



**Maricopa County**  
*Animal Care and Control*

# LOVE YOUR DOG? LICENSE YOUR DOG!



## WHO NEEDS A MARICOPA COUNTY DOG LICENSE?

Arizona Revised Statutes (11-1008 & 11-1010) requires that all dogs over the age of three months have a license and rabies vaccination (the vaccination must be administered by a licensed veterinarian). The law covers all of unincorporated Maricopa County and the cities and towns within Maricopa County. Check with Fountain Hills and the Indian Communities for specific licensing requirements.

An application for a license must be made within 15 days of vaccination. Residents new to Maricopa County and new dog owners must purchase a dog license within 30 days. A penalty fee will be assessed for late applications (\$2 per month for altered dogs; \$4 per month for unaltered). The term of the license is based on the month and day of the most current rabies vaccination recorded at MCACC and is valid for one calendar year.

## SHOULD I LICENSE MY CAT?

The State of Arizona does not require cats to be licensed, but getting an ID tag for your cat is a good idea. A lost cat with an ID tag has a better chance of being returned home.

## HOW DOES A LICENSE BENEFIT MY DOG AND ME?

- Peace of mind that you and your dog can be reunited quickly.
- MCACC will attempt to return your dog to you immediately, saving you a trip to our Center.
- Licensed dogs that are impounded will be returned without charge to their owners on the first day of impoundment.
- Your dog gets a longer care period at MCACC centers. We will exhaust every option we have to contact you using the information in our database, as well as provide this information to Pets 911.
- If your dog bites someone, he/she may be eligible for home quarantine instead of quarantine in our facility or a veterinary hospital.
- License fees support the return of over 6,500 pets to their homes and adoption of more than 20,000 homeless pets to new families every year.

For more information on animal care, behavior or MCACC programs, contact  
(602) 506-PETS or visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov)

### HOW MUCH DOES A LICENSE COST?

Dog licenses are \$17 for sterile dogs and \$42 for unaltered dogs. They need to be renewed yearly. MCACC offers a senior discount to people over 65. The senior citizen fee is \$6. There is a two pet (sterilized) maximum for this discount.

### HOW CAN I LICENSE MY DOG?

In order to license your dog you must have proof of a rabies vaccination. MCACC offers rabies vaccinations for \$34. You can also obtain a rabies vaccination from a private veterinarian.

**Mail:** You can download an application on line at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov) and mail to:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control  
Licensing Division  
P.O. Box 2959  
Phoenix, AZ 85062

**In Person:** You can buy a dog license in person at any MCACC animal care center.

**Phone or On-line:** You can renew over the phone or online if your dog does not need a booster vaccination. The on-line and mail instructions are printed on the renewal form. If you have misplaced your renewal form or didn't receive one, you may call 602-506-PETS for further instruction.

### WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF THAT MY DOG HAS BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED?

- A sterilization certificate from the veterinarian who performed the surgery or examined your dog to verify the surgery.
- Previous license information showing spay/neuter status.

### HAS YOUR DOG LOST ITS LICENSE?

If your dog loses his license during the license year, you may purchase a replacement for \$4. Just enclose your check with a short note stating that your dog lost its license and include the tag number from your receipt. If you can't locate your receipt, make sure you include your name, address, phone number, and the dog's name and description in the note.

### DID YOU ADOPT A LICENSED DOG?

If you adopted a currently licensed dog from its owner, you do not have to purchase a new license. Simply apply for a transfer of ownership at any of our Centers or by mail. To apply, send a written and signed request, the original license receipt, and a \$4 transfer fee to:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control  
Licensing Division  
PO Box 52887  
Phoenix, AZ 85072