



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF 2025 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL TOWN BYLAW

Office of the Attorney General

Posted February 5, 2026

The Town of Wellesley shall henceforth publish amendments to the Town Bylaw and Zoning bylaw by way of a pamphlet and post said pamphlet in each precinct and on the bulletin board of the Town Hall and on the website for the Town of Wellesley (www.wellesleyma.gov) (MGL Chapter 40 Section 32).

General Town Bylaw Amendments (STM 2025)

- Article 12.1. Amend bylaw Article 47, Animal Control Regulations, to incorporate amended Massachusetts General Law to Kennel statutes.

ARTICLE 12.1

Amend Article 47, Animal Control Regulation, to incorporate amended Massachusetts General Law Kennel Statutes.

Voted November 3, 2025 Under Consent Agenda.

That the Town vote to amend Article 47 of the General Bylaws as follows:

With the following additions:

Article 47.3:

- c. For purposes of this bylaw, and G.L. c. 140, § 157, the Town Clerk shall be the Licensing Authority.

Article 47.5:

Article 47.5 Kennels.

- Kennel has the same definition as in G.L. c. 140, § 136A. All kennels within the Town shall be licensed, operated, maintained and regulated in accordance with G.L. c. 140, §§ 137A-174G and any other applicable statute or regulation.
- A person maintaining a commercial kennel shall obtain a kennel license from the Licensing Authority. The Licensing Authority shall issue, suspend, renew and revoke kennel licenses as provided in G.L. c. 140, § 137A and any regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. In the case of an applicant for initial licensure or license renewal, the Licensing Authority shall deny a kennel license until the kennel has passed inspection by an Animal Control Officer.

The Licensing Authority shall specify on the license the type of kennel and the maximum number of animals that may be maintained by the licensee. Such number shall be determined by the Licensing Authority and the Animal Control Officer following the required inspection of all kennels by the Animal Control Officer.

- A person maintaining a personal kennel shall obtain a kennel license from the Licensing Authority. To obtain or renew a license, each dog owner or keeper shall annually present proof of a current rabies vaccination or a certification of exemption from the vaccination requirement, pursuant to G.L. c. 140, §§ 137(b) and 145B. The Licensing Authority shall issue, suspend, renew and revoke kennel licenses as provided in G.L. c. 140, § 137A and any regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

In the case of an applicant for initial licensure or license renewal, the Licensing Authority shall deny a kennel license until the kennel has passed inspection by an Animal Control Officer.

The Licensing Authority shall specify on the license the type of kennel and the maximum number of animals that may be maintained by the licensee. Such number shall be determined by the Licensing Authority and the Animal Control Officer following the required inspection of all kennels by the Animal Control Officer.

d. The fee for the issuance and renewal of a kennel license shall be established from time to time by the Town Meeting in accordance with G.L. c. 140 § 137A; provided, however, that in determining the amount of the license fee for a kennel, a dog under the age of 3 months shall not be counted in the number of dogs kept in the kennel. Kennel license fees shall not be required for domestic charitable corporations that are incorporated exclusively for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect or abuse and for the relief of suffering among animals.

e. Fees for the issuance of kennel licenses shall be:

	Fee
1) Kennels with 5-8 Dogs:	\$75
2) Kennels with 9-12 Dogs:	\$150
3) Kennels with 13-25 Dogs:	\$200
4) Kennels with 26 or more Dogs	\$250

f. A commercial boarding or training kennel shall maintain records of individual dog licenses for all dogs in its care as required by G.L. c. 140, § 137A.

g. The Animal Control Officer shall inspect or cause the annual inspection of every kennel licensed within the Town. If a licensee or applicant for a license to maintain a kennel refuses to allow an inspector to enter and inspect a kennel, the refusal shall be grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of the license.

h. A kennel license shall be valid for a period of one year, beginning April 1 of each year through March 31.

Article 47.9:

d. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the provisions of Section 47.5 of this Article may be enforced by the Licensing Authority in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 140, §§ 137A and 137C.

And where strikethrough text indicates deletions and bold text indicates insertions:

Article 47.1:

Purpose. Pursuant to the authority set forth in G.L. c. 140, §§ 136A-174EG, inclusive, and any other relevant statutes and regulations issued pursuant thereto, this section is adopted by the Town for the control and regulation of dogs within the Town.

Article 47.4(a):

a. In accordance with G.L. c. 140, § 137, the owner or keeper of a dog six months of age or older, while residing in the Town of Wellesley, shall obtain a license (either individual or kennel) for the dog from the ~~Town Clerk~~**Licensing Authority**, which shall be affixed to the dog's collar. To obtain or renew a license, each dog owner or keeper shall annually present proof of a current rabies vaccination or a certification of exemption from the vaccination requirement, pursuant to G.L. c. 140, §§ 137(b) and 145B.

Article 47.4(b):

b. All dogs within the Town shall be licensed and registered and the fees for such license and registration shall be established by the Town Meeting from time to time in accordance with G.L. c. 140, § 139. Fees for the issuance of licenses for dogs shall be:

	Fee
1) Males and Females:	\$25
2) Neutered Males and Spayed Females:	\$15

3) Service Animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder: No fee.

4) Kennels with 4-6 Dogs:	\$75
5) Kennels with 7-10 Dogs:	\$100
6) Kennels with 11 or more Dogs:	\$150

Article 47.4(d):

d. ~~Kennels. All kennels within the Town shall be licensed, operated, maintained and regulated in accordance with G.L. c. 140, §§ 137A-137D and any other applicable statute or regulation.~~

Article 47.7(a)

a. Complaint Investigation. The Animal Control Officer shall investigate all written complaints arising within the Town pertaining to violations of Article 47 and of G.L. c. 140, §§ 136A-174EG and any relevant state or local regulations.

Article 47.9:

b. The failure of the owner or keeper of any dog **or kennel** to comply with the registration and license requirements provided in this Article 47 and in G.L. c. 140, §§ 136A-174EG shall be in violation of this bylaw.

c. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, this Article **47** may be enforced by the Animal Control Officer, or any police officer of the Town, or the Select Board, through any means available in law or equity, including but not limited to criminal indictment in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 21, noncriminal disposition in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 21D and Article 52.1, "Non-Criminal Disposition, as may be amended from time to time. When enforced in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 21, the maximum penalty shall be **\$300500** and each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate violation.

And further, that the Town Clerk is authorized to make non-substantive changes, relative to the amendments to bylaw Article 47, to the numbering of the bylaws in order to make them compliant with the numbering format of the bylaws of the Town of Wellesley.

Town Bylaws so amended shall become effective February 5, 2026 the date of this publication.

Claims of invalidity of the amendments to the Town Bylaws by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment may only be made within ninety (90) days of the date of posting, said posting date being February 5, 2026 and said deadline May 6, 2026.