



# WASHOE COUNTY

## REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES

2825 LONGLEY LANE, STE. A  
RENO, NEVADA 89502  
CENTER: (775) 353-8900  
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[www.washoeanimals.com](http://www.washoeanimals.com)

## ***Commercial Animal Welfare Permit FAQ Sheet***

### ***Why do I need to have a commercial animal welfare permit?***

Pursuant to Washoe County Code (WCC) 55.455, any facility who conducts business within Washoe County and sells dogs, cats, birds (excluding poultry and large-scale farming/agriculture operations), small mammals or reptiles; and/or boards animals for 24 hours, i.e. dogs, cats or horses must obtain a commercial animal welfare permit from Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) even if you already have a business license.

### ***Are veterinary hospitals required to have a commercial animal welfare permit?***

No, veterinary hospitals are governed by the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

### ***Are grooming facilities required to obtain a CAW?***

No, unless animals are boarded at the facility for 24 hours.

### ***How do I apply for a Commercial Animal Welfare Permit?***

You can pick up an application at the WCRAS office at 2825-A Longley Lane, Suite A, Reno, Nevada 89502, during normal business hours (Mon-Fri, 8 am.-pm., Saturday, 11 am.- 3pm.), download forms from [washoeanimals.com](http://washoeanimals.com), or call WCRAS at 775-322-3647 and ask for a supervisor. A permit officer can set up a time to meet with you and go over the application packet with you if needed.

### ***What happens after I submit my application packet?***

After WCRAS receives a completed application packet, the application will be reviewed and an inspecting officer will contact you to set up a time for a physical inspection of the facility within 30 days. The inspecting officer will be verifying that the facility meets all applicable requirements set forth in both state (NRS) and Washoe County Code (WCC). If the inspecting officer finds anything that does not meet minimum standards set forth in WCC, they will work with the applicant on a time-frame needed to resolve the issues and then set an inspection date to verify compliance. After the inspecting officer believes the facility is in compliance, they will submit their findings to an animal control supervisor for review.

### ***How long is my permit valid for?***

The permit is valid for one year from the issuance date and is to be renewed annually.

### ***What happens if I do not obtain a commercial animal welfare permit?***

Commercial establishments that are required by WCC to obtain a commercial animal welfare permit and fail to do so are subject to fines, citations and possible business license suspension or revocation.

### ***What is a Program of Veterinary Care (PVC)?***

The PVC will vary depending on the type of business you are conducting and may include written plans that detail disease prevention, protocols for animal injury or disease and after-hour emergencies. WCRAS has a sample PVC document that may be used as an example. In many cases, the boarding contract may meet the criteria required in the PVC. A pet store's standard operating procedure guidelines may meet the criteria required in the PVC. If you have questions about the PVC, please contact WCRAS at 775-322-3647 and ask for a supervisor.

### ***Is there a fee?***

Currently, there is not an adopted fee for the commercial animal welfare permit or renewal.