

News

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2008 dog licenses available Dec. 17 at Macomb County Animal Shelter

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The sad signs are visible on street-corner poles and bulletin boards in community gathering places: “Lost dog.” They often have a photo of the missing companion, a loving description of the pet and a contact telephone number.

By the time an owner ends a vain search for a missing dog, puts together a “lost dog” sign and posts it around the community, the pet could have been found and returned because it was wearing a valid license on its collar.

“A dog license is a simple, inexpensive and powerful tool to make a reunion with a lost pet more likely,” said Susan Jeroue, Macomb County’s chief animal control officer and head of the county Animal Shelter. “Owners who buy a dog license aren’t just complying with Michigan law, they’re protecting their property rights and may be doing something that will save their pet’s life.”

Macomb County 2008 dog licenses – which go on sale Monday, Dec. 17 – are \$7 for spayed or neutered pets or \$12 for pets that are not spayed or neutered. All dog license fees rise to \$24 beginning May 1. All dogs more than 3 months old must be licensed.

The Macomb County Animal Shelter is mailing about 16,000 dog license renewal applications to owners who registered their dogs in 2007. New and renewal licenses may be purchased at the Animal Shelter or by mail. Either way, the address is 21417 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, 48036.

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A completed 2008 dog license application, a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian, and proof of neutering/spaying, if applicable, are required. Applications are available at township or village offices and at the Animal Shelter. Mail-in applications also must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so the license tag and documents can be returned to the owner.

Dog owners are required to buy a county license unless they live in Mount Clemens, Eastpointe, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, Warren or Sterling Heights. Residents of those cities should contact their municipal offices for dog licensing information.

“When a lost dog with a license is found, the finder can call Animal Shelter phone number on the tag and we’ll provide the owner’s name and phone number so they can arrange the dog’s return,” Jeroue said. “If the dog comes in to us, we will call and write the owner.”

Those lines of communication aren’t available for unlicensed dogs because the Animal Shelter has no information on file. If the unlicensed dog comes into the shelter, state law provides that ownership of the animal transfers to the county after four business days. The county then may arrange an adoption.

“Since a rabies vaccination is required, a dog license also provides assurance that the pet won’t transmit that disease and is protected if attacked by another animal,” Jeroue said.

For more information, call the Animal Shelter at 586-469-5115, or visit www.macombcountymi.gov.

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