

Animal Shelter and Licensing Information

Animal Shelter

81 Fournier Street

203-946-8110

Office Hours – Monday through Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Visiting Hours Mon-Sat 12:30 PM-4:30PM

Why it is important to license dogs?

It's required by state law. Annually in the month of June, dog owners in cities and towns throughout the state must license their dogs, 6 months of age or older.

It ensures that every pet is traceable to its owner in order to foster pet-owner accountability. It provides an excellent form of identification.

In the event that a pet is lost or taken to the Animal Shelter, a licensed dog increases the likelihood that it can be quickly and safely returned to its owner.

To help reduce the threat of rabies in the city. A licensed dog tells the community that the animal has been properly vaccinated for rabies. Every year, but especially in the Spring and Summer seasons, there are people bitten by dogs in the city. Many of them are children. (Children are out of school in June, July and August and more apt to be outside playing). Treatment for rabies can be avoided when the dog displays a current license. Also, it decreases the likelihood that the dog has to be quarantined. Dog licensing in general provides a means to control and monitor rabies with official records of rabies vaccination. This in turn, helps sever the link between wild animals with rabies and domestic animals from which humans are most likely to contract the disease.

We estimate that there are about 12,000 dogs in the City of New Haven and only 1,000 of them are registered.

How do you register or license a dog?

It's easy and doesn't cost much. It even can be done by mail through the City/Town Clerk's Office.

Bring proof that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies to the New Haven Animal Shelter at 81 Fournier Street or the City/Town Clerk's Office at 165 Church Street. It only costs \$8.00 per dog if the animal has been spayed or neutered. It's \$19.00 if the animal has not been fixed.

By mail, you can send the appropriate rabies vaccination and spay/neuter documentation to the City/Town Clerk's Office in New Haven.

Police do enforce all dog/pet related laws (e.g. registration, leash, pooper scooper, roaming, etc.)

The New Haven Animal Shelter has sponsored low-cost rabies clinics to encourage dog owners to vaccinate their pets against rabies as well as register their pets. According to Connecticut law, all dogs and cats, three months of age or older must be vaccinated against rabies. (Since the rabies virus moved up the East Coast into Connecticut in 1991, 4,335 animals have been tested positive for rabies, including 73 cats and 7 dogs. In 1999 alone, 9 cats, 142 raccoons, 67 skunks, 3 foxes, 3 woodchucks and 2 cows were positive.) Because rabies is a public health threat it is important to protect pets from the virus. Protecting your pet also helps maintain a barrier between humans and possible rabid wildlife.

OTHER PET PEEVES:

Dogs that don't accessorize! You must keep pets on a leash - it's safe and it's the law. If your dog is off your property it must be on a leash. The purpose of the leash law is to protect people from free-roaming dogs. When not confined to your property (either inside or outside the house in the yard) your dog must be under control. A responsible dog owner doesn't allow their pet to be a nuisance to their neighbors, chasing cars and children, getting into trash, not to mention soiling their neighbor's yards. While enjoying city parks the same rules apply. We must respect the rights of those whom we share the city's parks in order to ensure a clean and safe environment. A dog owner is responsible for any damage, accident and bites caused by their pet. Also, by not letting your dog roam you can help prevent unwanted breeding and protect your pet from getting lost, stolen, or injured.

The neighborhood litter problem. Prevent overpopulation - spay or neuter your pet. Why? Spayed or neutered pets are better, more affectionate companions. It eliminates the female dogs from going into heat and thereby attracting unwanted male animals. Male dogs are less aggressive and inclined to roam. Owners of spayed or neutered dogs receive a discount on their license fee. It prevents unwanted litters. Pet overpopulation caused by unwanted litters costs communities millions of dollars to control. Contact the New Haven Animal Shelter for low cost spay neuter information at (203) 946-8110.

The other homeless problem. Make every pet a wanted pet. Many unwanted pets are waiting for loving homes. For adoption details contact the New Haven Animal Shelter at 946-8110. Or check out the [volunteer web site](#) with a link to the adoptable pets

Don't Let Ticks Hitch a Ride! Check your dogs for ticks. Tick-borne diseases like Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, pose a serious threat to people and their pets causing debilitating illness and even death.