

Dog Licensing Fact Sheet

What are the laws?

- All dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year. Licenses go on sale December 1 for the upcoming license year.
- An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the dog is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Prior to obtaining a lifetime license, a dog must have a microchip or tattoo. Discount licenses are available to older adults and people with disabilities.
- All dogs and non-feral cats three months of age and older must be vaccinated against rabies. Booster vaccinations must be administered to maintain lifelong immunity.
- Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.
- Licenses may be purchased through your local county treasurer.

Why get your dog licensed?

- A license is your dog's ticket home.
- If your dog gets lost, a current license is the fastest way for your dog to be reunited with you.
- Stray dogs without current licenses can be taken to shelters far from their homes, and adopted out after 48 hours if no owner is identified.

Where does the money from the purchase of a license go?

- \$1 from each dog license sold is retained by the county treasurer.
- The remaining money helps fund the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

General Dog Law Information

- The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all dogs and puppies in kennels, regulating activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.
- Complaints or tips can be submitted to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement online at www.licenseyourdogPA.com or by contacting your local dog warden.