unless otherwise stated or revoked. Renewal applications shall be made within 30 days prior to the expiration date.

(2)

Sale of animals. The offspring of the dogs or cats bred at a hobby breeder facility to enhance or perpetuate a given breed, may be sold by the owner. Such sales shall not be considered commercial breeding for the purpose of this article provided that such sale is not the primary function of the facility.

(3)

Permitted animals; identification of animals. There shall be only one species and one breed of either dog or cat bred or kept at any individual licensed hobby breeder facility. There shall be no more than two litters or 20 puppies or kittens, whichever is greater, produced per hobby breeder facility per year. Dogs or cats maintained at a licensed hobby breeder facility are exempt from the individual licensing provisions of this article except as otherwise provided in this article. For protection and identification, all dogs and cats will be identifiable by either a tattoo or implant device. An implant scanner must be on the premises if using an implant device. At no time will the total number of adult dogs or cats exceed the following limitations:

- a. Miniature or toy breeds15 dogs
- b. Standard or large breeds10 dogs
- c. Cats25



(4)

Return of animals by new owners. If a new owner becomes unable or unwilling to continue ownership and responsibility for a dog or cat, the license holder shall assist in placement of the dog or cat. If no suitable placement can be found within six months, the license holder shall accept return of the dog or cat if healthy and shall become fully responsible for its care.

(5)

Personal pet exemption. A combined total of no more than four dogs or cats may be kept as personal pets in addition to the animals permitted under subsection (a)(3), above.

(b)

Facilities.

(1)

The facility, whether it be a private residence, portion of a private residence or a separate structure not physically connected to a private residence, shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to protect the animals against overexposure to the elements, to contain the animals and to restrict the entrance of other animals.

(2)

Food shall be transported, handled and stored in a manner that ensures against the introduction of parasites, disease vectors (such as insects) or chemical contaminants. Supplies of dry food shall be stored in areas that are cool, dry, clean and free of vermin and other potential contaminants. Refrigeration shall be provided for supplies of perishable food. Conditions affecting the shelf life of food such as date of manufacture, exposure to extremes in temperature and humidity, exposure to moisture, unsanitary conditions, exposure to light, exposure to oxygen, and exposure to insects shall be monitored to prevent deterioration of the nutrient value of food. Food receptacles shall be accessible to all animals and shall be located to prevent contamination by excreta. Feeding dishes shall be kept clean. Self-feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food and shall be sanitized regularly to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of food.



(3)

Access to shelter shall be provided for the animals to allow them to remain dry at all times. When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort, sufficient shade shall be provided to allow the animals to protect themselves from direct rays of the sun.

(4)

Indoor facilities.

a.

A source of heat and mechanical ventilation shall be available at the facility for use as necessary in preventing extremes in temperatures. Buildings must be maintained with suitable temperatures, ventilation and lighting. The ambient temperature shall be maintained in a range that ensures that the animals will not suffer from heat stress (heat stroke or hyperthermia), nor from cold stress (frostbite or hypothermia).

b.

The facility must provide adequate shelter from the elements and be kept clean and dry. Food must be fresh, wholesome, palatable, nutritionally adequate and offered to each animal at least once daily. Water must be fresh and available at all times. Animals shall be provided proper and necessary veterinary care. Facility owners must live on the premises.

c.

The interior building surfaces of any indoor housing facilities shall be constructed and maintained so that they are impervious to moisture and can be readily sanitized.

d.

A primary enclosure shall provide sufficient space to allow each enclosed cat to turn freely and to easily stand, sit and lie in a comfortable position. The minimum primary enclosure space for a single four pound or greater cat is to be 30 cubic feet. When a primary enclosure is used for more than one cat, resting perches shall be provided. Cages, kennels and runs must have enough space



for dogs to lie down, stand, sit and stretch without touching the sides or top. Dogs shall be exercised a minimum of 30 minutes twice daily.

e.

Concrete floors and runs must have a resting board, and cages must have sanitary bedding. Easily accessible litter pans shall be provided for all cats at all times.

f.

The animal care facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury. Appropriate measures must be taken to control and restrict the entrance of rodents.

g.

The facility shall have ample light of good quality by natural or artificial means or both. The lighting shall provide uniformly distributed illumination of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection, cleaning and provide for the well-being of the animals. The animals shall be protected from excessive illumination.

h.

All cages shall be constructed of impervious porous materials. All cages shall have floors of either solid construction or metal grid construction. Cages having metal grid floors can be used provided the grid size is smaller than the pads of the feet of the dogs confined therein. No cages shall be enclosed entirely by solid walls. Stack cages must have solid floors. All primary enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so that cats therein have convenient access to clean food, water and litter. The number of cats in a primary enclosure shall not exceed the number which would prevent proper ventilation and sanitation. A primary enclosure shall not be constructed or maintained with an exposed wire mesh bottom, or any other material that will injure the feet or legs of a cat. If the primary enclosure is not of sufficient size to allow the cat(s) to express their specialized locomotor patterns, then an area shall be made available for the cat(s) to exercise and scratch at least once a day.



i.

If drains are used, they shall be properly constructed and kept in good repair to avoid foul odors.

j.

In all primary enclosures with a solid floor, a receptacle containing sufficient clean litter shall be provided to contain excreta. Each primary enclosure shall be provided with a solid resting board and shall be of adequate size to comfortably hold all occupants of the enclosure at the same time. Such resting surface or surfaces shall be elevated in primary enclosures housing two or more cats.

(5)

Outdoor facilities.

a.

Shelter. Sufficient shade shall be provided to afford all animals protection from direct sunlight. Sufficient cover shall be provided to protect all animals from rain. Shelter shall be provided for all animals when the ambient temperature falls below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Sufficient clean bedding material or other means of protection from the weather elements shall be provided when the ambient temperature falls below that temperature to which the dogs are acclimated. The facility shall be adequately ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. The facility shall be provided with a source of fresh air by means of windows, doors, or vents and shall be ventilated in a manner that minimizes drafts, odors and moisture conditions.

b.

Cleaning of enclosures. Excreta shall be removed from enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to reduce disease hazards and odors. When a hosing or flushing method is used for cleaning an enclosure commonly known as a cage, any animal contained therein shall be removed from such enclosure during the cleaning process, and adequate measures shall be taken to protect the animals in other such enclosures from being



contaminated with water and other waste. A suitable method shall be provided to rapidly eliminate any excess water.

c.

Sanitation of enclosures required. Prior to the introduction of animals into empty enclosures previously occupied, such enclosures shall be sanitized. Enclosures for animals shall be sanitized often enough to prevent an accumulation of debris or excreta or a disease hazard; provided, however, such enclosure shall be sanitized at least once a week.

d.

Method of sanitation. Cages, rooms and hard-surfaced pens or runs shall be sanitized by washing them with hot water and soap or detergent, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant, or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with live steam. Pens or runs using gravel, sand or dirt shall be sanitized by removing the soiled gravel, sand or dirt and replacing it as necessary. Feces and soiled litter material shall be removed from all litter pans at least once a day. Absorbent litter and/or any other material used to absorb urine shall be changed when it becomes 30 percent saturated with urine.

e.

Maintenance of buildings and grounds. Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the dogs or cats from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this subsection. Premises shall remain free of accumulations of trash.

f.

Pest control. An effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.



g.

Distance of animal facilities from adjoining property. All runs, exercise areas and primary enclosures shall meet the minimum setback provided for in the zoning code.

h.

Containment of animals. Outdoor areas for dogs must be double-fenced in order to ensure all dogs are contained and do not escape. If cats are allowed outdoors they must be kept in an enclosure that has four sides and an attached solid or wire mesh top or roof to prevent the cats from escaping the enclosure.

(c)

Inspections and enforcement. It shall be a condition of the issuance of a license that an animal control officer shall be allowed, at any reasonable time, to inspect without notice all domestic animals and all premises where animals are kept. The animal control division shall give a license holder a 24-hour advance notice of the annual inspection. However, no notice is required for routine investigations of complaints. Any alleged violations of this section will be investigated by the animal control division. Upon receipt of information of violation of this section, the animal control division may issue a notice of revocation to a license holder. The notice of revocation shall provide a summary of the information of the violation and shall be sent to the address listed in the license application. No license shall be renewed if an applicant has had its license revoked within two years of the date of the application or has outstanding and unsatisfied civil penalties imposed due to violations of this article.

(d)

Hearing. Any challenge to a notice of revocation must be in the form of a request for hearing and filed by the license holder with the animal control division within ten days after the license holder's receipt of said notice. The license holder shall set forth the reasons why the license holder believes the revocation would be an error. The challenge to a notice of revocation shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$250.00 to cover administrative cost involved in the challenge. Failure to timely request a hearing shall render the revocation final.



- (e) *Hearing on revocation.* All hearings shall be open to the public, conducted by a hearing officer within 30 days after the receipt of a request for hearing by the license holder and in accordance with section [14-57](#)
- (f) *Filing of decision.* The original of the hearing officer's written decision shall be filed with the animal control division, and copies shall be mailed to the county attorney and the license holder.
- (g) *Notice.* Any written notification to license holder subject to a proceeding under this section shall be by registered mail, certified hand delivery, or service in conformance with the provisions of F.S. ch. 48, relating to service of process.
- (h) *Penalty.* In addition to any revocation proceeding under this section, any person who violates any provision of this section is subject to the penalties prescribed in [section 14-32](#)

(Ord. No. 93-25, § XXIV, 11-4-93; Ord. No. 94-15, § XII, 9-18-94; Ord. No. 2007-11, § V, 10-18-07; Ord. No. 2008-18, § II, 8-21-08)