

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You are now responsible for a canine companion. The Town of Warrensburg has enacted certain regulations that all dog owners should be aware of. We hope this booklet is of some assistance to you.

The purpose of our local **Leash Law** is to protect the health, safety and well being of persons and property within the Town of Warrensburg by imposing restrictions and prohibitions on the keeping and running-at-large of dogs, dangerous animals and other identified animals within the Town.

**LICENSING:** All dogs residing in New York State **must** be licensed. Licenses are issued at the Town Clerk's Office and are renewed annually. On October 1, 1992, Warren County was declared a **rabies county**. Therefore, all dogs must be vaccinated against the rabies disease before the Town Clerk can issue a dog license.

**PROCEDURE:** When your dog reaches the age of 4 months old or, if it has been found to be running-at-large, it is time to license your dog. Running-at-large means a dog off the premises of the owner and in a public place or on private lands without the knowledge, consent and approval of the owner of such lands. Bring a current rabies vaccination certificate and proof of spaying or neutering of your dog to the Town Clerk's Office. If you are renewing your license, please bring the two (2) part renewal form sent to you by the Warrensburg Town Clerk. Check to be sure your rabies information is current on the renewal form. If it is not, the clerk will require a new rabies certificate. License fees are:

Spayed/Neutered: \$4.00 license fee + \$1.00 state surcharge = \$ 5.00  
Unspayed/Unneutered: \$12.00 license fee + \$3.00 state surcharge = \$ 15.00

If a dog is found as unlicensed during a dog enumeration, a \$5.00 fee will be added onto your license.

When licensing your dog for the first time, you will be given an identification tag for your dog to wear. The number on the tag will coincide with the license number on the paper license the clerk issues. Chapter 77 article 3 of the Code of the Town of Warrensburg **requires** that your dog wear the tag for identification purposes. Failure to do so may result in issuance of a ticket, seizure of your dog and/or fines.

**LOST TAGS:** If your tag becomes lost you will need to purchase a brand new dog license from the Warrensburg Town Clerk's Office. The fees are as listed above.

**LEASH LAW:** Chapter 77 of the Town of Warrensburg Code governs dogs. A full copy of the text of the code is available at the Town Clerk's Office for your review. Highlights of the leash law are:

- 1) All dogs must be on a leash of sufficient strength to restrain the dog.
- 2) The premises, structures or enclosures of a dog owner shall be maintained in a clean, sanitary manner.
- 3) No dog can:
  - A. Engage in habitual barking, howling, crying or whining that will annoy any person other than the owner.
  - B. Cause damage to property.
  - C. Chase or harass any person to cause intimidation.

D. Attach or chase other domestic animals.

- 4) All dog feces **must be immediately removed** from streets, highways and sidewalks by the owner of the dog.

**IF YOUR DOG GETS AWAY FROM YOU:** The Schroon River Animal Hospital at 150 Schroon River Road, Warrensburg, provides the Town of Warrensburg with shelter services. You may contact them at **(518) 623-3181** to see if your dog has been picked up by the Animal Control Officer. The law states that it is the **dog owner's responsibility to claim** his/her dog in a **timely manner** from the shelter. Failure to claim your animal may result in misdemeanor charges of abandonment of the animal punishable by imprisonment up to one year and/or fines. After any fines or fees, license, etc. are paid to the Town Clerk, the dog will then be released to his/her owner. The shelter hours are:

Monday through Friday	9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

If you have an after hours emergency, please call 623-4711 and someone will respond as soon as possible.

**IMPOUNDMENT FEES:** If your dog is picked up by the Dog Control Officer, the impoundment fees are as follows:

1st offense: \$45.00 pickup fee plus \$8.00 per day for board at SRAH  
2nd offense: \$60.00 pickup fee plus \$8.00 per day for board at SRAH  
3rd offense: \$90.00 pickup fee plus \$8.00 per day for board at SRAH

Should your dog need emergency medical attention, the SRAH will care for your animal and charge you any additional veterinary fees over the pickup costs and boarding fees.

**MISSING PET OR ADOPTING A PET:** You may visit the shelter to see if your dog or cat has been brought to the SRAH or if you are interested in adopting a new pet. The hours are listed above.

**DOG BITES:** If you are bitten by a dog or if your dog bites any person, you are **required** to report the incident to the Animal Control Officer and the Warren County Public Health Nurse (761-6571). The biting dog must be quarantined for observation for ten (10) days. The Animal Control Officer will give you the quarantine instructions and will visit periodically to be sure the dog is not showing signs of ill health. The Rabies Nurse from Warren County Public Health Department will contact the bite victim to be sure the proper medical treatment has been administered.

**RABIES:** If you encounter a possible rabid animal, contact the Warren County Public Health Nurse at 761-6571 to obtain instructions on handling the animal. For nuisance wildlife assistance, you may contact Mr. Bill Underwood at 747-0820 or Al West at 793-3662. They will remove the animal **at your expense** and are licensed to handle nuisance wildlife.

**DANGEROUS DOGS:** Effective September 1, 1998, the Law defines a dangerous dog as meaning: any dog which: a) without justification attacks a person and causes physical injury or death; or b) poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of harm to one or more persons. Should you encounter such a dog, you must contact the Animal Control Officer. The law provides that any person may make a complaint to the ACO of a dog attack upon a person or of a dog attacking, chasing or worrying a domestic animal. Upon receiving such a complaint, the Law requires that the ACO immediately inform the complainant of his or her right to commence a dangerous dog proceeding and, if there is a reason to believe the dog is a dangerous dog, the ACO is required to commence such a proceeding himself or herself. Dangerous dog proceedings are heard in Town Justice Court.

**ATTENTION CAT OWNERS:** New York State Law requires that all cats be vaccinated against rabies disease. If your cat is missing, please contact the SRAH at 623-3181 or visit the shelter.

**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR ALL RESIDENTS:**

Warrensburg Town Clerk's Office	(518) 623-4561
SPCA of Upstate New York	(518) 798-3500
Dog Control Officer	(518) 623-4711
Warren County Public Health Nurse	(518) 761-6571
Warrensburg Justice Court	(518) 623-9776
Warrensburg Highway Dept.	(518) 623-9522
N.Y.S. Dept. Of Transportation	(518) 623-3511
Warren County Dept. Of Public Works	(518) 623-4141

We hope this pamphlet will be of some assistance to you and your canine companion. **REMEMBER:** If you love your canine, you should license him or her.

This booklet has been prepared for you by the Warrensburg Town Clerk's Office.

Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk  
Kathy Rounds, Deputy Town Clerk  
Gail Olden, Deputy Town Clerk

# Town of Warrensburg

## Guide to Dog Owner Responsibilities

