



Town of Chester Dog Licensing Fees By-Law

Last Updated: 2/5/2026

Approved: 6/26/26

Section 1. Authority

This bylaw is adopted pursuant to the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §21, and Chapter 140, §137, for the purpose of providing for the administration of dog licensing within the Town.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to authorize the Town Clerk to collect and retain a portion of the dog license fee as an administrative fee to offset the costs associated with the issuance, recordkeeping, reporting, and enforcement of dog licenses.

Section 3. Administrative Fee Authorized

A portion of each dog license fee collected pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, §137 shall be designated as an administrative fee for the Town Clerk or their assistant.

Such administrative fee shall be in the amount of \$0.75 per license.

Section 4. Disposition of Fees

The administrative portion of the dog license fee shall be retained by the Town Clerk or their assistant and deposited into a designated municipal account to be used solely as a variable stipend to be paid to the Town Clerk or their assistant.

The remaining portion of the dog license fee shall be distributed in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, §137, and any other applicable law.

Section 5. Accounting and Reporting

The Town Clerk shall maintain accurate records of all dog license fees collected and shall provide such reports as may be required by the Town Accountant, Treasurer, Select Board, or the Commonwealth.

Section 6. Regulations

The Town Clerk may promulgate reasonable rules and procedures consistent with this bylaw and state law to carry out its provisions.

Section 7. Severability

If any provision of this bylaw is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 8. Effective Date

This bylaw shall take effect upon approval by Town Meeting and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.