



# 2017 Dog Licensing Campaign

## *Communications Toolkit*

[www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com)



**LICENSE YOUR DOG.**

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## Introduction

### Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is responsible for ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The office also regulates activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

### Our state dog wardens:

- Enforce licensing and rabies laws
- Seize and detain any dog viewed running at large without its owner
- Investigate dog bites and establish and enforce quarantine of dogs
- Enforce kennel licensing and regulations through at least two inspections each year of every licensed kennel
- Maintain a registry of dogs declared dangerous by a magisterial district judge and perform dangerous dog inspections
- Prosecute dog law violations in court
- Provide educational services about dog ownership

### Pennsylvania's Rabies Law:

Ignoring Pennsylvania's rabies vaccination law can be costly – in more ways than one. Dogs and cats are exposed to the rabies virus through wild and stray animals, posing a threat to their health and yours.

- Dogs and cats three months or older must have a current rabies vaccination.
- Owners of non-vaccinated pets may be fined up to \$300, plus court costs.
- Licensed veterinarians can vaccinate dogs and provide a vaccination certificate.
- Dog wardens perform random checks to ensure rabies vaccinations are current.

### License Your Dog. It's the Law:

- All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year.
- Owners of non-licensed dogs can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per dog, plus court costs.
- Dog wardens randomly canvass neighborhoods to ensure all dogs are licensed. Violators may be fined.
- If your dog gets lost, a current license is the fastest way to get your dog back home.
- Licensing fees help protect the millions of dogs in Pennsylvania by funding the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.
- Purchase a license from your local county treasurer or issuing agent.
- An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If your dog is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

### Pennsylvania's Dog Laws:

- If your dog is not licensed, you may be fined up to \$300 per dog. Get a license at your county treasurer's office.
- Your dog must be under control and supervised at all times. You are responsible for any damages caused by your dog on someone else's property.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse animals. Report suspected abuse to your local humane organization or police.
- Purposely poisoning a dog, whether it is yours or someone else's, is illegal.
- You may not abandon or attempt to abandon any dog. You could be fined \$1,000, plus court costs.
- Puppies under eight weeks old cannot be bartered, traded, sold or transferred.
- You must have a kennel license if you keep, sell, transfer, adopt or foster 26 or more dogs in a calendar year.
- If your dog attacks or kills a human or domestic animal without provocation, it may be considered dangerous. You may face extensive fines and restrictions.

## Social Media

Tweets and FaceBook posts are great ways to raise public awareness about dog licensing and the campaign for 2017. All posts related to dog licensing should use the hashtag #LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog.

We've created some suggested posts for you to share on your pages as you see fit. You may also follow us on Twitter (@PAgriculture) or like us on FaceBook (fb.com/PADeptofAg) and share our posts promoting the campaign.

**Twitter Suggestions:** (images for actual use on social are attached separately)

A dog license dramatically increases your chances of getting them back if they go missing. *(Insert method for acquiring license here)* #LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



All dogs, three months and older, must be licensed by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. *(Insert your method for acquiring a dog license here)* #LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



**Generic Tweets:**

We've got your 2017 dog licenses! Stop in and purchase your license today!  
#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog

Your dog is a member of the family, give them the gift that keeps on giving – 2017 licenses now on sale! #LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog

#DYK that a dog license is the fastest way to bring your dog home, should they ever get lost? 2017 licenses now available! #LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog

A small action with a big impact – purchase your 2017 dog license today, keep your dog safe  
#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog

**Images to accompany generic tweets:**

(images for actual use on social media are attached separately)



**Facebook:** (images for actual use on social media are attached separately)

Give your dog the gift of security. Licensing your dog dramatically increases your chances of getting them back if they go missing. 2017 licenses are now available through your local county treasurer's office! All dogs, three months and older, must be licensed by January 1<sup>st</sup>. *(Insert your method for acquiring a dog license here – online, mail a form, come to the office, etc)*  
#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION A LOST DOG  
*may never make it home.*

*License your dog by January 1st: [www.licenseyourdogpa.com](http://www.licenseyourdogpa.com)*

All dogs, three months and older, must be licensed by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. *(Insert your method for acquiring a dog license here – online, mail a form, come to the office, etc)*  
#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



## Sample Content for Newsletters and Websites

### License Your Dog in PA

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation, plus court costs.

An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

The small license fee helps protect the millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

Dog licenses are available from your local county treasurer and other licensing agents.

Reasons for dog licensing:

- **It's the law.** All dogs three months and older must have a current license.
- **If your dog gets lost, a license is the best way to get him back.** A license helps animal control and shelters identify your dog and get him back home safely.
- **The cost of a license is less than the penalty for being caught without one.** Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.
- **License fees support animal control.** The annual fee you pay to license your dog helps keep shelters running and supports the work of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations.



## Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Month 00, 2016

### **Dog Licenses for 2017 Now Available at County Treasurers' Offices; All Dogs Must be Licensed by Jan. 1**

**Harrisburg** – Pennsylvanians can now purchase 2017 dog licenses from their county treasurers. State law requires all dogs three months and older to be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year.

“Include a quote from the county treasurer.”

An annual dog license is \$8.50, or \$6.50 if the animal is spayed or neutered. Lifetime licenses are available for dogs that have permanent identification like a microchip or tattoo. Older adults and people with disabilities may be eligible for discounts.

The dog license application is simple. It only requests owner contact information, and details about the dog being licensed, like name, age, breed and color.

[Insert name of county treasurer] offered these reasons for dog licensing:

- **It's the law.** All dogs three months and older must have a current license.
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- **The cost of a license is less than the penalty for being caught without one.** Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.
- **License fees support animal control.** The annual fee you pay to license your dog helps keep shelters running and supports the work of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations.

For more information, including a list of county treasurers, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com) or call the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Office at 717-787-3062.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** [Contact person for the county treasurer's office]

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