

Why must I license my dog?

It is the law!! Both California State Law and Eureka Municipal Code require that your dog has an active rabies vaccination and be licensed. If you do not license your dog, you may be issued a citation, and you will incur extra fees and fines that will not “go away” simply by ignoring them. By licensing your dog, you are being a responsible citizen and member of your community.

Dog licensing provides a required central registry of rabies vaccinations which becomes critical in dog bite incidents, and in the event of a rabies outbreak

Licensing is the easiest and most efficient way for you to be reunited with your pet if it gets lost.

My dog always stays in my house or yard. Does it have to be licensed?

Yes. All dogs, regardless if they never leave the yard, must be licensed. You would be surprised how many animals are impounded every month and the owner says, "But it has never been out before!" Dogs have a way of getting out through gates accidentally left open or by digging under fences. Also, loud noises, such as fireworks, and natural disasters like an earthquake or fire may cause your pet to flee the safety of your property. Having a dog license on its collar will help reunite your lost pet with you and helps ensure a healthy pet and human population.

Why is it so much more for an un-spayed/un-neutered dog?

Your dog's licensing fee is based on your dog's ability to breed, not on its size or pedigree. By not spaying or neutering your pet, you incur a larger portion of responsibility for pet overpopulation, and the need to maintain an animal shelter. A dog's basic instinct to breed often outweighs even a responsible owner's ability to prevent it.

Why should I spay/neuter my pet?

First and foremost, animal overpopulation is a huge problem in our community. Even well intentioned, “responsible” breeders can not predict what will happen to an animal after it has gone to a new home, and many of these dogs end up in the animal shelter. Many dogs are very difficult to place, either due to breed, size, temperament, health, or age. It is your responsibility to help prevent this problem.

Spaying/neutering also causes your dog to experience less stress, decreases the risk of many diseases and cancers, and may prolong your dog's life. It also creates a more obedient, even-tempered, less aggressive, and happier pet, which is less likely to run away.

If you can't afford to spay/neuter your dog, there are several local programs that may be able to defray most of the cost. Please contact our office at (707) 441-4120 or contact your veterinarian for more information.

How are my license fees used?

The City of Eureka pays \$13,989.00 a month as its share of maintaining the Humboldt County Animal Shelter. Licensing fees help defray that cost.