

Get your dog licensed by Feb. 3

December 28, 2019



Del Norte County's annual dog licensing period will run through Feb. 3, 2020.

A state law and county ordinance mandate that dogs ages 4 months and older must be licensed each year and must be vaccinated for rabies.

The annual license fees are \$40 per dog, \$15 if spayed or neutered.

A reduced-fee license is available for qualifying lower-income pet owners. Residents ages 60 and older receive discounted fees.

Native Americans living on the reservation are exempted from the fee, as are service and seeing-eye dogs.

Officials say licensing fees help pay for the care and adoption of homeless strays, as well as investigations of animal bites, cruelty, neglect, and the abandonment of domestic animals and livestock.

Dogs must be licensed within 30 days of becoming 4 months old, within 30 days of entering the Del Norte County boundaries, within 30 days of being acquired, or within 30 days of the expiration of a license obtained from another California county.

A current rabies vaccination certificate issued by a veterinarian is required prior to a license being issued.

Failing to renew or obtain a license may result in a court citation and possible fine, said officials.

If a dog on the loose has its current license tag attached, and Del Norte County Animal Control can contact the owner the first day of impound to return the dog, the animal gets one free ride home per license year if it's within the county.

Officials said all renewals must be completed by Feb. 3. Fees double thereafter. Any delinquent licenses are submitted to a collections process after April 1.

A pet owner whose dog has died, or is no longer housed in Del Norte County, should notify animal control staff at 707-464-7235 so the owner is not held liable for delinquent licenses or collection fees.