

**Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture**  
**Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement**  
**2301 North Cameron Street**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408**  
**(717) 787-3062**

**REGION 1**  
13410 Dunham Rd  
Meadville, PA  
16335-8313  
(814) 332-6890  
FAX (814) 333-1431

**REGION 2**  
542 County Farm Rd  
Suite 102  
Montoursville, PA  
17754-9685  
(570) 433-2640  
FAX (570) 433-4770

**REGION 3**  
Rt. 92 South  
PO Box C  
Tunkamock, PA  
18657-0318  
(570) 836-2181  
FAX (570) 836-6266

**REGION 4**  
6 McIntyre Rd.  
Gibsonia, PA  
15044  
(724) 443-1585  
FAX (724) 443-8150

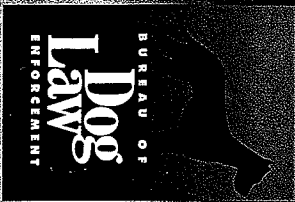
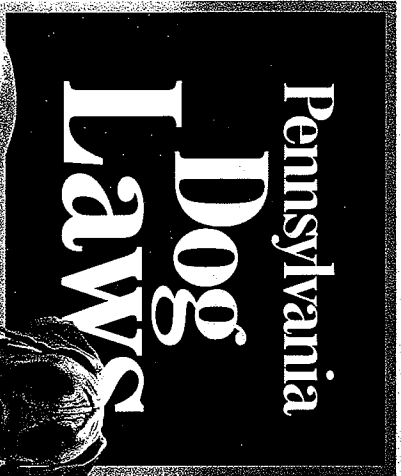
**REGION 5**  
1307 7th St  
Cricket Field Plaza  
Allcoona, PA  
16601-4701  
(814) 946-7315  
FAX (814) 946-7354

**REGION 6**  
2301 North Cameron St.  
Harrisburg, PA  
17110-9408  
(717) 787-3062  
FAX (717) 772-4352

**REGION 7**  
Rt. 113, PO Box 300  
Creamery, PA  
19430-0300  
(610) 489-1003  
FAX (610) 489-6119

[www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)

**Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement**  
**Pennsylvania**  
**Department of Agriculture**



Edward G. Rendell, Governor  
Dennis C. Wolff, Secretary

## What are Pennsylvania's Dog Laws?

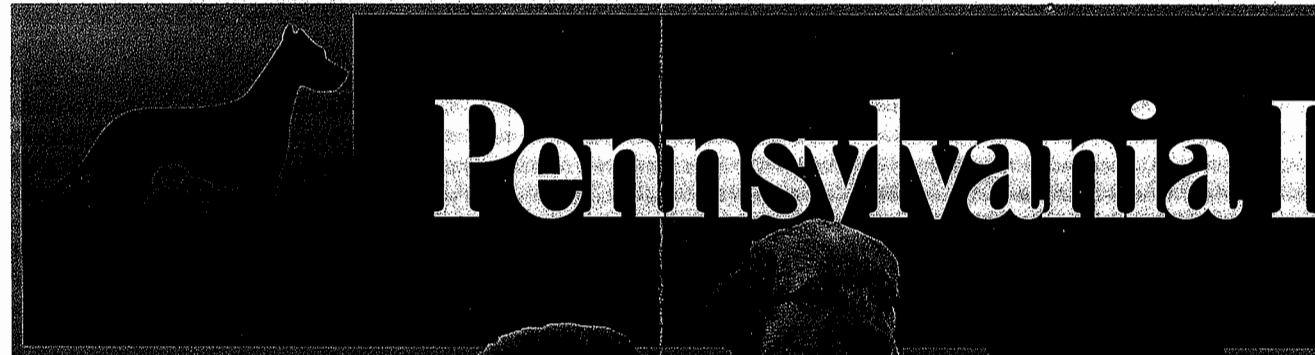
1. All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the county treasurer. (A license application form is on the reverse side.)
2. All dogs must be under control and may not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
3. It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to the local humane organization or police.
4. You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where it may be easily found and eaten by dogs whether it be your property or elsewhere.
5. It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog. Fines for abandonment range from \$300 to \$1,000 plus court costs.
6. No dog under seven weeks old may be bartered, traded, sold or transferred.
7. You must have a current kennel license if you 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. All boarding and day care facilities require a kennel license.
8. It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

## About Dogs

Owning a dog is one of the great American pastimes and privileges. Dogs fill the role of 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 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.

**All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed.**



## Some Responsibilities of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

- Reimburse people for dog-caused damage to livestock, poultry and domestic game birds.
- Seize and detain any dog seen running at large.
- Investigate dog bites.
- Enforce licensing and control of dogs.
- Enforce kennel licensing and inspections.
- Establish and enforce quarantine of dogs, in certain areas.
- Fund counties and humane organizations to establish dog control facilities.
- Provide educational 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.



## There are Penalties For Violators

**Ignoring Pennsylvania's rabies vaccination law can be costly--in more ways than one:**

- The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement conducts random checks to determine if rabies vaccinations are current. Authorities investigating complaints about strays, animal bites and disturbances also check for violations.
- Owners of dogs and house cats 3 months of age that are not vaccinated or have not received a booster shot at the required time can be fined up to \$300 in magistrate's court.
- Failure to have a pet vaccinated jeopardizes its life by leaving it vulnerable to exposure to rabid wildlife or domestic animals that may have contracted the disease. If your pet gets rabies, it cannot be saved.

# Dog Laws



- Unvaccinated pets exposed to positive rabies carriers may be placed under quarantine up to six months in an enclosure to insure there is no contact with other animals or humans.
- If an unvaccinated pet acquires rabies, it could pass the disease along to you, your family, neighbors or others through bites or scratches. The treatment to

prevent rabies from developing in humans is costly, and once rabies develops it is nearly always fatal.

## Pennsylvania's Dangerous Dog Law

Act 46 of 1990 is known as the "Dangerous Dog Law." It was enacted to provide greater protection to persons attacked by a "dangerous dog," and to provide for greater control by owners of dogs considered to be dangerous.

Below is a brief description of the provisions of the Dangerous Dog Law.

A dangerous dog is defined as one which has attacked a human being without provocation or killed or has inflicted severe injury to a human being without provocation while off the owner's property. A dog is considered dangerous if it

or has inflicted severe injury to a human being, or if it was involved in committing a crime.

2. The act does not apply to police dogs, guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf, aide dogs for the handicapped, or farm dogs (under certain circumstances). The act does not apply where a person attacked, provoked the animal, or was committing willful trespass or another unlawful act for which civil suit can be brought.
3. If a dog attacks a person, the person (or anyone acting on his/her behalf), the state dog warden or a police officer may file a complaint with a district justice charging the owner or keeper with harboring a dangerous dog.
4. If the dog is deemed dangerous by the district justice, the owner must:
  - register the animal with Bureau of Dog Law enforcement (includes a fee sufficient to cover costs of the program)



- sign a statement providing that he/she will notify the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, state dog

7. The state Dangerous Dog Law overrides all local ordinances relating to dangerous dogs.

**Clip and mail to your county treasurer**

ADLEB 14-18 rev. 7/2004

License # \_\_\_\_\_ **DOG LICENSE APPLICATION** Year of license \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	DOG'S NAME	DOG'S AGE	BREED					
<b>ALL PRICES INCLUDE ONE-DOLLAR SERVICE FEE ALLOWED BY LAW.</b>								
<b>REGULAR FEE</b>				<b>PERSON WITH DISABILITY OR SENIOR CITIZEN FEE</b>				
MALE \$8.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	NEUTERED MALE \$6.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALE \$8.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	SPAYED FEMALE \$6.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	MALE \$6.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	NEUTERED MALE \$4.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALE \$6.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	SPAYED FEMALE \$4.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
COLOR OF DOG: SPOTTED <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK <input type="checkbox"/> BROWN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER-INDICATE <input type="checkbox"/>								
<b>If the license is issued by an agent of the COUNTY TREASURER, an additional 50¢ will be charged.</b>								
PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A LICENSE THAT REQUIRES THE DOG OWNER BE A SENIOR CITIZEN, AGE 65 AND OLDER, OR A PERSON WITH DISABILITY, YOU MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF AGE OR DISABILITY TO THE <b>COUNTY TREASURER OR AGENT.</b>								
OWNER'S NAME				TELEPHONE NO.		OWNER'S DATE OF BIRTH		
						MO.	DAY	YR.
STREET OR R.D. NO.					TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH			
CITY					STATE <b>PA</b>	ZIP CODE		

I HEREBY VERIFY THAT I AM THE OWNER OF THE DOG THAT IS THE SUBJECT TO THIS DOG LICENSE APPLICATION.  
I MAKE THIS STATEMENT SUBJECT TO THE CRIMINAL PENALTIES OF 18 Pa. § SECTION 4904 (RELATING TO UNSWORN FALSIFICATION TO AUTHORITIES).

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF DOG OWNER/APPLICANT REQUIRED  
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "COUNTY TREASURER"