

## **PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER- LICENSE YOUR DOG**

In New Jersey, dogs must be licensed annually, once they reach 7 months of age. It is very important to license your dog for several reasons. First, the licensing renewal every year reminds dog owners to make sure their pets have up to date rabies vaccinations. This is very important since New Jersey now has the rabies virus present in wild mammals. Any contact between a dog and wild mammals- and this includes bats, could put your dog at risk of coming down with rabies. Rabies is fatal and can be passed on to humans.

Secondly, if your dog gets loose, the quickest way home is with a license tag. The number on the tag can be called in to the Township or animal control officer, and your dog can get home more quickly.

Thirdly, should your dog be picked up by someone, they are assured that your dog has a rabies vaccine if the license is current. This makes them more willing to handle your dog and keep it safe for you. It also shows that you are a responsible pet owner.

Lastly, should your dog be involved in a bite to a human, or a fight with another dog, the license information can be readily given to the victim so that they are sure that your dog has a rabies vaccination. This is very important information, and reassuring to anyone involved in a bite incident.

In order to license your dog, you must have a rabies vaccine that is current for at least 10 months of the licensing year- through October 31. This is a NJ requirement. This is to prevent the mistake of forgetting to update rabies shots before the year end. If your dog's rabies vaccination expires before Oct 31 of the licensing year, you will need to have your dog revaccinated and it will not hurt your dog to get the vaccination earlier than needed. If you have any doubts about that, please speak to your veterinarian. The first rabies vaccination is good for one year, but subsequent vaccinations are good for 3 years.

Once your dog is licensed for the first time in Hillsborough, you will receive a renewal form in the mail for the subsequent year's license. Each time- for new

licenses and renewals, you must submit proof of rabies vaccination (current through Oct. 31), and neutering (unless your dog is not neutered).

**FIRST TIME DOG LICENSE:** For the first time you license your dog, you will need to fill out the “Municipal Animal License New Dog Application”. This form is attached and also can be found by going to the website: [www.hillsborough-nj.org](http://www.hillsborough-nj.org) and clicking on eGov in the center of the page, and then clicking on “Form Center”, and scrolling down to Health Department, where you will see “New Dog Application”. Then print the form, fill it out and send it to the Hillsborough Township Animal Licensing, 379 South Branch Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844, along with the payment and proof of rabies vaccination and neutering.

**RENEWALS:** For license renewals, you will receive a form in the mail with instructions to send it in, or you can do the license renewal online:

**FOR LICENSE RENEWALS ONLINE, GO TO THE HILLSBOROUGH WEBSITE –** [www.hillsborough-nj.org](http://www.hillsborough-nj.org). Then click on eGov and go to online payments, and dog license.

If you have licensed your dog in the past, and then forgot to license for a period of time, you must speak with the Hillsborough Township Finance Office to relicense for the current year because they must adjust the information already in the computer system. Please call them at: 908-369-8672.

- For information about taking care of your dog- from behavior to safe food, please see [www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/) .
- For information on Hillsborough Township dog laws, please see the website and click on eGov and then click on Township Code Online. Go to Chapter 117, “Animals” for information.
- Also, please see the NJ Dog Law information – Licensing at: [www.nj.gov/nj/community/animal](http://www.nj.gov/nj/community/animal)
- And NJ Vicious Dog Law at: [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/vetmed/ViciousDoglaw.pdf](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/vetmed/ViciousDoglaw.pdf)

