

License Canvassing

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians endorses the following methods or procedures that enhance rabies control which include the following:

- Identification. Dogs should be identified to allow for verification of rabies vaccination status.
- Licensure. Registration or licensure of all dogs is an integral component of an effective rabies-control program. A fee is frequently charged for such licensure, and revenues collected are used to maintain rabies- or animal-control activities.
- Canvassing. House-to-house canvassing by Animal Services Officers facilitates enforcement of vaccination and licensure requirements.

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends dog licensing, and door-to-door canvassing as an integral method to enhance rabies control (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 18, 2008). The process of license canvassing results in direct contact with pet owners and provides the opportunity for education about animal care issues. It also provides residents with the opportunity to report animal-related violations such as neglect, cruelty, barking, defecation, off-leash and excessive numbers of animals on a property.
