

BECOMING A LICENSED KENNEL IN GEORGIA

The first step is to make sure that you are in compliance with your local ordinances. Some cities or counties have ordinances that limit the number of animals that a person can have on a property. Having a State license cannot exempt an individual or corporation from having to comply with these ordinances. Your State inspector may require a letter or confirmation from your local government stating that you will not be in violation of any of their ordinances.

You must then fill out the affidavit and citizenship verification document and have it notarized, see: <http://agr.georgia.gov/verification-of-lawful-presence.aspx> , this is a one-time requirement and will not be necessary upon renewing the license each year. You will need to have this information ready to provide to our licensing division at the time of application. You will also need a valid picture I.D. and a means to pay your licensing fee.

Once these steps have been completed, give **the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Companion Animal Section** a call at **404-656-4914**. They will answer any regulatory questions that you may have and will direct you to our online licensing website <http://www.agr.georgia.gov/licensing.aspx> . Utilize the “online login” tab to initiate the application process. If you do not have that capability you may contact our licensing division call center at 855-424-5423. After your application has been submitted and we have all of the required documents and payment of the licensing fee an inspector will contact you and set up a pre-license inspection. Your facility should be in compliance with the **Georgia Animal Protection Act** and be ready for business at the time of the pre-license inspection. The inspector will go over all requirements including record keeping procedures and disease handling protocol. The inspector can provide you with a copy of the **Animal Protection Act rules and regulations** at the time of inspection. They are also available on our website at: <http://agr.georgia.gov/animalprotection.aspx>

After you or your organization has passed the pre-license inspection our licensing division will process the information and issue your Bird Dealer’s license. The license is renewable annually through our licensing division at: <http://agr.georgia.gov/licensing.aspx> .

Throughout the year, our field inspectors conduct unannounced routine inspections on all licensees. They also work any complaints or disease issues that are logged on the facility ASAP.