

July 1, 2007

Dear Veterinarian,

I am writing to encourage you, as an animal care professional, to partner with the municipalities of Jefferson County as we embark on countywide dog licensing.

As you may know, licensing has been required of dog owners in the unincorporated areas of Jefferson County since 1994. Beginning July 1, the program was expanded to include all Jefferson County municipalities, including Arvada, Golden, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, and Westminster.

Anyone who has experienced the panic and sorrow of having a lost dog knows how important it is to license your pet. Our dogs are our friends and companions, and they look to us for nearly everything: food, shelter, water and love. They also need us to bring them home after they have wandered.

As animal control officers, we see it every day: a license is a ticket home. Requiring dogs to be licensed expedites reuniting lost pets with owners. The database maintained by the County contains information on the owner and vet, important medical concerns, and can flag dangerous dogs. Dog tags can be traced around the clock by all participating jurisdictions, which will lead to fewer impounds as the animal control officer may be able to return the dog to the owner directly, eliminating the need to take the pet to the shelter.

In addition, countywide dog licensing will benefit the community by:

- Reducing the number of unwanted dogs by encouraging owners to spay and neuter dogs;
- Ensuring that dogs have their rabies shots;
- Protecting pet owners and their animals by tracking dangerous and aggressive dogs and habitual offenders of animal laws; and
- Providing additional revenues to Table Mountain Animal Center's capital building fund to help construct a much-needed new facility.

Licensing fees will increase from \$7 for spayed/neutered or \$25 for unaltered dogs to \$15 for spayed/neutered or \$30 for unaltered dogs as of July 15.

The easier it is for dog owners to obtain a license, the more compliance we will achieve. Therefore, I am asking that you consider partnering with Jefferson County to issue dog licenses, in addition to educating your clients on the benefits of licensing. Please review other documents on this Web site to learn more about the benefits of licensing for all parties involved, especially our beloved pets.

Sincerely,
Your Local Animal Control Manager