



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2013

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Options Make Dog Licensing Easier than Ever

Michigan law requires that all dogs four months of age or older must be licensed. It's quick, easy, and a tag will help your dog get home safely if lost. Tags also reduce the chance of theft, show your dog is vaccinated against rabies, and spare you from an expensive citation. Licensing provides funding for Animal Control in Kent County, allowing us to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty and neglect, as well as responding to loose or aggressive dogs. Licensing protects our community by ensuring dogs are vaccinated against rabies. **Starting January 2, 2014**, Kent County is offering several ways to get dog licenses that make the process quick and easy.

1. **One-Stop Vaccination/License:** Several local veterinary clinics in Kent County are working with us to provide a convenient service to their customers, by issuing dog licenses at the time of rabies vaccinations. Costs for the vaccine vary, and each clinic requires you make an appointment in advance. For more on this new program and participating clinics, go to: <http://www.accesskent.com/kcas>.
2. One-year and three-year licenses are now available based on your dog's vaccination status. If your dog's vaccination expires on or after January 1, 2016, you are eligible to purchase a three year license for 2014. Throughout 2014, vaccination must be valid for at least 35months beyond the purchase date of a three year license. If one of these two criteria is not met, you would purchase a one year license in 2014.
3. Online renewal is fast and easy at <https://www.accesskent.com/DogLicense/>.
4. Licenses can be purchased at the Kent County Animal Shelter, located at 740 Fuller NE, in Grand Rapids. Licenses can be obtained Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. Call the Kent County Animal Shelter for more information at 616.632.7300.
5. The Kent County Treasurer's Office, the Humane Society of West Michigan, Vicky's Pet Connection, "Critter Cottage," C-SNIP, and numerous city and township offices also sell licenses. We recommend calling these locations to see if licenses are available and for hours of operation.

One Year License Fee Schedule:

Regular Fees:	Spayed/ Neutered	\$12.00
	Not Sterilized	\$26.00
Senior Citizens' Discounted Fees:	Spayed/Neutered	\$6.00
	Not Sterilized	\$13.00

Three Year License Fee Schedule:

Regular Fees:	Spayed/ Neutered	\$30.00
	Not Sterilized	\$72.00
Senior Citizens' Fees:	Spayed/Neutered	\$15.00
	Not Sterilized	\$33.00

You must present a valid **certificate of rabies vaccination and proof of spay/neuter** (*in order to receive spay/neuter discount*) for your dog in order to receive a license. If you purchase a new dog, you have 30 days to get a license without paying a penalty, but you must show a dated proof-of-purchase. ###

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.