

# What Are the Benefits of Dog Licensing?

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In the City of Culver City, pet owners are required to annually license dogs older than 4 months of age with PetData. There are many benefits to licensing dogs both to the owners and the public.

1. Dog licensing is required in the City of Culver City per Culver City Municipal Code 9.01.300 and is mandated in California per California Health and Safety Code 121690. Unlicensed dog owners could be cited \$100 to \$500 for violating dog licensing laws for both the city and the state of California. The penalty and amount are significantly higher than the cost of obtaining the license.
  2. To obtain a dog license, the dog owner must provide proof that the dog has been vaccinated against the rabies virus per Title 14 California Code of Regulations 2606.4. Not only does current rabies vaccination keep the dog safe, but in the unfortunate event that the dog gets lost, Culver City Animal Services or anyone else who comes upon the missing dog will know the dog is rabies vaccinated and owned.
  3. Owners of licensed animals receive a helpful reminder to revaccinate their pet prior to the license expiration date.
  4. In case the dog ever gets lost, a license provides identification and allows the owner to be quickly reunited with the pet. Even indoor dogs can get loose.
  5. Licensed dogs are held much longer at animal shelters than unlicensed animals. Unfortunately, many owners of unlicensed pets return from a vacation to find that their animal ran away from a caretaker or got loose from the residence. If pet is wearing a license tag, Culver City Animal Services will attempt to reach the owner in person and by telephone. Shelter staff will attempt to reach the owner of a licensed dog by mail and telephone.
  6. If a currently vaccinated dog is exposed to a rabies positive animal, it must be quarantined for 30 days. However, if an animal's vaccination has expired or is not valid, it must be quarantined for 6 months.
  7. Dog licensing can provide immediate access to owner contact information. Besides the ability to quickly reunite the pet with the owner, this can demonstrate ownership in cases of legal disputes if the dog is found by someone other than the owner.
  8. Current licensing can provide immediate access to current rabies vaccination status. This allows for another option of home rabies quarantine versus shelter rabies quarantine in the cases where the dog bit a human. It also provides Culver City Animal Services the ability to verify rabies vaccination status at all times, even after hours and on weekends, as the licensing information is digitally stored.
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