

*Pennsylvania's*  
**2023**  
**DOG LICENSE**  
**CAMPAIGN**  
COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT



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 dogs and puppies in licensed kennels. The bureau 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 unlicensed 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 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.
- Intentionally 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 less than eight weeks old cannot be bartered, traded, sold, or transferred.
- You must have a kennel license if you keep, sell, transfer, adopt, or foster at least 26 dogs in a calendar year.
- If your dog attacks or kills a human or domestic animal without provocation, the dog 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 2023. 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](https://twitter.com/PAgriculture)) or like us on Facebook ([fb.com/PADeptofAg](https://fb.com/PADeptofAg)) and share our posts promoting the campaign.



A dog license is a ticket home for a lost dog. 🏠 Set your dog's mind, and your own, at ease. Get your 2023 license now!

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

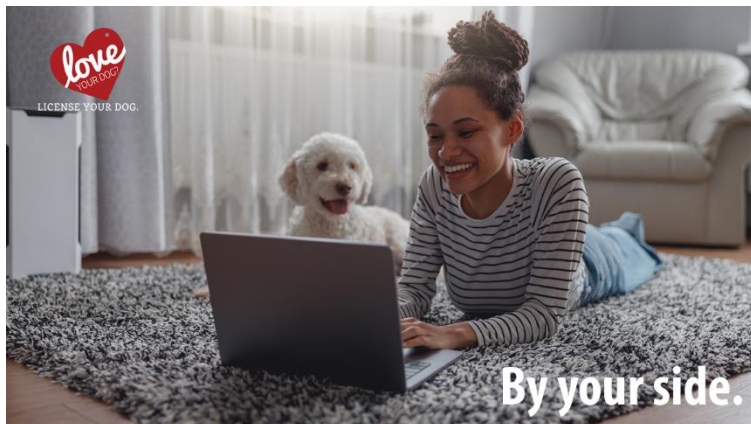
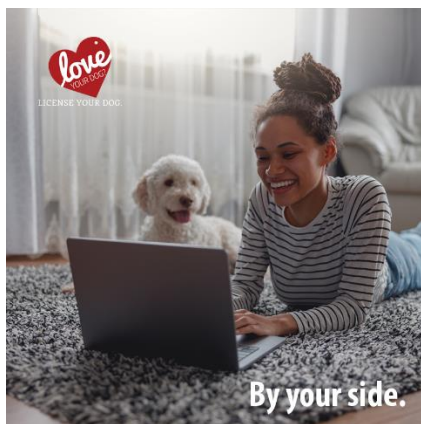
#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



A dog license is a ticket home for a lost dog. 🏠 Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Dog Wardens help ensure the safety of your pet if it is ever lost so it can return home. Set your dog's mind, and your own, at ease. Get your 2023 license now!

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



There for you through it all. ❤️ 🐶 Now do something for them: keep their dog license up to date.

An up-to-date dog license is the best way to bring home your dog should they get lost.

Get your 2023 dog license today.

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog

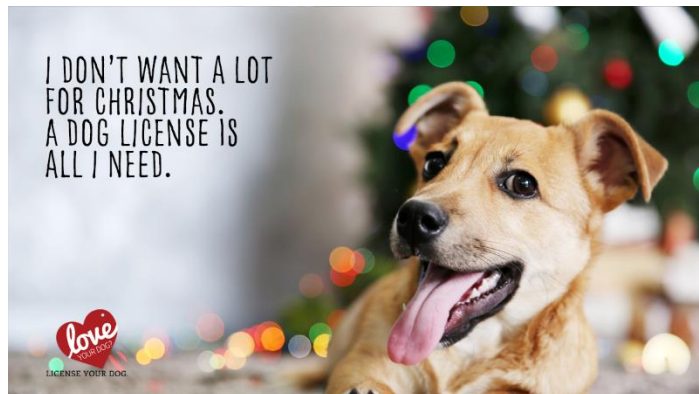


Give your dog a helping hand by getting a 2023 Dog License.

All dogs three months and older are required to be licensed. Annual licenses expire December 31 each year. 🐾 Don't delay, get your 2023 license today!

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



Get your pup what they really want this year: the safety and security of an up-to-date dog license.

🎁 2023 dog licenses are available now.

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

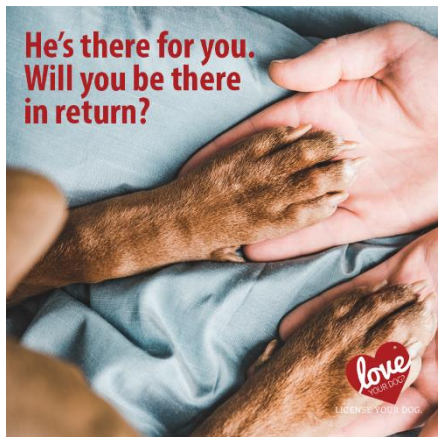
#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



Protect your family from the hurt of a lost dog. A dog license dramatically increases your chances of getting them back if they go missing.

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



By licensing your dog, you are being a responsible pet owner. Do it for them. Do it for every dog in PA.


Having a dog license is the best way to bring them home if they get lost. And the cost of your dog license allows the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to crack down on illegal kennels, investigate dog bites, and ensure dangerous dogs are not roaming the streets.

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog




Pet owners are responsible for caring for their four-legged family members and assuring their pets do not affect others negatively. In addition to finding a way home for lost dogs, dollars spent on a license allow the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to protect dogs in kennels, keep track of dangerous dogs and investigate reports from Pennsylvanians.

 License your dog. Be there when they need you the most.

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



 If you've moved, your dog's license needs transferred to your new county. Be sure to contact both your old and new county treasurer so that your dog can be properly tracked and returned home if lost!

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog





The look you get when your dog finds out that they didn't receive their 2023 license yet... 🐾

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, etc.]

#LoveYourDogLicenseYourDog



By licensing your dog today prior to the new year, helps you start 2023 off on the right paw 🐾... we mean foot.

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year! 🐾 2023 dog licenses are available now!

[insert method for acquiring dog license here – online, mail, walk-in, 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 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 News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 00, 2022

## 2023 Dog Licenses Available at County Treasurers' Offices; All Dogs Must be Licensed by Jan. 1

<<CITY>>, PA – Pennsylvanians can now purchase 2023 dog licenses from their county treasurers. State law requires all dogs three months and older to be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year.

*Insert 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 with 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 requires owner contact information and details about the dog, including name, age, breed, and color.

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

- **A license is the best way to get your dog back if they get lost.** A license helps animal control and shelters identify a dog and its rightful owners, and anyone can see the dog's tag. Microchips are not always easy to find.
- **It's the law.** All dogs three months and older must have a current license.
- **The cost of a license is far less than the penalty for being caught without one.** Owners who fail to license their dogs can face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.
- **License fees support animal control and public safety.** The annual fee to license a dog helps keep shelters running and supports the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement's vital services to protect dogs and the public. Last year, the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement:
  - Enforced health and safety regulations, upholding Pennsylvania's high standards for conditions in kennels by licensing 2,817 operations and conducting more than 5,943 inspections.
  - Investigated nearly 800 dog bites, and monitored 679 dogs deemed dangerous by magisterial judges, helping to ensure that dog owners keep dangerous dogs under control.

For more information, contact <<INSERT COUNTY NAME>> County Treasurer <<INSERT TREASURER'S NAME>> at <<INSERT PHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS>>. For a list of county treasurers, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com) or call the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Office at 717-787-3062.

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