



DOG LICENSING

FAQ



The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is to help answer questions about annual dog license renewals to help protect public health

Why do I need to license my dog?

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law (MGL) 140 Section 137, every dog must be licensed each year with a valid rabies certificate, which is to help protect the public and our pets from rabies transmission. It is state law that within six (6) months of owning a dog that it must be licensed with the Town Clerk's Office.

Licensing your dog is important to protect public health from rabies transmission.

Why are rabies vaccinations important?

Rabies is a serious virus that can affect the brain and spinal cord in mammals (including humans, dogs, cats, foxes, raccoons, bats, skunks and woodchucks) resulting in severe illness and in some cases fatality. Over 5,000 animals have been identified as rabies positive since 1985 in Massachusetts. Each year humans get bitten by rabid animals and many pets get bitten as well.

For more information, here is a good [factsheet from the Department of Public Health](#).

When is rabies season?

Rabies transmission could occur year round, but transmission of the virus mainly occurs in spring and summer.

When is the deadline to license my dog?

April 1st is the standard date for all cities and towns to license your dog each year and is required by Town ByLaw Section 75-9 and 75-10. April 1st the date because it signifies the increased likelihood of rabies transmission and a potential bite from a rabid animal.

Do I really have to license my dog every year?

Yes. Town ByLaw requires licensing of dogs in order to protect public health from the transmission of rabies. In addition to the license fee and late fee (if after April 1st), if your dog

is found to have not been licensed at all, there is a \$100 fine, per Town ByLaw 75-18.

What are the fees for licensing my dog?

Fee Schedule (effective January 1st):

Before April 1 st (spayed/neutered)	\$20.00
Before April 1 st (<u>not</u> spayed/neutered)	\$30.00
After April 1 st (spayed/neutered)	\$50.00
After April 1 st (<u>not</u> spayed/neutered)	\$60.00

How do I license my dog?

Residents have 3 options to license their pooch:

1. Online Self Service: You can also take advantage of our online registration at <https://franklinma.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1075/record-types/6366>
2. Mail: Fill out a Dog License application and mail to the Town Clerk's Office <https://www.franklinma.gov/town-clerk>
3. Visit us at the Town Clerk's Office 355 East Central Street 1st Floor with your completed application, Fee, and Rabies certificate.

NOTE: You are also required to send a rabies certificate and to provide your Vet's information to allow us to communicate better with them on rabies information and expiration.

If I am late in licensing my dog what is the fee/fine?

After April 1st Fees are increased by an additional \$30. After April 1st, a late fee will be assessed.