



# **Pet Service Businesses**

**Proposed regulatory changes  
in King County – updated 11/09**





## What businesses are affected?

- Pet shops selling live pets
- Specialty pet food retailers selling raw animal-based pet food
- Feed stores selling baby poultry
- Boarding kennels
- Pet daycares
- Animal shelters
- Pet grooming services, including mobile



## Who is currently permitted?

- In Seattle, Public Health currently permits pet shops, kennels, some shelters, and pet daycares
- In King County, KC Records and Licensing currently permits pet shops, groomers, animal shelters, commercial kennels including daycare
  - **Except some cities that do not contract with King County for pet-related services**



## What changes with the new regulations?

- Requirements & permit fees will be uniform around the county
- Inspections performed by Public Health staff
- Animal abuse or cruelty issues referred to the appropriate animal care and control agency
- Most pet businesses will see a permit fee increase; a few will have lower fees (for example, aquariums located outside of Seattle)
- Permits will be issued annually (renew by March 1)



## Why do we need new regulations?

- Disease prevention & public safety
- Adapt to new types of pet services & foods
- Changing nature of pet ownership
- New disease threats
- Mandate to merge old Seattle Health Codes into county-wide Board of Health rules
- Current regulations & fees are out of date
- Current regulations not uniform across the County





## What are the risks?

- Zoonotic diseases – infections transmitted from animals to people
- Injuries from animals
- Food-borne illness from raw pet foods & treats
- Special concern about people with immune deficiency
  - Pregnant women
  - Children under 5
  - People with HIV/AIDS
  - Transplant recipients
  - People on chemotherapy
  - Elderly people





# Zoonoses associated with pets

## Birds

- Psittacosis
- Salmonella
- Cryptococcosis & other fungal diseases



## Pocket pets

- Monkey pox
- Rat bite fever
- Leptospirosis
- Lymphocytic choriomeningitis (LCMV)
- Salmonella
- Ringworm
- Mites





## Dogs

- Leptospirosis
- Cryptosporidia
- Campylobacter & other enteric bacteria
- Larval migrans
- Sarcoptic mange
- Ringworm
- Rabies

## Cats

- Toxoplasmosis
- Cat scratch fever
- Cryptosporidia
- Salmonella & other enteric bacteria
- Internal parasites
  - Roundworm
  - Tapeworm
  - Hookworm
- Ringworm
- Rabies





## Of special concern: **Salmonella**

- Bacteria that can be carried by most types of pets, especially:
  - *Reptiles & amphibians*
  - *Chicks & ducklings*
  - *Puppies, kittens & other young animals*
- 74,000 human cases a year in US just from reptiles
- Can be fatal, especially in young children, the elderly and immune compromised people
- Outbreaks have occurred in shelter visitors, due to pet treats, from baby chicks



## **We want to reduce salmonella risk by:**

- Consumer education where reptiles, amphibians, baby poultry and raw pet foods/treats are sold
- Hand washing/sanitizing after pets are handled
- Enforce federal ban on sale of small turtles
- Emphasize precautions for people most at risk of severe Salmonella infection



# Preventing illnesses from raw pet foods

- Raw animal based pet foods may contain harmful bacteria and other pathogens
  - Cross contamination with human food can occur when these pet foods are prepared in the kitchen
  - Pets may be infected (with or w/out symptoms) and transmit infection to family members
  - Immunosuppressed people & young children at greatest risk
- Use of these foods is increasing
- Our proposed rules help assure safe storage and appropriate consumer information on disease prevention
  - Also gives us the ability to notify stores of product recalls



# What about inspections?

- **Inspections are done by specially trained registered sanitarians, with support of a veterinarian specializing in public health**
- **Routine inspections are done annually to assess compliance with regulations**
- **We are concerned about protecting the environment as well as infectious disease prevention**
- **Inspections also done to investigate citizen complaints or to investigate cases of disease**
- **Business owners receive a written report of inspection results**



# **Inspections: *more than a checklist***

## **Education is part of the visit**

*(What's the best disinfectant to use around cats?)*

*(Is kennel cough contagious to people?)*

## **Help with problem solving**

*(How can I get rid of this awful odor?)*

*(I have rats out back, what can I do?)*

## **We encourage you to ask us for advice or resources**

*(Do you have a brochure about that new disease everyone is worried about?)*

**Public Health inspections and educational visits can add value by helping pet business owners provide a safe and healthy environment for employees, customers and pets.**





## Important features of the proposed regulations

- Emphasizes effective sanitation, hand hygiene, environmental controls
- Record-keeping that will facilitate disease case tracking and investigation
- Infection control plan for every business, expert consultations
- More public education on disease prevention
- Permit fees/requirements based on degree of risk and time required for inspection & complaint response



## Proposed annual permit fees

- Specialty food retailer \$182
- Pet Shop – risk 1 \$182
- Pet Shop – risk 2 \$473
- Kennel or daycare \$291
- Animal shelter - lg \$291
- Animal shelter – sm \$182
- Animal shelter – satellite \$ 60
- Grooming service \$182
- Mobile grooming service \$182 base plus \$60 per additional vehicle same owner/location

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If multiple services are offered at one facility, the primary permit fee is for the highest category with each additional service at \$182 up to a maximum of 2 additional fees.



# For more information

See the stakeholder website at

[www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/petregs](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/petregs)

Or contact us by e-mail

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