



## News Release

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### **Do the right thing...license your dog!**

Dog licence renewal notices have been sent to more than 11,700 dog owners across the Central Okanagan.

2012 dog licences are now available at 28 locations from Peachland to Lake Country. And new this year, dog owners can purchase a permanent dog licence tag from either the Regional District office (1450 KLO Road) or the Regional Dog Pound (860 Weddell Place) that will allow them to renew and pay for their annual licence online.

Renewing a 2012 dog tag before February 29<sup>th</sup> saves money. The tag for a dog that has been spayed or neutered costs \$20 while a dog licence for those that have not costs \$60. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup> a \$20 dollar late fee is applied to renewals.

Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith says, "Renewing the dog licence is not only the responsible thing to do, but a licence is required under the Regional District Dog Control Bylaw (No. 366). Having an up to date dog licence on your pet's collar makes it easier for our Dog Control staff to reunite a stray dog with their owner. In many cases, we can do it by phone, without having to travel to the pound."

More and more owners are doing the right thing and are licensing their pets. Smith says, "Last year, about 65% of the dogs we dealt with at the pound were not licensed. That's still higher than we'd like but it's a ten per cent improvement over previous years. Owners see a value in the service that our Dog Control staff provides and are in increasing numbers willing to support it with the annual licence fee." He adds, "If you're dog isn't licensed and is impounded, it will be subject to an additional \$100 fee, on top of the regular impound and licensing fees."

Smith says, "We also remind dog owners that if their pet gets away, they should contact Dog Control as quickly as possible. Our bylaw only requires us to hold a dog at the pound for up to 72 hours."

Dog licences may be purchased in person at any local government office, the North Westside Fire Hall and dozens of licensing agents, pet stores and veterinary clinics throughout the Central Okanagan. Locations are printed on the licence renewal notice but are also available in the Dog Control section of the Regional District website [regionaldistrict.com/dogs](http://regionaldistrict.com/dogs). That's where you'll find other information about the Dog Control service and what to do if you lose or find a dog.

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