

Why Should I License My Dog?

Being a dog owner requires all sorts of responsibility and can be quite costly. Consider this: The least expensive aspect of dog ownership is the yearly license fee.

The goal of the licensing programs is two-fold. First, licensing helps prevent against rabies outbreaks by requiring a certificate of vaccination for all dogs over the age of 4 months. More importantly, licensing your pet increases the chance that you will be reunited with your pet in the unfortunate event he or she is lost.



Is Your Pet Vaccinated Against Rabies?

Rabies is a fatal disease that is easily prevented. All pets must be vaccinated against rabies.

Rabies kills humans and is endemic to our area, so rabies vaccination is essential in controlling the spread of the disease and keeping your family protected.

If your animal is exposed to a potentially rabid animal and is overdue for a rabies vaccination, the pet is required to be either euthanized or kept under a strict six-month quarantine.

Whether you have a 3-lb. Yorkie that barely leaves your lap or a 15-year-old cat that has retired to bird-watching from the window, a rabies vaccination is necessary for all pets.



If you love me, please license me!



5 REASONS TO LICENSE YOUR DOG

1. LICENSING: IT'S THE LAW

In most states, it's mandatory to license dogs by the time they are 4 months old. Licenses are renewed yearly, and the tags must be displayed on them at all times.

2. LICENSING COSTS LESS THAN THE PENALTY FOR BEING CAUGHT WITHOUT ONE

If a municipal official finds your dog without a license, you can end up paying a fee of up to \$250! Some cities consider owning an unlicensed dog to be a class IV misdemeanor.

3. LICENSING IMPROVES YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING A LOST DOG BACK

If you're like us, your pet is part of your family. Licensing your dog acts as a form of insurance, enabling animal control officers or a good Samaritan to contact us if your pet becomes lost.

4. LICENSING LETS PEOPLE KNOW YOUR PET'S RABIES VACCINATION IS CURRENT

A dog cannot be licensed unless it is properly vaccinated. Whoever finds your pet will be much more likely to want to handle and care for him/her if they know that he/she's vaccinated.

5. LICENSE FEES HELP SUPPORT ANIMAL CONTROL

The annual fee you pay to license your dog helps to keep shelters running and supports the work of local animal control. By paying to properly license your dog, you are helping to feed and house stray dogs found on the streets within your municipality.



REGISTRATION IS SIMPLE

To obtain a dog license, you will need:

- *Current rabies certificate
- *Proof of spaying/neutering (if applicable)
- * License fee

You must license your dog in the municipality in which you live.

Town of Elmira
1255 W. Water Street
Elmira, NY 14905
607-734-2031

Fee: Altered \$8.50 Unaltered \$16.50