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Title 20 : Internal Security And Public Safety

Chapter 193 : Domestic Pet Or Wolf-hybrid Control

Subchapter 002 : Licenses

(Cite as: 20 V.S.A. § 3581)

§ 3581. General requirements

(a) A person who is the owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid more than six months old shall annually on or before April 1 cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed on a form approved by the Secretary for one year from that day in the office of the clerk of the municipality wherein the dog or wolf-hybrid is kept. A person who owns a working farm dog and who intends to use that dog on a farm pursuant to the exemptions in section 3549 of this title shall cause the working farm dog to be registered as a working farm dog and shall, in addition to all other fees required by this section, pay \$5.00 for a working farm dog license. The owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid shall cause it to wear a collar, and attach thereto a license tag issued by the municipal clerk. Dog or wolf-hybrid owners shall pay for the license \$4.00 for each neutered dog or wolf-hybrid, and \$8.00 for each unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid. If the license fee for any dog or wolf-hybrid is not paid by April 1, its owner or keeper may thereafter procure a license for that license year by paying a fee of 50 percent in excess of that otherwise required.

(b) Before a person shall be entitled to obtain a license for a neutered dog or wolf-hybrid, he or she shall exhibit to the clerk a certificate signed by a duly licensed veterinarian showing that the dog or wolf-hybrid has been sterilized.

(c)(1) A mandatory license fee surcharge of \$4.00 per license shall be collected by each city, town, or village for the purpose of funding the dog, cat, and wolf-hybrid spaying and neutering program established in subchapter 6 of chapter 193 of this title.

(2) An optional license fee surcharge of up to \$10.00 per license is to be implemented by the legislative body of a city, town, or village which has established an animal and rabies control program for the sole purpose of funding the rabies control program.

(3) The license fee surcharges in this subsection shall not be considered part of the license fee for purposes of calculating a penalty for late payment.

(d) Before obtaining a license for a dog or wolf-hybrid six months of age or older, a person shall deliver to the municipal clerk a certificate or a certified copy thereof issued by a duly licensed veterinarian, stating that the dog or wolf-hybrid has received a current preexposure rabies vaccination with a vaccine approved by the Secretary, and the person shall certify that the dog or wolf-hybrid described in the certificate or copy is the dog or wolf-hybrid to be licensed. The municipal clerk shall keep the certificates or copies thereof on file. The

Secretary shall prescribe the size and format of rabies certificates. The owner of any such dog or wolf-hybrid shall maintain a copy of the rabies vaccination form and provide it to State or municipal officials upon request.

(e) For the purposes of licensing a dog or wolf-hybrid, a current vaccination against rabies means that:

(1) All dog and wolf-hybrid vaccinations recognized by State and local authorities shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(2) All dogs and wolf-hybrids over three months of age shall be vaccinated against rabies. The initial vaccination shall be valid for 12 months. Within nine to 12 months of the initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination.

(3) All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination shall be valid for 36 months.

(4) All vaccinations, including the initial vaccination, shall be with a U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved three-year rabies vaccine product.

(f) In addition to the license fees assessed in subsections (a) and (c) of this section and section 3583 of this title, municipal clerks shall assess a \$1.00 fee for each license sold. The clerks shall forward the fees collected under this subsection to the State Treasurer on or before the 15th day of May, September, and January of each year, together with an accounting of the licenses sold. The funds collected under this subsection are to be used for rabies control programs. For this purpose, on or before the 30th days of May, September, and January, the State Treasurer shall disburse the funds collected under this subsection as follows:

(1) Forty-five percent to the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

(2) Forty-five percent to the Commissioner of Health.

(3) Ten percent to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. (Amended 1965, No. 36, § 1, eff. April 28, 1965; 1966, No. 62 (Sp. Sess.), § 1; 1977, No. 215 (Adj. Sess.), § 3, eff. April 12, 1978; 1979, No. 92 (Adj. Sess.), § 3, eff. Feb. 28, 1980; 1989, No. 256 (Adj. Sess.), § 10(a); eff. Jan. 1, 1991; 1993, No. 213 (Adj. Sess.), § 9, eff. April 1, 1995; 2001, No. 39, § 5; 2003, No. 42, § 2, eff. May 27, 2003; 2003, No. 163 (Adj. Sess.), §§ 37, 38; 2007, No. 153 (Adj. Sess.), § 13; 2009, No. 48, § 9, eff. May 28, 2009; 2015, No. 57, § 31.)