Licensing FAQs

Why does my dog have to be licensed?

First, Connecticut state law requires licensing any dog over the age of six months. Secondly, licensing helps prevent against rabies outbreaks by requiring a certificate of vaccination for all dogs over the age of three months. Thirdly, licensing your pet increases the chance you will be reunited with your pet in the unfortunate event he or she is lost.

What is the benefit to me?

For many people, your pet is a part of your family. Licensing your pet acts as a form of insurance, enabling animal control officers to contact you if your pet becomes lost.

What are the consequences of not licensing my dog?

Neglecting to license your pet can lead to hefty fines down the road. More importantly, pets without a license or microchip will have a more difficult time reuniting with their families.

My pet is microchipped. Do I need to buy a license too?

Yes. Licensing is required by law. Even still, a microchip is invisible to the eye and can go undetected. A license is a good, visible proof of ownership.

How often do I need to license my pet?

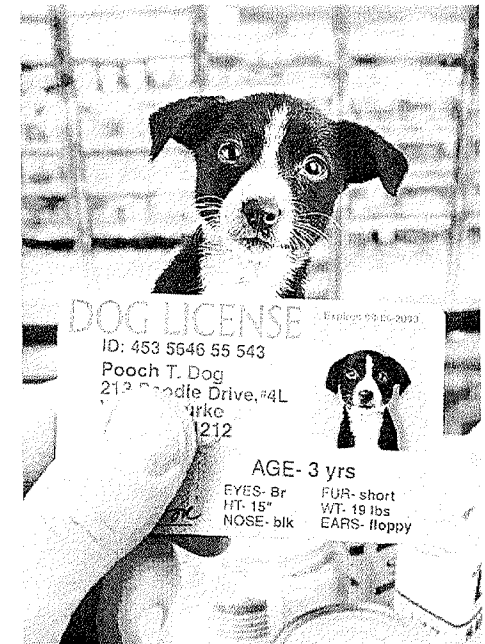Pet owners must license their pet every year. All dog licenses expire June 30th annually.

Licensing your pet is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your pet in the unfortunate event that he or she becomes lost.

Many pets in shelters were once owned, but due to a lack of identification, are never reunited with their families. The unfortunate truth is that some of these pets never find homes and are ultimately euthanized. Licensing your pet increases your chance of being reunited with your pet, which allows animal control to focus on caring for and finding homes for other pets in need.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OR TOWN CLERK

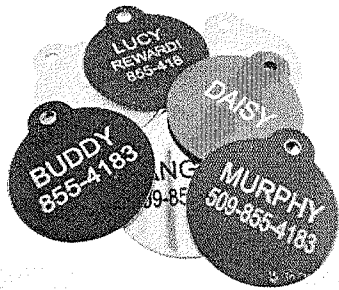---

What are the Benefits of Licensing Your Pet?

THE CONNECTICUT STATE TASK FORCE ON THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL SHELTERS

By licensing your pet, you:

- Increase the chance you will be reunited with your pet in the event that he or she is lost.

- Ensure ownership of your pet, this is especially vital if a fellow citizen finds your lost pet.

- Guarantee that your pet, family, and neighborhood are protected from rabies.

- Provide much needed funding for your city's animal control. Animal Control provides food, shelter, and medical care for your pet if/when he/she is lost.

- Help provide access to low-cost spay/neuter services for low-income residents in your neighborhood.

- Avoid costly fines down the road.

BOTTOM LINE:

More pets licensed mean more pets reunited with owners and fewer pets in shelters where they can be potentially euthanized.

The Purpose of Licenses for Dogs

Many cities and towns in the United States require getting and renewing a dog license yearly.

It is important for dog owners to take full responsibility of their dogs. It is the duty of the dog owner to not only feed and love their furry friend; but to also provide the proper licensing to ensure their dog's protection and legality. Licensing your dog is insurance for you and your family to guarantee you dog is safe, even if they wander away from home.

Because many people live in relatively close proximity in cities, towns and suburbs, and pets can affect the health and well being of the community. Because of this, local governments must regulate pet ownership for everyone's safety.

How Are Licensing Fees Used?

Licensing fees provide revenue for your animal control agency.

The majority of a licensing fee will be used to fund animal control activities, such as picking up and housing stray animals, providing impounded animals with food, water, and necessary medical attention, and making all attempts possible to reunite pets with their owners.

Licensing fees may also be used:

- To subsidize low-cost spay and neuter services for low-income families in the area

- To host adoption events or other community programs designed to spread the word about the wonderful pets available at your local shelter

- To deliver public education and school programs