

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

The dog license cycle is JANUARY 1st of each year to DECEMBER 31st. (Calendar year). **Re-licensing prior to FEBRUARY 1st each year avoids the \$5 fine imposed on late renewals.** Licensing your dog is required by state law and town bylaw.

Dog licensing can be done in person at the Town Clerk's office or by mail. Your completed form, rabies certificate (if new), and fee can be dropped off and tags can be picked up at the Town Clerk's door to avoid postage costs.

To obtain a Dog License Application by mail, please enclose:

- the completed form on the other side of this letter
- a copy of a new rabies certificate or for a new dog's registration. I have all other certificates already on file.
- a check payable (**black ink required**) to "Town of Shutesbury" for the appropriate amount
- a self-addressed envelope with two first-class stamps (due to bulkiness)
- Mail to: Town Clerk
PO Box 264
Shutesbury, MA 01072

If you no longer own a dog, please call the Town Clerk at (413) 259-1204. I will return your call if you leave your name and a phone number.

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 behaviors 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.

NOTE: License tag contains a phone number (413-259-1279) for assistance in locating a dog's owner or missing dog.

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.

EXCERPT OF TOWN BYLAW: Owners must -- License dogs at six months of age; within 30 days of arrival in Town; re-license within 30 days of January 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.