

December 2016

Dear Animal Owner:

Enclosed, please find the 2017 animal license application.

PLEASE NOTE THE FEES HAVE INCREASED

I want to take the time to explain a few things.

License fees have not increased in the last five years even though the State has allowed municipalities to charge \$21.00 per dog license exclusive of other fees (spay/neuter, registration tag etc.). I have eliminated the \$1.00 lost tag fee as it was counterproductive. I have eliminated the \$5.00 late fee.

Animal licenses are still valid January 1st-31st of each year. It is strongly recommended you renew your animal license in January. **Why?** Because you get the full benefit of the year. For example, if you license your animal in June, the license is valid for 6 months and will expire on December 31st. If you license your animal in October, the license is good for 2 months and will expire December 31st. In addition, any person or household member owning, keeping, harboring or maintaining a dog and/or cat that is not licensed is subject to a summons. This includes anyone who feeds stray dogs and/or cats as they are considered the owners of the animals and are subject to all requirements for owning, keeping and harboring an animal including but not limited to spaying, neutering, vaccinating and licensing the animal(s).

Proof of rabies vaccination valid through October is still required to purchase a license (this is a State regulation, not Clark Township). **Please note the highlighted section of your address label indicates when your animal's rabies vaccination will expire.** As a reminder it is the responsibility of the animal owner to keep track of their pet's rabies vaccination status. Information regarding rabies clinics can be found on the Clark website at www.ourclark.com, click on Departments, double click on Health, and scroll down for rabies clinic information.

Many people ask "what if my animal's rabies vaccination is not due until June?" You can license the animal in January and update me when the rabies

vaccination is updated or you can wait until June and not get the full benefit of the license.

Checks or money orders in the appropriate amount should be made payable to the Township of Clark. NO CASH TRANSACTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All animal licenses will be renewed ONLY through the mail. Please note if you send your check in early, I cannot begin processing licenses until January 1st.

If there is anyway you can mark your envelope "dog", "cat", animal", or "pet" it would be helpful.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 732-428-8405.

Sincerely,

Nancy Raymond, Health Officer

430 WESTFIELD AVE.
Clark Health Department
430 Westfield Ave., Room 18
Clark, NJ 07066
732-428-8405
PLEASE PRINT

SPECIES: DOG _____, CAT _____

ANIMAL'S NAME: _____

AGE: _____ SEX: _____

VETERINARIAN FACILITY NAME: PLEASE LIST THE FACILITY NAME; NOT THE INDIVIDUAL VETERINARIAN'S NAME: _____

HAIR LENGTH: _____

SPAY OR NEUTER DATE :(MONTH/DATE/YEAR) _____

BREED: _____

COLOR: _____

PLEASE LIST THE MONTH, DAY AND YEAR THAT THE RABIES VACCINATION WILL EXPIRE: _____

*****NOTE: RABIES MUST BE VALID THROUGH OCTOBER 31st**

ANIMAL OWNER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME #: _____

ALTERNATE TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FEE SCHEDULE

	FEE
NEUTERED/SPAYED DOG	\$22.20 (\$21.00 to Township; \$1.20 to State)
NON-NEUTERED/SPAYED DOG	\$25.20 (\$21.00 to Township; \$4.20 to State)
NEUTERED/SPAYED CAT	\$18.00
NON-NEUTERED/SPAYED CAT	\$20.00

WHY DOES THE RABIES VACCINATION HAVE TO BE VALID THROUGH OCTOBER

Many of you have asked for an explanation of this requirement. In accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code, Title 8, Chapter 23A, subchapter 4, section 8:23A4.1 (a)' no municipal clerk or other official designated to license dogs shall grant any such license and official metal registration tag.. unless the owner provides evidence that the animal has been inoculated against rabies with a vaccine having a duration of immunity which extends at least 10 of the 12 months of the licensing period. Dogs with duration of immunity against rabies that expires prior to the tenth month of the licensing period shall be revaccinated prior to issuance of a license." Since Clark Township also requires cats to be licensed, this requirement is also applicable, to cats. Translated, that means since Clark Township's license period is January-December, the rabies vaccination must be valid through October of the licensing year. If the animal's rabies vaccination expires before that time (September), I am not supposed to issue a license. This regulation is governed under the authority of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 19a et seq. making it enforceable as law and imposing penalties for non-compliance (\$5.00-\$50.00).

I had a conversation with Dr. Colin Campbell of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services- Rabies and Zoonotic Disease Program and voiced my concerns about making animal owners vaccinate their pets sooner than needed. I stated that just like parents are re-thinking vaccinations for their children, several pet owners have expressed similar concerns for their pets. Dr. Campbell stated these guidelines were put into effect many years ago when rabies was epizootic in the State of New Jersey. The guidelines were developed by the State Attorney General's Office after several domestic animals sustained bites/wound from known and/or suspected rabid animals and had to be placed under extremely strict quarantine for 6 months.

Dr. Campbell did advise me that not enforcing the regulation subjects myself and the Township to possible non-compliance and liability issues.