

Dog Registration FAQ

- **Why does my dog need to be licensed?**

Maine State Law Title 7, Chapter 721 requires that dogs be licensed upon reaching the age of 6 months or after it has been with the family for 10 days if adopted.

- **Would I need to license my cat, and why?**

No, the State of Maine does not require cats to be licensed.

- **Where do I license my dog?**

Dogs need to be licensed in the town of residence

- **When can I license my dog?**

Dog licenses go on sale for the following year on October 15th.

- **When does the license expire?**

Licenses expire annually on December 31st

- **What if I don't renew my dog's registration by December 31st?**

January is a grace period to register your dog, however, starting February 1st a late fee of \$25.00 is accrued per dog in addition to the registration fee.

- **What is the registration fee?**

Spayed or Neutered (altered/fixed) are \$6.00. Dogs that are not altered are \$11.00.

- **What if my dog loses its tag and it's not time to renew?**

You will need to obtain a new tag from the Town Clerk's Office for \$1.00.

- **What if I need a special license?**

If you are licensing a wolf hybrid, service/search or rescue dog, or need to obtain a kennel license, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

- **Can a dog run "at large" in the State of Maine?**

It is unlawful for any dog to run at large except when it's used for hunting. "At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person.

- **What is the Town of Brunswick's dog ordinance?**

See Chapter 4, Sec. 26-40 to see the complete ordinance.

- **What does the license pay for?**

Local Animal Control Officers (AC) and District Humane Agents, the investigations of animal cruelty complaints and enforcement of animal welfare laws, compliance with rabies vaccinations, care for sick and stray animals, and help with the return of lost animals to their owners.

- **How do I contact the Brunswick Animal Control Officer?**

Call the Town of Brunswick Non-Emergency Police line at (207) 725-5521

- **How do I contact Animal Welfare?**

By calling (207) 287-3846 or emailing animal.welfare@maine.gov.

- **Why has the registration process changed from previous years?**

Law changes in 2017 (M.R.S.A. Chapter 721 §3925) required that the Animal Welfare Department implement a statewide registration system to track all the licensing throughout the state, to allow municipalities and ACOs to reunite lost dogs with owners, and track dogs that have been determined by a court to be deemed dangerous or nuisance. The new system was implemented in October 2024.

- **What was the previous process?**

Each municipality had its own process, whether it be tracking dogs in an Excel spreadsheet, a paper filing system, or an Access Database. The Town of Brunswick used an Access Database and only required minimal information.

- **Why didn't my information transfer to the new database?**

The new database requires manual data entry for each owner and dog. Additionally, it requires information that was not previously collected, such as specific dog colors and patterns, dates of birth, and the name of the veterinarian who administered the rabies vaccination. Town Clerk staff were unable to pre-enter the information because many fields are mandatory, which prevented us from proceeding without that information.

- **Will I need to fill out a Dog Registration form next year?**

We do not expect to require a form for each dog every year. However, if we need additional identification markers, we may request more information. We will continue to require the form for all new dogs, and we will need a copy of the Rabies Certificate upon its expiration.