

## INFORMATION BULLETIN – RST 036

# PET STORES, KENNEL OPERATORS & PET SERVICE PROVIDERS

## THE RETAIL SALES TAX ACT

**Issued: May 2001**

**Revised: July 2024**

This bulletin provides information to help pet stores, kennel operators and pet-service providers apply the retail sales tax (RST) on their sales of pet animals and pet services and supplies.

**Latest Revision:** The revision bar (|) identifies changes to the July 2019 version of this bulletin. For a summary of the changes, refer to the Revision Summary section.

### General Information:

Retail sales of animals, except as listed below and related services are subject to RST.

Businesses whose operations include taxable sales of domestic pets, pet supplies and/or related services listed below must register with the Taxation Division and collect the 7 per cent RST on the total selling price.

### Taxable sales:

The sale of the following is subject to tax:

- All animals, including domestic pets, guard dogs, horses and other working animals, but not:
  - farm livestock raised or kept commercially to produce food for human consumption or for the sale of their hides, hair or furs;
  - dogs that are trained specifically to assist physically disabled persons;
  - horses purchased for farm use; race horses;
- Pet food, including dietary or prescription food;
- Vitamins and dietary supplements;
- Drugs and medicaments for pets;
- Grooming services for pets such as washing, cutting, clipping, trimming, etc.;
- Collars, leashes, cages and other pet supplies;

## **Non-taxable sales:**

The sale of the following is not taxable:

- Boarding or training of pets;
- Breeding services that do not include the sale of an animal;
- Veterinary and other services to treat pets for disease or illness;
- Animal burial, cremation and disposal services.

The fee that charitable or non-profit organizations charge when placing an animal in a new home is generally a recovery of costs for providing interim shelter, care, veterinary and adoption services to the unwanted animals. This type of transaction is not regarded to be a sale and is exempt from RST.

## **Purchases by pet stores, kennel operators and pet service providers:**

Businesses such as pet stores, kennel operators and pet service providers may purchase the following items tax exempt by quoting their RST number to the supplier:

- Animals and other supplies that are for resale;
- Pet food, drugs and medicaments and grooming services that are used for caring of the animals before sale.

Businesses that provide taxable grooming services such as washing, cutting, clipping, trimming, etc. are required to pay RST on their purchases of equipment and tools used in providing those taxable services. Examples include shears, brushes, nail clippers, hair clippers etc. However, goods that come in direct contact with the animal, have a transformative effect while in direct contact and are consumed completely in the performance of a taxable grooming service can be purchased exempt by quoting their RST number to the supplier. Examples include shampoo, replacement razor blades, clipper blades and clipper blade sharpening.

Businesses that provide exempt services listed above must pay the RST on their purchases of pet food, drugs and medicaments and any other supplies used to provide these services. If the tax was not paid on these items when purchasing them, businesses must self-assess the tax and remit it to the Taxation Division.

Kennel operators, pet stores and service providers must pay RST on their purchases of equipment, tools, furniture and fixtures, office equipment and other items used by them in the operation of their business.

## **Registration requirement:**

Small operators with annual taxable sales under \$30,000 are not required to register and collect RST. Instead, these businesses are required to pay RST on all their purchases of goods and services for their own use and for resale. Refer to Notice RST 24-01 – Registration Requirement Eliminated For Small Businesses for additional information.

## REVISION SUMMARY:

- Increasing the small business registration exemption to \$30,000.

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

This bulletin is intended to serve as a guideline and is not all-inclusive. For the specific wording of the law, please refer to The Retail Sales Tax Act and Regulation. Further information may be obtained from:

Manitoba Finance  
Taxation Division  
101 - 401 York Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0P8  
Telephone: 204-945-5603  
Manitoba Toll-Free: 1-800-782-0318  
Fax: 204-945-0896  
E-mail: [MBTax@gov.mb.ca](mailto:MBTax@gov.mb.ca)  
Web Site: <https://www.manitoba.ca/finance/taxation/>

## ONLINE SERVICES:

Our Web site [here](#) provides tax forms and publications about taxes administered by Manitoba Finance, and a link to Manitoba's laws and regulations. Forms and publications can also be obtained by contacting Manitoba Finance.

TAXcess, our online service, [taxcess.gov.mb.ca](http://taxcess.gov.mb.ca) provides a simple, secure way to apply for, and to file, pay and view your Manitoba tax accounts.