



Vacaville Police Department
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Press Release

Today's Date: 10/9/09

Submitted By: Lieutenant Ed Goldberg
Phone: (707)449-5277
Type of Incident: Neighborhood Canvassing to Provide Dog License Information

Narrative:

Vacaville Police Department volunteers, accompanied by an Officer from Humane Animal Services, will be canvassing Vacaville neighborhoods next week to inform residents about the dog licensing process.

Beginning October 13th, and for two days a week thereafter, the volunteers will go door-to-door with an informational flyer and dog license registration forms to make the process as simple as possible. The canvassing is not enforcement oriented but is designed to encourage and help dog owners voluntarily comply with the law.

According to statistics provided by the American Veterinarian Medical Association there are between 19,000 and 24,000 dogs owned in Vacaville, yet only 5,550 of them, or about 23 percent, are licensed. Public health and safety are the primary reason for the dog licensing requirement. A dog license can only be obtained after the dog has been vaccinated for rabies. This requirement ensures that the rabies virus is not conveyed to our domestic dog population. Animal licensing helps Animal Control officials maintain compliance with local and state rabies vaccination laws. A dog license also helps animal control officers reunite dog owners with their lost companion.

License fees offset about 20 percent of the cost of providing animal shelter and animal control services. Every lost or abandoned animal taken to the shelter incurs a cost to the City that must be paid with tax dollars that could otherwise be used for our parks, streets, and other programs. Being a responsible pet owner can reduce those costs.

The City of Vacaville is offering a \$20 rebate for residents who license their dog(s) and has the dog spayed or neutered between now and December 31, 2009. This rebate is for residents who own a dog that is not yet licensed and has not yet been spayed or neutered. Residents can receive the rebate by going to the City Finance Department at 650 Merchant Street in City Hall and providing proof of license and alteration. The rebate will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions about this rebate please call Sr. Program Coordinator, Shannon Nelson at 449-5409. For information about dog licensing, contact the Director of Humane Animal Services, Marcel Harnois at 449-1700.

Having one's dog licensed is an important part of pet ownership responsibility. Please be a responsible dog owner and do the right and lawful thing – license your dog!