



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2019

Department of Agriculture Encourages Dog Owners to Show Their Dog Love by Licensing

Harrisburg, PA – Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding today reminded Pennsylvanians during the newly proclaimed “Love Your Dog Month” that the best way to care for their dogs is to make sure they are licensed. Licensing helps bring lost pets home more quickly, and the proceeds of dog license sales also ensure dogs and the public are kept safe.

“There are many ways to show our four-legged best friends love: making sure their vaccinations are up to date and they have regular visits to the veterinarian, feeding them with care, and ensuring they have a sure way home if they get lost by purchasing them a Pennsylvania dog license,” said Secretary Redding. “Licensing your dog is part of being a responsible pet owner. We are responsible for caring for our pets and keeping our communities safe.”

Licenses are available through country treasurers’ offices, and many counties offer licenses through sub-agents like veterinarian offices or online. The fee for an annual dog license is \$6.50, or \$8.50 if the animal is not spayed or neutered. Lifetime licenses are available for dogs that have permanent identification like a microchip or tattoo. Older adults and persons with disabilities may be eligible for discounts.

Pennsylvania law requires a current license for all dogs at least three months old, but according to estimates from the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, fewer than half of all dogs in the commonwealth are licensed, although rates vary by county. Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.

Revenue provided by the sale of licenses help the department’s Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement protect Pennsylvanians and their pets.

In 2018, the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement issued 2,939 summary citations and 119 misdemeanor complaints of Dog Law violations, including failure to license a dog; unlicensed kennels; dangerous dogs; dogs running at large or abandoned; and others.

“The Bureau of Dog Law has an important responsibility to protect both the people and pets of Pennsylvania,” Redding added. “They keep lost dogs safe until they can be returned home, keep our neighborhoods safe from dangerous dogs, and ensure that dogs in kennels are living in a clean, safe, and healthy environment.”

To find your county treasurer, dog warden, and a database of shelter and kennel inspections, visit licenseyourdogpa.pa.com or call the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement at 717-787-3062.

MEDIA CONTACT: Shannon Powers – 717.783.2628

###

The text of Governor Tom Wolf's proclamation designating February as Love Your Dog Month follows:

PROCLAMATION:

LOVE YOUR DOG MONTH

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians love their life-enriching canine companions, and in turn provide guardianship, grooming and shelter as well as safeguards for their dogs' health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, responsible pet owners also follow Pennsylvania's dog laws, including by purchasing a yearly dog license, required for every dog aged three months and older, by January 1, and by ensuring the administration and subsequent documentation of a rabies vaccine or booster to their dog; and

WHEREAS, these simple steps ensure the safety of animals and their families from the threat of rabies, the fatal viral infection of the central nervous system that is spread by infected animals; and

WHEREAS, the steps also provide valuable funding to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which helps to ensure the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial and breeding kennels, regulates dangerous dogs, oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccination of dogs, and supports animal shelters that accept stray dogs; and

WHEREAS, dog licenses are available from local county treasurers, many of whom offer online licensing and register other licensing agents at stores and veterinary offices; and

WHEREAS, licenses are affordable, and discounts are offered to owners of spayed or neutered dogs, older Pennsylvanians, and dog owners with disabilities.

THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of responsible pet ownership and to increase public understanding about the laws regarding dog licensing, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim February 2019, LOVE YOUR DOG MONTH in Pennsylvania. I urge all citizens to protect their pets by purchasing a dog license.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, on this first day

of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-third.

TOM WOLF
Governor