



Contact:

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City of Highland Pilot Dog License Canvassing Program Begins April 8th

Beginning April 8th, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Animal Care and Control Division, will conduct a door-to-door canvass of neighborhoods in the City of Highland to ensure that all dogs have a current rabies vaccination and license. The thirteen week pilot canvassing program slated to run through July 4th is part of a multi-pronged approach adopted by the City Council to increase responsible pet ownership awareness and educate residents regarding the benefits of pet licensure. Highland contracts with the County of San Bernardino Animal Care and Control Division to provide animal control, shelter and licensing services.

A serious pet overpopulation problem exists in which thousands of unwanted pets enter the County's animal shelters each year. In fiscal year 2007-2008 the total number of Highland animals housed at County facilities was 2,259. Proactive efforts to affect a change in Highland's pet overpopulation problem prompted City Council to increase dog license fees for intact dogs from \$40 to \$96 effective December 29, 2008 through the City's adoption of the County's license fee structure. The higher dog license fee for intact dogs was established to address the following community health concerns:

- Intact dogs are three times more likely to bite than dogs which have been spayed or neutered.
- The majority of dogs entering the County's shelters (approximately 90%) are unaltered.
- Unaltered dogs are more likely to roam and/or cause public health concerns.
- Unaltered dogs breed which directly contributes to the pet overpopulation problem.
- Dog license fees directly pay for the cost of providing animal control and animal sheltering services in Highland. Last year, dog licenses fees

provided funding for only less than 10% of Highland's animal control services total budget allocation.

All dogs within the County of San Bernardino are required by law to be vaccinated and licensed at four (4) months of age. (California Health and Safety Code, Section 121690 and San Bernardino County Ordinance No.1764, Sections 32.0207 and 32.0209.). A license also identifies the owner and allows them to be quickly reunited with their pet in case they ever get lost.

A dog license costs \$15.00 for an altered dog (\$9.00 for disabled persons or senior citizens, 55 years or older) and \$96.00 for an unaltered dog. An additional \$15.00 late fee applies if the license application is determined to be late. Pet owners, who are interested in having their pet spayed or neutered and would like to find a program that may help offset their costs to receive the reduced license fee and help stop pet overpopulation, may contact Lia Dominguez at City Hall.

Please be prepared by having your current pet license and vaccination records available to avoid a possible citation. If you have not licensed your dog as required, you may choose to obtain a license before you receive a visit from an Animal License Officer. Dog licenses may be purchased at the following locations:

City Hall, 27215 Base Line, (909) 864-6861 Ext 243, Monday – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ***Closed Fridays***

For more information about licensing or the canvassing program, please call 1-800-472-5609 or visit the San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control website at www.sbcounty.gov/acc