

July 1, 2013

Dear Municipal Clerk,

As you may already be aware, during the 2013 legislative session, state lawmakers implemented changes to the Pet Merchant licensing program that has historically been managed by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM). These changes impact your office's activities. You are receiving this letter as a courtesy from VAAFAM in order to make you aware of the pertinent changes and to provide contact information and other resources necessary to effectively implement the new statutory requirement. The licensing program changes are contained in Act 30, which can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2014/Acts/ACT030.pdf>

Specifically, Act 30 eliminates the Pet Merchant licensing program previously administered by VAAFAM, and replaces it with a (1) Pet Shop licensing program that will continue to be maintained by VAAFAM and a **(2) Pet Dealer Permitting program that is the responsibility of the municipal offices**. Effective July 1, 2013, qualified hobby pet breeders are required to obtain a Pet Dealer permit from their town of residence. They are no longer required to obtain a Pet Merchant license from VAAFAM. Act 30 defines a "Pet Dealer" as any person who sells or exchanges, or who offers to sell or exchange, cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids, or any combination thereof, from three or more litters from cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids in any 12-month period. Pet Dealers must apply to the municipal clerk of the town or city in which the cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids are kept for a Pet Dealer permit and the annual permit fee is \$25.00.

Specific municipal office responsibilities related to issuance of Pet Dealer permits and facility inspection authority may be found in Act 30, but VAAFAM wants you to be specifically aware of the following:

1. Upon issuance of the Pet Dealer permit, the municipal clerk must provide the pet dealer with a copy of Part 3 of the Animal Welfare Regulations promulgated by VAAFAM. This document is enclosed/attached with this letter for your convenience. It may be reproduced as needed by your office for distribution to permittees. The document may also be viewed/downloaded on line at:  
[http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal\\_health/registrations\\_licensing/pet\\_dealer](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/registrations_licensing/pet_dealer).
2. Upon issuance of the permit, the clerk must also provide the pet dealer with contact information for VAAFAM's animal health office. Please advise permittees to direct

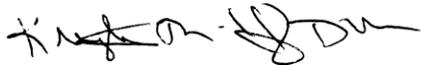


questions related to Pet Dealer permit requirements to your office, but they may also contact the VAAFM Animal Health office at (802)828-2421 with general questions.

3. Upon issuance of the permit, the clerk must also provide the pet dealer with contact information for the Department of Taxes regarding the sales tax obligation for the sale of pets. The contact number for the Department of Taxes is (802)828-2551. Choose Option 3 and ask to speak with a business tax examiner for additional information on this topic.
4. Concerns about alleged companion animal welfare violations should be directed to the humane officer with jurisdiction in the pet owner's town of residence. To access the appropriate humane officer, concerned citizens may lodge a complaint by phone or on line by visiting the Vermont Humane Federation's website at:  
<http://www.vermonthumane.org/cruelty.php>

Please direct any questions regarding the content of this letter or the associated attachments to the VAAFM Animal Health office at (802)828-2421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin M. Haas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kristin M. Haas, D.V.M.