

Registering a pet dog in Mumbai is now **legally compulsory**, not just “nice to have”. All pet dogs within Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits must be licensed and an annual pet tax is payable under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888.

Here’s a clear, practical article-style guide you can use or adapt for publication.

1. Why You Must Register Your Dog in Mumbai

Legal requirement

- BMC has made **dog registration and licensing mandatory** under Section 191B of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888.
- Recent BMC guidelines for pet owners and feeders again emphasise that **all pet dogs must be licensed** and vaccinated, with records maintained by owners.

Failing to license your dog can attract penalties and may complicate things if there’s a complaint, a bite incident, or a dispute about ownership.

Public health & animal welfare

- Licensing and pet registration help BMC track vaccination (especially anti-rabies) and plan stray-dog control and welfare programmes.
- It’s also proof of ownership, making it easier for authorities to reunite a lost dog with you.

2. Who Regulates Dog Registration in Mumbai?

Within Mumbai city limits, the authority is the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC / MCGM)**, mainly via its **Veterinary Health Department**.

- Online licensing is done through the official **BMC portal** (portal.mcgm.gov.in).
- Offline licensing is handled at local **BMC ward offices**.

Note: Navi Mumbai (NMMC), Thane (TMC) and other surrounding areas have separate portals and rules. This article is only about **BMC–Mumbai city**.

3. Before You Apply: Eligibility & Checklist

You can apply for a dog license if:

- You **reside within BMC limits** (owner's address must fall in a BMC ward).
- Your dog is **vaccinated against rabies** and other core diseases – rabies vaccination proof is mandatory.
- You have basic ownership proof (purchase/adoption record or a simple self-declaration accepted along with other documents).

Documents typically required

Most guides and BMC-related manuals list the following:

1. **Completed application form** (online or ward-office form).
2. **Owner identity proof** – Aadhaar, Passport, Voter ID, etc.
3. **Address proof** – electricity bill, rent agreement, property tax receipt, etc.
4. **Dog's recent photograph** (passport-size style, side or front profile).
5. **Vaccination certificate** from a registered veterinarian, clearly mentioning:
 - Dog's name, sex, age, breed, colour
 - Date of rabies shot (and validity)
 - Vet's name, registration number and signature
6. **Previous license copy** (only for renewal).

Some ward offices also ask for a short **health/fitness certificate** from the vet; it's safer to carry one.

4. How to Register Your Dog Online with BMC (Step-by-Step)

The online route is usually the easiest and is officially supported by BMC.

Step 1: Go to the BMC portal

Open the official BMC portal: portal.mcgm.gov.in.
Go to **"For Citizens"** → **"Apply"** → **"License - Dog"**.
Click **"Apply"** under the *License–Dog* section (for a new license).

Step 2: Select category & ward

Select **"Individual"** as the category (for personal pet ownership).
Choose your **MCGM ward** from the dropdown (e.g., K/E, H/W, P/S, etc.).

Step 3: Fill in owner details

Enter your **full name, mobile number, email ID, and address**.

Ensure the address matches your proof of residence that you'll upload.

Step 4: Fill in dog details

Enter your dog's:

- Name
- Sex
- Age / date of birth (approximate is acceptable)
- Breed (select from list or "Others")
- Colour & identification marks

Enter **vaccination details** and vet information as asked.

Step 5: Upload documents

Upload scanned copies / clear photos of:

- Owner ID proof
- Address proof
- Dog's vaccination certificate
- Dog's photograph

Confirm all uploads are legible; unclear scans can delay approval.

Step 6: Submit and get reference number

Review all information.

Tick **"I agree to terms and conditions to keep dog"**.

Click **Submit** – a **9-digit reference number** will appear on screen and you'll get an acknowledgement email.

Step 7: BMC scrutiny & approval

Your application goes to BMC officials for verification.

As per the online manual, approval is generally within **about 7 working days**, after which you receive an **approval email**.

Step 8: Pay license fee online

After the approval email, again visit the BMC portal and go to:

For Citizens → Pay → Online Payment.

Enter your **9-digit reference number**, view the payable amount and proceed to the payment gateway.

Pay using your preferred mode (card, net banking, etc.).

Step 9: Download your dog license

On successful payment, you'll see **"Transaction Successful"** on the screen.

BMC sends a **PDF copy of the dog license and payment receipt** to your registered email ID. The license is computer-generated and usually doesn't require a physical signature.

Save the PDF and keep a printout at home.

5. How to Register Offline at Your Ward Office

If you're not comfortable online, you can still do this in person. Guides for Mumbai dog licensing describe a straightforward offline path.

1. Visit your **local BMC ward office** and ask for the **Dog License application form**.
2. Fill in owner and dog details exactly as in the online version.
3. Attach photocopies of:
 - ID proof
 - Address proof
 - Vaccination certificate
 - Dog photo
4. Submit the form at the designated counter, pay the **license fee and applicable pet tax** in cash/cheque or as directed.
5. You'll receive either:
 - A **receipt + later collection date** for the license card, or
 - A **computer-generated license printout**, depending on the ward's system.

Processing time offline varies by ward, but usually ranges from a few days to a couple of weeks.

6. Fees, Validity & Renewal

License fee & annual pet tax

- Third-party guides indicate that **license fees vary** (often a few hundred rupees) based on factors like breed/size and whether it's a new license or renewal.
- New BMC guidelines introduce an **annual tax of about ₹100 per dog** in addition to licensing, aimed at better tracking and public health.

Because amounts can change, always verify the **current fee on the BMC portal or at your ward office**.

Validity and renewal

- Dog licenses in Mumbai are typically **valid for one year** and must be **renewed annually**.
- Renewal can be done:
 - **Online**: via the same BMC portal under *License-Dog* → *Renew* or equivalent option.
 - **Offline**: at the ward office using a renewal form.
- Delay in renewal may lead to **late fees**; some guides warn that defaulters can be charged extra.

7. Updating or Cancelling a Dog License

Life changes, and the license has to match reality.

BMC provides separate online options for:

- **Alteration / Change of details** – e.g.
 - Change of address
 - Change in dog's status (neutered, etc.)
 - Correction in name or breed
- **Cancellation** – if:
 - The dog has died, or
 - You've permanently moved out of BMC limits or transferred ownership

On the portal, under **Dog License**, you'll find options like **Alteration**, **Document Re-upload**, and **Cancel**. For complex cases, ward officials usually guide you.

8. Your Responsibilities After Getting the License

The license is just the start. BMC's 2025 guidelines for pet owners and animal feeders stress ongoing responsibilities:

1. **Keep your dog vaccinated & dewormed**
 - Follow your vet's schedule for rabies boosters and core vaccines.
 - Preserve vaccination records; you may need them for renewal or inspections.
2. **Use a collar and tag**
 - Fix the **BMC registration tag** (if issued) to your dog's collar.
 - Add your **mobile number** on the collar tag so a finder can quickly contact you.
3. **Leash and control in public**
 - Always walk your dog on a leash in public spaces.

- Use a comfortable muzzle if your dog is large, reactive, or if your society's rules require it.
- 4. **Clean up after your pet**
 - Carry poop bags and immediately clean up in public areas – this is repeatedly emphasised in municipal guidelines across cities and helps avoid nuisance complaints.
- 5. **Do not abandon your dog or obstruct feeders**
 - Abandonment can amount to cruelty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
 - BMC explicitly recognises **feeding of street dogs as legal**, subject to hygiene and designated spots.
- 6. **Where to raise grievances / get help**
 - For pet licence issues, vaccination of strays, dog-bite queries or other animal welfare issues, BMC directs citizens to its **veterinary portal and helpline (9635839888)**.

9. Quick FAQ

1. Is dog registration really compulsory in Mumbai?

Yes. BMC has clearly stated that **all pet dogs must be registered and licensed** under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, and that keeping a dog without license is an offence.

2. Can I register my dog online?

Yes. Use the **BMC portal → For Citizens → Apply → License-Dog** and follow the steps above.

3. How much does it cost?

Fee structures vary and may be revised. Third-party legal guides estimate a few hundred rupees for the license plus around **₹100 per year as pet tax** under new BMC rules. Always confirm the latest amount on the portal or with your ward office.

4. What if my dog is adopted or a former stray?

You **can and should** license adopted and former stray dogs. You may use an adoption letter / NGO certificate along with vaccination documents.

5. I live in Navi Mumbai / Thane – is this process the same?

The principle (mandatory license + vaccination + annual renewal) is similar, but you must apply through **your own municipal corporation's portal** (NMMC, TMC, etc.), not BMC.

Registering your dog with BMC feels bureaucratic the first time, but once you've done it, renewal is quick – especially online. Beyond avoiding fines, a license:

- Proves your dog legally “belongs” to you,
- Protects your pet through traceability and vaccination tracking, and
- Helps Mumbai move toward safer, more humane management of pets and strays.

If you'd like, I can now help you turn this into a shorter blog, an infographic script, or a step-by-step checklist you can share with other pet parents.