

Animal Control Report

Dog licensing ensures that your dog has a rabies vaccination which protects your pets and the public. Just think about your unvaccinated dog being outside unattended and it gets bitten or scratched by a rabid animal. You may not know it even happened and then your dog bites or scratches a person. That person may now have to have immunoglobulin shots which are painful and can cost between \$20,000 to \$30,000.

All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed in your municipality. Licenses expire on December 31st of each year and must be renewed by January 31 after which time there will be a \$25 late fee. License fees are \$6 for altered dogs, for which the town gets \$3 and \$11 for unaltered dogs which the town gets \$1. The money that is sent to state goes to the Animal Welfare Program to help prevent animal cruelty and abuse.

For those who choose not to license their dogs, a summons can be issued for failure to get a rabies shot or failure to license your dog. Each offense can carry a fine of up to \$100 plus surcharge of 20% and court cost of \$35. In the past couple of years Covid has kept us from being aggressive in pursuing those who do not get rabies vaccinations or licensing their dogs. We will now enforce those laws as permitted.

Respectfully submitted

Noel C Sirabella, ACO

