

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets Article 7 relates to the licensing, identification and control of dogs and the animal population control program in New York State and is administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets.

What dogs must be licensed?

Every dog owned or harbored in New York State for longer than 30 days and is 4 months of age or older.

How to license your dog

Applications for Dog licenses are available and issued in the Town Clerk's office. All dogs harbored in the Town or Village are subject to licensing.

Dogs classified as service dogs, guide dogs, war dogs, hearing dogs and law enforcement dogs are exempt from license fees only when satisfactory proof of training and use is provided to the issuing Clerk.

All license applications must be accompanied by a current rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian. The certificate must indicate, breed of dog, dog's name age and indicate if the vaccination is for one or three years.

Only a signed statement from a licensed veterinarian identifying the dog along with a medical reason why the animal should not be vaccinated against rabies will be accepted as an exemption.

All dogs spayed or neutered will be charged a reduced fee after provided proof such as a signed certificate indicating, dog's name, breed, age, sex, date of surgery and name of veterinarian performing the surgery.

After the appropriate certificates and application information is provided to the Clerk along with payment, will the license be issued.

The owner/harbored will received an identification tag with the permanent license number for the particular dog. This is the only tag that will be provided. Because the identification number is assigned to the dog for its entire life if it remains in New York State, it is the only tag that will be issued. If the tag is lost, it may be replaced at anytime by ordering it at the Town Clerks' office.

The Tag must be affixed to the dogs collar.

Regardless of circumstances after a license is validated, no refund will be issued.

How to change a license

To ensure the accuracy of license records, it is essential that any change to the information on the license be provided to the licensing agent who will notify the State of the changes. Due to the time a change is submitted and when the State prints the renewals, you may not receive a corrected renewal form. Also, in the case that an animal is reported deceased, the owner might still receive a notice to renew. Please accept our apologies.

License Fees

Unspayed/Unneutered - **\$17.50**

Spayed/Neutered - **\$9.50**

Checks payable to "Owego Town Clerk"

Exempt licenses are free. HOWEVER,

the license must be issued and renewed.

License renewals are mailed by the State. The Dog Control Officer issues reminders during the month following the expiration.

Distribution of Dog License Monies

Any local fees imposed in the cost of the license are retained by the Town for the purpose of Dog Control Services & law enforcement.

53% of the State portion of the license fee is also retained by the Town.

30% is sent to the County to reimburse livestock animal owners for damage caused by dogs.

17% is forwarded to the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to provide all necessary supplies to licensing agents and to maintain the central database of licensed dogs. Ten cents from the State's 17% is forwarded to Cornell Veterinary College for dog disease studies.

If your dog is lost or you find a lost dog, immediately contact your local Dog Control Officer at 687-4039. A dog that is properly identified will provide the Dog Control Officer with the information necessary to reunite the dog with its owner.

For further information please contact:

Town of Owego Dog Control - 687-4039
Town Clerk - 687-2194

