

Frequently Asked Questions:

Dog Licenses

WHICH DOGS MUST BE LICENSED?

State of New Hampshire RSA 466:1 requires that every owner or keeper of a dog four months old or older shall annually cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed for one year in the city or town in which the dog is kept. Regardless of when the license is obtained, the license shall be effective from May 1st of each year to April 30th of the subsequent year.

WHAT DO I NEED TO LICENSE MY DOG?

State law requires that before a license is issued, the owner or keeper of a dog must furnish proof to the town or city clerk that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies.

New Dog: You need to bring the valid rabies certificate. In addition, if the dog has been spayed or neutered, the owner or keeper needs to furnish the town or city with the proper documentation.

Annual Renewal Registration: Valid copy of rabies certificate must be presented.

By State law, veterinarians are required to notify the town clerk when a rabies vaccination is issued. When this occurs, you will then receive a notice to license your dog from this office if your dog is not already licensed.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Puppy \$6.50 (ages 4-7 months)

Neutered or spayed dogs \$6.50

Unaltered male or female dog \$9.00

Senior citizen dog \$2.00 (owner who is 65 years old or older on the first dog only)

HOW DO I LICENSE MY DOG?

You can register your dog in person at Town Hall in the Registration Office, at 16 Main Street, during regular office hours. You may also register by mail. The application form is available on the Town's web site by clicking on the Forms then Dog License Application. Please follow the instructions on the registration form, include the appropriate fee and mail it to our office.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T LICENSE MY DOG?

Failure to license your dog is a violation of State law. In addition to the annual license fee you will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per month, per dog for each month (or part of month) after June 1st. A civil forfeiture fee may also be assessed in the amount of \$25.00, which is payable within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the notice of failure to register your dog(s). If the forfeiture fee is not paid within that time, a summons to appear in court shall be issued in accordance with State law requirements.

I NO LONGER OWN MY DOG, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 497-8990 ext 107 or email us at sbarrett@ci.goffstown.nh.us
We will then update your record so that you do not receive any future notices.