



Licensing Your Dog

You may obtain, in person, online or by mail a dog license from the City Clerk's Office, at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. The office provides licenses Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.

If you come to City Hall, bring evidence of the dog's most recent rabies vaccine, and evidence that the dog has been spayed or neutered, if applicable.

If you prefer, go to the City's website to download complete instruction or to submit application online. go to www.somervillema.gov, then search for "Dog License."

The fee is \$30.00, or \$20.00 if the dog has been spayed or neutered.



Off-Leash Recreational Areas

The city has designated Three Off-Leash Recreational Areas (OLRAs):

- Nunziato Field (Summer St at Putnam St).
- Ed Leathers Park (Walnut St).
- 0 New Washington St.
- Lincoln Park (Perry St side)

OLRAs are subject to the following Regulations for the safe and lawful enjoyment of Somerville's open space by everyone:

- Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the area.
- No Access from 10 p.m. until 8 a.m.
- No aggressive dogs.
- No excessive barking.
- Dog owners must have leash in hand at all times.
- Dogs must never be left unattended.
- Owners must have their dogs in view and under physical and/or vocal control.
- Owners are legally and financially responsible for their dog's actions.
- Owners must pick up all feces and immediately dispose of them in a trash receptacle.
- Each person is limited to 3 dogs.
- Dogs in heat are not allowed.
- Dogs must be at least 4 months old.
- Dogs must wear a collar with a valid license and be current with all vaccinations.
- Violators of these rules are subject to removal from the area and/or fines.



Dog Friendly Parks

The City has designated Ten Dog-Friendly Parks:

- Bailey Park
- Community Path (including Seven Hills Park)
- Osgood Park
- Palmacci Park
- Perry Park
- Nathan Tufts (Powder House) Park
- Prospect Hill Park
- Quincy Street Open Space
- Seven Hills Park
- Somerville Junction Park

In addition, the State has designated Four Dog-Friendly Parks in Somerville:

- Dilboy Field
- Draw 7 Park
- Foss Park
- Mystic River Reservation

Dog-Friendly Parks are subject to the following Regulations for the safe and lawful enjoyment of Somerville's open space by everyone:

- Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Owners must pick up all feces and immediately dispose of them in a trash receptacle.
- All other park rules apply.

Animal Control Office

The Somerville Animal Control Office was established under M.G.L. Ch. 140, and responsible for:

Responding to all calls about sick, injured or dangerous animals.

Enforcing ordinances regarding animals including cruelty to animals, abandoned or loose animals and animals in city parks.

Quarantining animals that have bitten or been bitten, filling mandate bite reports and following through with any necessary prosecution.

Maintaining the city kennel (unclaimed dogs are required to be held for 7 days), and a viable adoption program.



The City has established two revolving funds to receive donations: one for OLRAs and one for the Animal Shelter. To donate to the OLRAs, send a check payable to "Somerville Unleashed" to the Communications Dept., 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, 02143. To support the Animal Shelter, send a check payable to "Somerville Animal Control" to the Police Dept., 220 Washington Street, Somerville,

Please be advised of the following state laws and municipal ordinances relating to dogs:

All dogs over the age of 6 months must be licensed by the City Clerk's Office, and licenses are valid through December 31 of each year (M.G.L., Ch. 140, Sec. 137).

All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies. (M.G.L., Ch. 140, Sec. 145B)

All dogs must be leashed at all times within the city except in posted Off-Leash Recreational Areas (City Ord. 3-34).

No dogs are allowed in schoolyards and churchyards. (City Ord. 3-32).

No dogs are allowed in city parks at which "No Dogs Allowed" signs are posted (City Ord. 12-51).

All dog owners must pick up after their dogs at all times (City Ord. 3-38).

All dog owners must follow all Off-Leash Recreational Area regulations (City Ord. 3-34).

Animal Control Office

Email

animalcontrol@somervillema.gov

Address

Public Safety Building
220 Washington St
Somerville, MA 02143



Or call/email 311 (outside the city 617-666-3311).

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP IN SOMERVILLE

Open for details on Off Leash
Recreational Areas and Dog-
Friendly Parks

Updated

2026



Jake Wilson
Mayor