PENNSYLVANIA DOG LAWS

It Is Unlawful

✱ To keep or harbor any dog three months of age or older without a current Pennsylvania dog license (due on or before January 1).

✱ To own a dog three (3) months of age or older without a current vaccination against rabies administered by a licensed veterinarian.

✱ To allow your dog to run at large. All dogs must be under control. Owners are responsible for all damages caused by their dog(s).

✱ To mistreat or abuse any animal. Report violations to your local humane organization or police.

✱ To place any poison or harmful substance in any place, on your own property or elsewhere, where it may be easily found and eaten by dogs.

✱ To abandon or attempt to abandon any dog. Fines for abandonment range from $300 to $1,000 plus court costs.

✱ To barter, trade sell or transfer any dog under seven weeks old.

✱ To operate a kennel that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away or transfers a total of 26 or more dogs in any one calendar year without a current kennel license.

✱ For any person to interfere with an officer or employee of the Department in the enforcement of the Dog Law.

Responsibilities of the Bureau of Dog Law

✱ For any person to knowingly make any false statement or to conceal any fact required to be disclosed under any of the provisions of the State Dog Law (Act 225).

Summary violations of the dog law cost up to a maximum of $300 plus court costs.

Misdemeanor violations of the dog law cost up to $2,000 plus court costs.

About Dogs

Owning a dog is one of the great American pastimes and privileges. Dogs fill the role of a companion, guide, hunter, guardian, herdsman and entertainer. But owning a dog is a major responsibility as well. That responsibility extends not only to proper care and training of your dog, but also to your responsibility for the dog’s behavior. A proper understanding of the responsibilities of dog ownership is necessary in today’s complex society.

All Dogs over 3 months of age MUST be LICENSED.

ALL DOGS must be UNDER CONTROL. This means that when your dog is not on your property, it must be under the DIRECT CONTROL of you or a handler. The best way to control your dog is with a LEASH. Remember, dogs are PERSONAL PROPERTY. You are RESPONSIBLE for any DAMAGE caused by your dog.

Ignoring Pennsylvania’s Rabies Vaccination Law Can Be Costly--In More Ways Than One.

✱ The Agriculture Department’s Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement (Cont.)
Establish and enforce quarantine of dogs, in certain areas.

Fund counties and humane organizations to establish dog control facilities.

Provide education services concerning dog ownership in Pennsylvania.

Enforce rabies law.

Reimburse people for rabies caused death to livestock.

**Responsibilities of Police in The Dog Law.**

- Assist in the enforcement of the Dog Law, including licensing and control.
- Seize and detain any dog viewed running at large, unaccompanied by the owner, investigate dog bites.

**DOG LAW REGIONAL SUPERVISORS**

**Region 1**  
13410 Dunham Road, Meadville PA 19335  
814-332-6890

**Region 2**  
2130 County Farm Road-Suite 2 - Montoursville 17754  
717-433-2640

**Region 3**  
Rt. 92 South Box C - Tunkhannock 18657  
717-836-2181

**Region 4**  
5349 Wm. Flynn Hwy. - Gibsonla 15044  
412-443-1585

**Region 5**  
Executive Plaza-615 Howard Avenue - Altoona 16601  
814-946-7315

**Region 6**  
2301 N. Cameron St. Rm 102, Harrisburg 17110  
717-787-4833

**Region 7**  
Route 113 Box 300 Creamery 19430  
(Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill Counties)  
610-489-1003

**BUREAU OF DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture**  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408  
717-787-4833

Send your Dog License in to:  
Chester County Government Services Center  
Treasurer's Office  
Two North High Street  
West Chester, PA 19380