



# Frequently Asked Questions Dog Licensing

## When does my dog need to be licensed?

Maine State Law Title 7, Chapter 721 requires that dogs be licensed upon reaching the age of 6 months or after it has been with the family for 10 days if adopted. The yearly renewal deadline is December 31st

## Where does my dog need to be licensed?

Dogs need to be licensed in the town of residence.

## What is the cost to license my dog?

For an "altered" or "fixed" dog the cost is \$6.00. For a dog that is not "altered" the cost is \$11.00. There is an additional cost of \$1.00 to license your dog on-line

## What should I do if my dog loses its tag and it's not time to renew the license?

You will need to obtain a new tag from your town office or city hall

## What if I need a special license?

If you are licensing a wolf hybrid, service/search or rescue dog or need to obtain a kennel license, please contact your local municipal office

## Can a dog run "at large" in the State of Maine?

It is unlawful for any dog to run at large except when it is used for hunting. "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person.

## What does my dog license pay for?

When you license your dog you help support the following:

- Local Animal Control Officers and District Humane Agents
- The investigation of animal cruelty complaints and enforcement of animal welfare laws
- Compliance with rabies vaccinations for dogs
- Care for sick and stray animals
- The return of lost dogs to their owners

## What is needed to license my dog?

- Credit card (online)
- Current rabies certificate
- Veterinarian's name and phone number
- Proof of spay or neuter (if your dog has been "fixed")

Contact Animal Welfare Program

(207) 287-3846

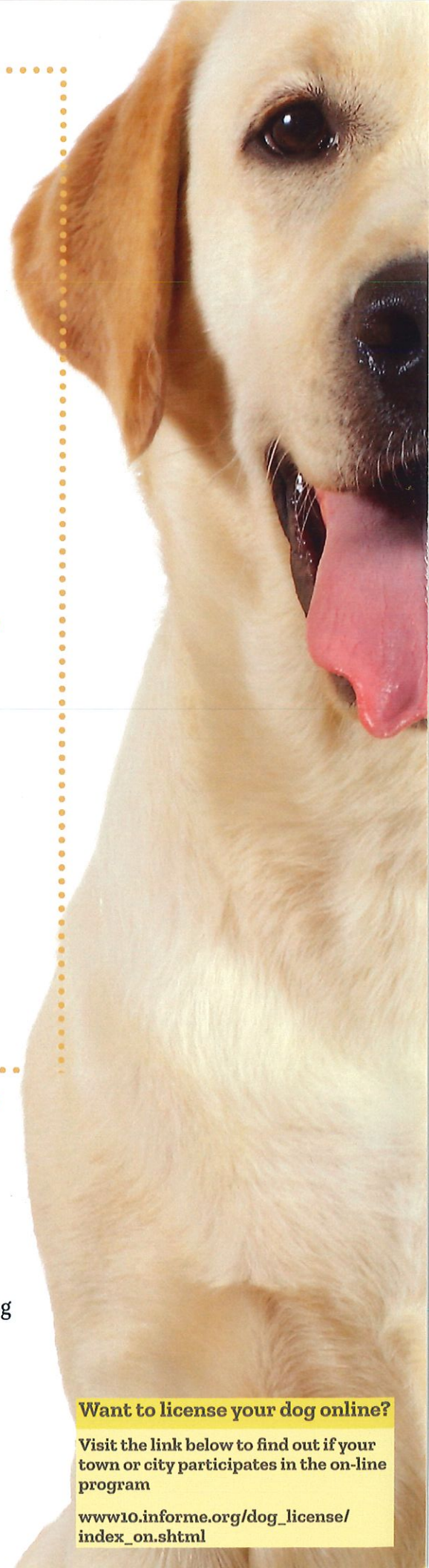
Or email:

[animal.welfare@maine.gov](mailto:animal.welfare@maine.gov)

## Want to license your dog online?

Visit the link below to find out if your town or city participates in the on-line program

[www10.informe.org/dog\\_license/index\\_on.shtml](http://www10.informe.org/dog_license/index_on.shtml)





**Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**  
**Part 9: ANIMAL WELFARE**  
**Chapter 721: DOG LICENSES**

**7§3921. License necessary**

A dog may not be kept within the limits of the State, unless the dog has been licensed by its owner or keeper in accordance with the laws of this State.

Any law enforcement agency within the State, counties or municipalities owning dogs for law enforcement purposes shall be required to license the dogs in the municipality in which they are domiciled, but shall be exempt from any license or recording fee, provided that all other licensing requirements are fulfilled.

**7§3921-A. Permanent identification of wolf hybrids**

The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish methods of identifying wolf hybrids through tattooing, the placement of a microchip under the animal's skin or any other method determined by the commissioner as adequately providing a permanent means of identification on the body of the animal. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. A person may not own or keep a wolf hybrid under section 3921-B, subsection 2 or under Title 12, section 12152 unless the animal has identification in compliance with the rules adopted under this section.

**7§3921-B. Prohibition on keeping a wolf hybrid; exception**

**1. Prohibition.** Except as provided in subsection 2, a person may not keep a wolf hybrid in the State unless that person holds a valid permit to possess wildlife in captivity issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife under Title 12, section 12152.

**2. Exception.** A person keeping a wolf hybrid as a pet and in compliance with all applicable provisions in this Part on June 1, 2011 may continue to keep that wolf hybrid as long as the following conditions are met:

- A. The wolf hybrid has been spayed or neutered; and
- B. The owner continues to license the wolf hybrid in accordance with section 3922, subsection 3-B.

**3. Restrictions on transfer.** A person keeping a wolf hybrid under subsection 2 may transfer ownership of the wolf hybrid to a person:

- A. Holding a permit to possess wildlife under Title 12, section 12152 and authorized to accept wolf hybrids in compliance with rules adopted under Title 12, section 12160, subsection 2;
- B. Who operates an animal refuge in another state that is licensed to accept wolf hybrids; or



C. Who has had direct contact with the wolf hybrid, is familiar with the wolf hybrid's behavior and has been advised of the reporting requirement under subsection 4 and licensing laws under section 3922.

A person transferring ownership of a wolf hybrid under this subsection shall within 10 days of the transfer notify the department and provide the name and address of the person accepting the transfer.

**4. Duty to report death.** The owner of a wolf hybrid kept under subsection 2 shall notify the department of the wolf hybrid's death on a form prescribed by the department within 30 days of the wolf hybrid's death.

**5. Violation.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$2,500 may be adjudged.

### **7§3922. Issuance of license**

**1. License; January 1st.** Each owner or keeper of a dog at the age of 6 months or more, on or before January 1st of each year, shall obtain a license:

**A.** From the clerk of the municipality where the dog is kept;

**B.** From the dog recorder in the unorganized territory where the dog is kept or, in the absence of a duly authorized dog recorder, from a dog recorder in the nearest municipality or unorganized territory in the same county where the dog is kept;

**C.** From a person authorized to issue licenses under section 3923-F; or

**D.** From the department using the Internet in accordance with section 3923-G.

**2. License; after January 1st.** The owner or keeper, within 10 days of the conditions of paragraph A or B being met, shall obtain a license, if between January 1st and October 15th of any year:

**A.** A dog reaches the age of 6 months or more; or

**B.** A person becomes the owner or keeper of a dog aged 6 months or more.

**3. Proof of immunization.** A municipal clerk may not issue a license for a dog until the applicant has filed with the clerk proof that the dog has been immunized against rabies in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, except that the requirement of immunization may be waived by the clerk under conditions set forth by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

The commissioner shall adopt rules that allow the clerk and the commissioner to accept valid proof of immunization against rabies provided by another state.



**3-B. Proof of permanent identification and other restrictions on licensing a wolf hybrid.** A municipal clerk may not issue a license for a wolf hybrid until the applicant has filed with the clerk proof that:

**A.** The wolf hybrid has been permanently identified in accordance with section 3921-A;

**B.** The wolf hybrid has been spayed or neutered; and

**C.** The wolf hybrid was licensed in this State in 2011 by:

(1) June 1, 2011 if the wolf hybrid was 6 months old or older on June 1, 2011; or

(2) December 31, 2011 if the wolf hybrid was less than 6 months old on June 1,

**4. Service dogs.** If a service dog has not been previously registered or licensed by the municipal clerk to whom the application is being made, the clerk may not register the dog nor issue to its owner or keeper a license unless the applicant presents written evidence to the municipal clerk that the dog meets the definition of "service dog." For the purpose of this subsection, "written evidence" means a service dog certification form approved by the department in consultation with the Maine Human Rights Commission.

**5. Form of license.** The license must state the breed, sex, color and markings of the dog, whether the animal is a dog or wolf hybrid, whether the dog has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a dangerous dog or a nuisance dog and the name and address of the owner or keeper. If the person applying for a license declares that the dog is a wolf hybrid, the license must state that the dog is a wolf hybrid. The license must be issued in triplicate and the original must be given to the applicant and the remaining 2 copies must be retained by the municipal clerk or dog recorder.

**6. Designation of wolf hybrid.** An owner or keeper of a dog declared as a wolf hybrid may not change the license designation. A dog that has been declared a wolf hybrid must be treated as a wolf hybrid in accordance with Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 5. The procedure prescribed under Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 5 for a wolf hybrid suspected of having rabies does not change based on proof that the wolf hybrid has received a rabies vaccination.

### **7§3923-A. License and recording fees**

Except as provided in subsection 3 and section 3923-C, a dog owner or keeper obtaining a license from a municipal clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder shall pay the license and recording fees established in this section. For purposes of this section, "dog licensing agent" means an animal shelter or a veterinarian pursuant to section 3923-F.



**1. Dogs capable of producing young.** A dog owner or keeper shall pay a fee of \$11 to the municipal clerk or dog licensing agent for each dog 6 months of age or older and capable of producing young. A dog is considered capable of producing young unless certification under subsection 2 is provided.

The municipal clerk or dog licensing agent shall retain a \$1 recording fee and pay the remaining \$10 to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

**2. Dogs incapable of producing young.** A dog owner shall pay a fee of \$6 to the municipal clerk or a dog licensing agent for each dog 6 months of age or older and incapable of producing young. A dog is considered incapable of producing young when the owner provides the following:

**A.** A written certificate issued by a veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has neutered the dog;

**B.** A written certificate issued by a veterinarian stating that the veterinarian has examined the dog and determined that the dog is incapable of producing young; or

**C.** A previous license stating that the dog is incapable of producing young. The municipal clerk or dog licensing agent shall retain a \$1 recording fee, deposit \$2 in the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945 and pay the remaining \$3 to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

**3. Exemption from fees.** A municipal clerk or a dog licensing agent shall issue a license upon application and without payment of a license fee required under this section for:

**A.** A service dog owned or kept by a person with a physical or mental disability;

**D.** A trained search and rescue dog recognized by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or by the statewide association of search and rescue that cooperates with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in developing standards for search and rescue or such a dog awaiting training; and

**E.** A dog certified by the State and used for law enforcement purposes.

**4. Late fees.** An owner or keeper required to license a dog under section 3922, subsection 1 or section 3923-C, subsection 1 and applying for a license for that dog after January 31st shall pay to the municipal clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder a late fee of \$25 in addition to the annual license fee paid in accordance with subsection 1 or 2 and section 3923-C, subsection 1. The clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder shall deposit all late fees collected under this subsection into the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.



**5. Dogs determined to be dangerous dogs or nuisance dogs by the court.**

The owner or keeper of a dog determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a dangerous dog shall pay a fee of \$100 to the municipal clerk or a dog licensing agent. The municipal clerk or dog licensing agent shall retain a \$1 recording fee, deposit \$98 in the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945 and pay the remaining \$1 to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

The owner or keeper of a dog determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a nuisance dog shall pay a fee of \$30 to the municipal clerk or a dog licensing agent. The municipal clerk or dog licensing agent shall retain a \$1 recording fee, deposit \$28 in the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945 and pay the remaining \$1 to the department for deposit in the Animal Welfare Fund.

A dog determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a dangerous dog or a nuisance dog does not qualify for the exemptions from fees under subsection 3.

An owner or keeper of a dog determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a dangerous dog applying for a license for that dog after January 31st shall pay to the municipal clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder a late fee of \$150 in addition to the annual license fee paid in accordance with this subsection.

An owner or keeper of a dog determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a nuisance dog applying for a license for that dog after January 31st shall pay to the municipal clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder a late fee of \$70 in addition to the annual license fee paid in accordance with this subsection.

The clerk, dog licensing agent or dog recorder shall deposit all late fees collected under this subsection into the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.

**7§3923-B. Tags**

**1. Tags.** The municipal clerk or dog licensing agent shall provide with each new license issued under section 3923-A a tag indicating the year the license is issued and bearing other information prescribed by the department. The owner or keeper shall make sure that the tag is securely attached to a collar of leather, metal or material of comparable strength and that the collar is worn at all times by the dog for which the license was issued, except as provided in subsection 3. If the tag is lost or the owner has moved to a different municipality, the owner or keeper of the dog shall obtain a new license and tag. The municipal clerk or dog licensing agent shall issue another license and tag upon presentation of the original license and payment of \$1. The clerk or agent shall retain the \$1 for a recording fee.



**2-A. Rabies tags.** An owner shall ensure that a rabies tag obtained from a veterinarian for immunization against rabies is securely attached to a collar of leather, metal or material of comparable strength and that the collar is worn at all times by the dog for which the rabies tag was issued, except as provided in subsection 3.

**3. Exceptions.** A dog is not required to wear a tag when on the premises of the owner or off the premises of the owner while hunting, in training or in an exhibition. When a dog is hunting, in training or in an exhibition, its owner or keeper shall produce proof of licensure and proof of rabies immunization within 24 hours upon request by a humane agent, animal control officer or law enforcement officer, including a game warden.

### **7§3923-C. Kennel license**

**1. License necessary.** A person having 5 or more dogs for the purposes set forth in section 3907, subsection 17 shall obtain a kennel license from the clerk of the municipality where the dogs are kept and that person is subject to rules adopted by the department. The sex, registered number and description are not required for the dogs covered by a kennel license. The license expires December 31st annually. The kennel license permits the licensee or authorized agent to transport under control and supervision the kennel dogs in or outside the State.

**2-A. License fees.** A kennel owner shall pay a fee of \$42 to the municipal clerk for each license to keep dogs. A license is needed only for dogs 6 months of age or older. A kennel owner may not keep more than 10 dogs per license. The clerk shall retain \$2 as a recording fee and forward \$10 to the municipality's animal welfare account established pursuant to section 3945 and \$30 to the Animal Welfare Fund.

**3. Form of license.** The license must be issued in triplicate, the original copy of which is given to the applicant and the remaining 2 copies retained by the municipal clerk. A license covers a maximum of 10 dogs.

**4. Kennel tags.** Dogs covered by a kennel license must be furnished suitable kennel tags and stickers that must be attached to the back of the tag indicating the year the license is issued and bearing other information as prescribed by the department and are not required to be individually licensed.

**5. Kennel inspection and quarantine.** Except for a kennel inspected by the department in accordance with chapter 723, an animal control officer must inspect annually a kennel prior to the municipality issuing a kennel license. In addition to the annual inspection required under this subsection, an animal control officer, at any reasonable time, escorted by the kennel owner or the kennel owner's agent, may inspect the kennel. Inspections must be conducted in accordance with the sanitation and health rules established by the department for compliance with laws and rules. In conducting inspections, an animal control officer must use measures established by the department through rulemaking to prevent the spread of



infectious and contagious diseases. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. A veterinarian employed by the State or any licensed veterinarian may quarantine the kennel in person or by registered mail and the quarantine must be maintained as long as the veterinarian determines necessary. The decision and order for this quarantine is not considered a licensing or an adjudicatory proceeding as defined by the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

**6. Late fees.** A late fee of \$25 in addition to the annual fee must be paid by a person who fails to obtain a municipal kennel license by January 31st of each year as required in this section. The late fee must be deposited in the municipality's animal welfare account established pursuant to section 3945.

#### **7§3923-D. Temporary licenses**

An animal shelter may issue a temporary dog license when transferring ownership vested in the animal shelter under section 3913, subsection 4 to a person buying or otherwise accepting ownership. The department shall provide animal shelters with temporary license forms. The animal shelter shall complete all information prescribed on the form, provide the owner with the original temporary license and submit the copy for the municipal clerk and the animal control officer to the appropriate municipal clerk. The animal shelter may retain a copy of the temporary license to comply with section 3914. A temporary license is valid for a period of 10 days beginning on the date of issuance. An animal shelter may charge \$1 for issuing a temporary license.

#### **7§3923-E. Monthly report**

Municipal clerks or dog recorders shall receive the license fees in accordance with sections 3923-A and 3923-C, pay them to the department and make a monthly report to the department on a department-approved form of all licenses issued and fees received.

#### **7§3923-F. Veterinarian or animal shelter serving as dog licensing agent**

The commissioner may authorize an animal shelter licensed in accordance with chapter 723 and a veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, chapter 71-A to issue dog licenses under section 3923-A. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The rules must provide a process for identifying animal shelters and veterinarians who are willing to serve as dog licensing agents for distributing license blanks, tags and stickers, and for the collection, distribution and deposit of license fees into the appropriate state accounts.



## **7§3923-G. Internet licensing project**

**1. Procedure developed; municipality participation.** The commissioner may develop and implement a procedure by which a dog owner can electronically apply for and be issued a dog license using a publicly accessible site on the Internet. A municipality may choose to participate in the electronic dog licensing project by contacting and working with the commissioner. Electronic licensing is available only to residents of a municipality that requests and is accepted by the commissioner to participate in the electronic licensing project. The commissioner may limit the number of municipalities that participate in the project.

**2. Forms; verification of rabies immunization.** The commissioner shall develop a form to be used for electronic licensing under this section. The commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to establish the information needed to verify rabies immunization.

**3. Payment of licensing fee.** The commissioner shall establish a mechanism for accepting payment of license fees by credit card. An owner or keeper who applies for a dog license using the publicly accessible site on the Internet developed pursuant to subsection 1 shall pay the fee required under section 3923-A and an additional service fee of \$1 for each license to cover administrative costs and pay the Internet service provider.

**4. Distribution of licensing fee.** The commissioner shall deposit all fees received under this section into the Animal Welfare Fund. The commissioner shall establish procedures for participating municipalities to periodically receive the appropriate credit or payment for license fees collected by the department under this section. A municipality is entitled to a payment or credit of \$3 for each dog licensed under this section. All payments or credits received by a municipality must be deposited or credited to the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.

**6. Exclusion of wolf hybrids.** This section does not apply to the licensing of a wolf hybrid. A person owning a wolf hybrid shall obtain a license from the municipal clerk or the dog recorder for the municipality, plantation or unorganized territory in which the person owning the wolf hybrid resides.

## **7§3924. Violation**

**1. Civil violation.** Any person who violates any section of this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$100 may be adjudged.

**2. Unlawful use of collar or tag.** A person who removes a tag or who places a tag on a dog for which the license was not issued commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.



**7§3925. Dog licensing database.** The department shall develop and implement a dog licensing database in coordination with any electronic dog licensing project implemented pursuant to section 3923-G. The database must track all dog licensing throughout the State and allow municipalities and animal control officers to reunite lost dogs with owners and track dogs that have been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be dangerous dogs and nuisance dogs pursuant to chapter 727. The department shall provide all municipalities and dog licensing agents with access to the database at no cost.



**Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**  
**Part 9: ANIMAL WELFARE**  
**Chapter 725: MUNICIPAL DUTIES**

**7§3941. Posting of law**

Municipal clerks, annually, at least 20 days before January 1st, shall post copies of chapter 721 and this chapter in the municipal offices.

**7§3942. Issuance of dog licenses**

Municipal clerks shall issue dog licenses in accordance with chapter 721, receive the license fees and pay to the department \$10 for dogs capable of producing young and \$3 from each license fee received for dogs incapable of producing young. The clerks shall keep a record of all licenses issued by them, with the names of the owners or keepers of dogs licensed and the sex, registered numbers and description of all dogs except those covered by a kennel license and whether the dogs have been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be dangerous dogs or nuisance dogs. The clerks shall make a monthly report to the department on a department-approved form of all dog licenses issued and fees received.

The clerk shall retain \$1 from each license fee as a recording fee. The clerk shall deposit \$2 from each license for a dog incapable of producing young in the municipality's animal welfare account established in accordance with section 3945.

**7§3944. Issuance of kennel licenses**

Municipal clerks and dog recorders shall issue kennel licenses to kennel owners or operators in accordance with section 3923-C.

**7§3945. Use of license fees and court fines retained by municipalities**

Except for the \$1 recording fee pursuant to section 3942 retained by the municipal clerk, all fees and court fines retained by municipalities must be kept in a separate account and must be used for the salaries and costs of animal control, enforcement of licensing laws, care of stray animals that are injured or abandoned and the support of one or more approved animal shelters. Any money not expended for these purposes in a municipality's fiscal year does not lapse, but must be carried over to the next fiscal year.

**7§3946. Dog recorders in unorganized territories**

Dog recorders appointed by the commissioner in unorganized territories shall issue dog licenses, receive the license fees and pay them to the department. The recorders shall keep the clerk's copy of all licenses issued by them and make reports to the department on a form approved by the department of all licenses



issued and fees received. The recorders shall report following each month in which licenses are actually issued and fees are actually collected.

### **7§3947. Animal control officers**

Each municipality shall appoint one or more animal control officers whose duties are enforcement of sections 3911(*Dogs at Large*), 3912(*Disposition of Dogs at Large*), 3916(*Rabies Vaccinations*), 3921(*Dog Licenses Necessary*), 3924(*Violations*), 3948(*Animal Control*), 3950(*Local Regulations*), 3950-A(*Official Refusal or Neglect of Duty*), 3952-A (*Keeping a Dangerous or Nuisance Dog*) and 4041(*Animal Trespass*) and 4042 (*Stray Livestock*) and Title 17, section 1023(*Investigating Animal Cruelty*), responding to reports of animals suspected of having rabies in accordance with Title 22, sections 1313(*Suspect Animals*) and 1313-A(*Destruction of Suspect Animals*) and any other duties to control animals as the municipality may require. A municipality may appoint an employee of an animal shelter as an animal control officer as long as the person meets the qualifications and training requirements of this section.

A municipality may not appoint a person to the position of animal control officer who has been convicted of murder, a Class A or Class B offense or a violation of Title 17-A, chapter 9, 11, 12 or 13 or has been convicted of a criminal violation under Title 17, chapter 42 or has been adjudicated of a civil violation for cruelty to animals under chapter 739 or who has been convicted or adjudicated in any other state, provincial or federal court of a violation similar to those specified in this section.

Animal control officers must be certified in accordance with section 3906-B, subsection 4. Upon initial appointment, an animal control officer must complete basic training and be certified by the commissioner within 6 months of appointment.

An animal control officer must attend advanced training programs as described under section 3906-B, subsection 4 to maintain certification. An animal control officer must have a minimum of 8 hours of training each year.

Upon appointment of an animal control officer, municipal clerks shall notify the commissioner of the name, address and telephone number of the animal control officer within 10 business days. In the event the position is vacant upon termination or resignation of the animal control officer, the municipal clerk shall notify the commissioner within 10 business days of the vacancy.

### **7§3948. Animal control**

**1. Control.** Municipalities shall control dogs running at large.

**2. Medical attention.** Law enforcement officers and animal control officers shall take a stray animal to its owner, if known, or, if the owner is unknown, shall ensure



that any injured companion animal that is at large or in a public way is given proper medical attention.

**3. Domesticated and undomesticated animals.** A municipality shall control domesticated animals that are a cause of complaint in the community. A municipality shall control animals that pose a threat to public health or safety. A municipality may control undomesticated animals in matters on which no other department is charged by law to regulate.

**4. Reporting.** By January 31st of each year, a municipality shall report to the animal welfare program of the department all complaints related to animal control incidents for the prior calendar year. The report must include the number and type of animal complaints received and responded to by municipal animal control officers, law enforcement officers or municipal officials and the outcomes of each investigation. The reports must be on forms provided by the department.

### **7§3949. Animal shelter designation**

Municipal clerks, annually, on or before April 1st, shall certify to the commissioner the name and location of the animal shelter with which the municipality has entered into a contract to accept stray animals or have an arrangement for an animal shelter that will accept stray animals. Animal shelters designated by the municipality under this section must comply with commissioner rules.

A municipality may contract with an animal shelter licensed under section 3932-A for other animal control services. A municipality may not contract with a shelter for the performance of the duties of an animal control officer as specified in section 3947 unless an employee of that shelter is the appointed animal control officer for that municipality and the duties of an animal control officer are performed by the person so appointed.

### **7§3950. Local regulations**

Each municipality is empowered to adopt or retain more stringent ordinances, laws or regulations dealing with the subject matter of this chapter, including the establishment of fees necessary and appropriate to finance the cost of animal control services, except that municipalities may not adopt breed-specific ordinances, laws or regulations. Any less restrictive municipal ordinances, laws or regulations are invalid and of no force and effect.

**1. Certain agricultural working dogs exempt from barking dog ordinances.** A municipal ordinance, law or regulation that prohibits or limits barking dogs does not apply to dogs engaged in herding livestock or to agricultural guard dogs engaged in protecting livestock or warning the owners of danger to the livestock. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "livestock" has the same meaning as in section 3907, subsection 18-A.



## **7§3950-A. Official refusal or neglect of duty**

**1. Violation.** A mayor, municipal officer, clerk, town or city manager, administrative assistant to the mayor, town or city councilor, dog recorder of unorganized territories, constable, police officer, sheriff or animal control officer commits a civil violation if that person refuses or intentionally fails to perform the duties imposed by:

- A. This chapter;
- B. Chapter 719; *Uncontrolled Dogs*
- C. Chapter 720; *Rabies Prevention*
- D. Chapter 721; *Dog Licensing*
- E. Chapter 725; *Municipal Duties* or
- F. Chapter 727. *Dangerous Dogs*

**2. Penalty.** A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 and costs may be adjudged.

**3. Investigation.** The commissioner, at the commissioner's own instance or upon written complaint made to the commissioner by another person, shall investigate an alleged refusal or neglect of duty by a municipal officer.

**4. Prosecution.** The commissioner shall direct proceedings, actions and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce all laws relating to animals and to the liability of municipal officers and their agents for failure, neglect or refusal to comply with the laws relating to animals.

## **7§3950-B. Euthanasia for severely sick or severely injured livestock**

**1. Written authorization.** A humane agent, animal control officer or animal shelter may authorize in writing the euthanasia of severely sick or severely injured livestock under the following conditions:

A. The clerk or animal control officer of the municipality in which the livestock was found has been notified of the livestock's presence and a reasonable attempt to contact the owner of the livestock has been made;  
and

B. A veterinarian states in writing that given reasonable time and reasonable care the livestock's recovery from the livestock's sickness or injury is doubtful.

**2. Immediate euthanasia.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, paragraphs A and B, a veterinarian may authorize immediate euthanasia if, in the veterinarian's judgment, there is no possibility of recovery for severely sick or severely injured livestock.