

To: **All Shutesbury Dog Owners**
From: Shutesbury Town Clerk
Subject: **Dog Licenses**

The dog license cycle is July 1 of each year to June 30 of the following year. **Re-licensing prior to August 1 each year avoids the \$5 fine imposed on late renewals.** Licensing your dog is required by state law and town bylaw.

REGISTRATION BY MAIL IS AN EASY WAY TO LICENSE YOUR DOG. If you prefer, you are welcome to come to the Town Clerk's office to license your dog Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call ahead to confirm the hours 259-1204.

TO UTILIZE THE MAIL-IN LICENSING OPTION:

1. Complete all information on the form. (search for printable Dog License on homepage)
2. **ENCLOSE** documentation of **current rabies vaccination.**
Enclose documentation of **spaying/neutering if this is a FIRST Shutesbury license** for your dog or if such status has changed in the previous year. (These documents will be returned with your tag & license.)
 1. Enclose a check for the appropriate amount as listed on the form, and made payable to: "Town of Shutesbury".
 2. **Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. (two first-class stamps)**
5. Mail to: Town Clerk
PO Box 264
Shutesbury, MA 01072

If you licensed a dog last year but no longer own it, it has died, or you have other special situations or questions, please call Town Clerk's Office at 259-1204. Calls will be returned if you leave a message.

REMEMBER: Shutesbury has a leash law and enforces it. Your dog must be on a leash or under reliable voice command when it leaves your property.

SYMPTOMS OF RABIES: RABIES MAY AFFECT YOUR DOG OR CAT; RACCOONS, FOXES, SKUNKS OR VARIOUS OTHER MAMMALS. RABIES IS A VIRAL DISEASE OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD) THAT IS ALMOST ALWAYS FATAL. THE RABIES VIRUS LIVES IN THE SALIVA AND OTHER BODY FLUIDS OF INFECTED ANIMALS AND IS SPREAD WHEN THEY BITE OR SCRATCH. THE VIRUS CAN ALSO BE SPREAD IF ONE OF THESE BODY FLUIDS TOUCHES BROKEN SKIN OR A MUCOUS MEMBRANE (IN THE MOUTH, NOSE OR EYES).

Some possible signs of rabies are unexplained aggression, impaired locomotion, varying degrees of paralysis, extreme depression, or viciousness. The signs vary in animals; some will display attack-like behavior while others appear sick or dazed. Other possible signs are peculiarly "bright" eyes due to dilated pupils; restlessness; an abnormal show of affection; difficulty in swallowing; a wheezing sound as if something is caught in the throat; high-pitched, hound-like howling; snapping the jaws at imaginary objects or in response to loud sounds; and running about, or over long distances, aimlessly. Depending upon the type and stage of rabies, some combination, and even none of these signs may be present. Wild animals showing no fear of man should be reported.

EXCERPT OF TOWN BYLAW: Owners must – License dogs at six months of age; within 30 days of arrival in Town; relicense within 30 days of July 1st, maintain a collar or harness on the dog; maintain the issued license tag and rabies tag on the collar; maintain current rabies vaccination; maintain control of the dog beyond the confines of their property by leash or voice command. Dogs off property without owner control are subject to capture, impound, fees and fines.

NOTE: License tag contains a phone number for assistance in locating a dog's owner or missing dog. For emergencies call Police Dispatch at 625-8200.