



## WHY IS LICENSING MY DOG/CAT NECESSARY?

Being a dog/cat owner requires all sorts of responsibility, but one that is often overlooked is getting him/her licensed. The Village often gets asked, "Why do I need to license my pet?" There are several reasons:

**It's Wisconsin Law.** Section 174.052 of Wisconsin Statutes mandates owners to have their dogs vaccinated for rabies and licensed in their county.

**Licensing lets the people in our community know that your dog is up to date on its rabies vaccinations.** A dog cannot be licensed unless it is properly vaccinated. A Good Samaritan will be more likely to handle and care for a lost dog if they can clearly see their tag reassuring them it has been vaccinated. There are over 100 dogs licensed in the Village. Knowing that those dogs are healthy, rabies-vaccinated and cared for by veterinarians, protects you and the community.

**If your dog gets lost, having it licensed significantly improves your chances of it being returned home quickly.** If the Village Office receives a phone call indicating that a roaming dog has been found, that license number can quickly

identify your dog and get him back to you safely.

**The license process is simple.** There is no application, but you must provide proof of rabies vaccination along with a nominal fee (\$5.00 for spayed/neutered dogs or \$10.00 for intact dogs). You can provide the paperwork along with your tax payment, but use a separate check for the dog fee. Put it in the drop box at 110 Colonial Drive, or mail to the Village at PO Box 302, St Nazianz, WI 54232. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the license and paperwork mailed back to you.

The licenses are renewed annually on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. There is a grace period of four months, until April 1<sup>st</sup> in which you are allowed to get your dog licensed.

After April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Village will reach out to you either by phone, mail, or police officer to remind you that your dog is not licensed. There is a \$20.00 late fee per pet if licensed after April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you no longer have your dog, please let the Village know so we can remove it from the computerized registry. Per statute, the Village may send a list of unlicensed dogs to the District Attorney for prosecution. **The Village also has an ordinance for licensing cats.** The same rules apply.

We get many complaints about dogs running loose and not being leashed. Other complaints are dogs running toward people or other dogs when they are walking past properties with dogs. **Village Ordinance states that dogs must be leashed or secured by some sort of electric fence.**

**Please be considerate of other people who encounter you and your dog. Not everyone is a dog lover. Also, please clean up after your dog!**