

**TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

**A GUIDE TO PET  
OWNERS  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND  
WAYS TO PROTECT  
YOUR  
POCKETBOOK**

**Town of Northumberland**  
**17 Catherine Street- PO Box 128**  
**Gansevoort, NY 12831**

**CONGRATULATIONS-** You are now responsible for a canine. The Town of Northumberland has enacted certain regulations that all pet owners should be made aware of. We hope this material 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 Northumberland by imposing restrictions and prohibitions on the keeping and running-at-large of dogs 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, Saratoga County was declared a rabies county. Therefore, all dogs, cats and ferrets **must be vaccinated** against the rabies disease. The Town Clerk cannot issue a dog license without proof of a current rabies vaccination.

**PROCEDURE:** When your dog reaches the age of four (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 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 in the renewal notice sent to you by the 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 Dog: \$5.00 plus \$1.00 State Spay/Neuter fee=\$6.00

Unspayed/Unneutered Dog: \$10.00 plus \$3.00 State Spay/Neuter =\$13.00

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.

**LOST TAGS:** If your tag becomes lost, it will be replaced at time of license renewal.

**LEASH LAW:** Town of Northumberland Local Law #3 of 2010, Dog Control Law. A full copy of the text of the Local Law 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 is allowed to:
  - 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) Attack or chase other domestic animals.
  - e) Habitually chase, run alongside of or bark at motor vehicles, motorcycles or bicycles while on a public street, highway, or place, or upon private property without the consent or approval of the owner of such property.
- 4) All dog feces **must be immediately removed from streets, highways and sidewalks** by the owner of the dog.

**EXOTIC PET OWNERS:** NYS Law requires the owners of exotic pets to register them with the municipal clerk in the town or village in which they reside. There is no fee. This registration is required to provide for safety of fire, emergency services and police personnel should an emergency occur at your residents.

**IF YOUR DOG GETS AWAY FROM YOU:** The Saratoga County Animal Shelter at 6010 County Farm Road, Ballston Spa, NY provides the Town of Northumberland with shelter services. You may contact them at (518)885-4113 to see if your dog has been picked up by the Dog 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.

**IMPOUNDMENT FEES:** The first time your dog is seized while running-at-large the impoundment fee is \$10.00. A board charge of \$5.00 per day is also added if you do not pick up the animal within 24 hours of notification. Proof of license and rabies vaccination must also be presented. If your dog has neither, the shelter will provide both before pet is released. There will be an added fee as follows:

License cost ranges from \$2.50-\$10.50

Rabies Vaccination charge is \$12.00

The second and any subsequent impoundment within one year will be \$50.00 plus \$5.00 per day regardless of when notification is made.

**MISSING PET:** You may contact the Dog Control Officer to see if your dog has been picked up at (518) 793-5485, Ed Cross or visit the shelter. The Dog Control Officer will contact you if you leave him a message. The Dog Control Officer is on call. The shelter hours are: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. You may claim your pet up to 4:00 PM. Closed Sundays and Holidays.

**STRAY DOGS:** NYS Law now defines the "owner" of a dog, as any person keeping, harboring or having charge or control of, or permitting any dog to remain on or be lodged or fed within such person's house, yard or premises. Should you encounter a stray dog, contact the Dog Control Officer to come and pick up the stray dog or you could be held responsible for the dog.

**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 Town of Northumberland Dog Control Officer, the Dr. or Hospital. The biting dog must be quarantined for observation for ten (10) days at the owner's expense at home or in an appropriate facility such as a local veterinary hospital or animal shelter, which will be determined by the Dog Control Officer.

**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 Saratoga County Public Health Nurse at (518)-584-7460 and the Dog Control Officer (518)-793-5485. The law provides that any person may make a complaint to the Dog Control Office 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 Dog Control Officer immediately inform the complainant of his or her right to commence a dangerous dog proceeding and, if there is reason to believe the dog is a dangerous dog, the Dog Control Officer is required to commence such a proceeding himself. These procedures are heard in Town Justice Court.

**RABIES:** If you encounter a possible rabid animal, contact the Saratoga County Public Health Nurse at (518) 584-7460 to obtain instructions on handling the animal. For nuisance wildlife assistance, you can contact the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at 1-888-488-7720 Statewide. They will remove the animal at your expense.

**ATTENTION CAT AND FERRET OWNERS:** NYS Law requires that all cats and domesticated ferrets be vaccinated against the rabies disease. Failure to keep your animal's rabies vaccination up to date may result in a fine not exceed \$200.00 for each offense.

If you think your cat may have been injured by a car, you may contact Saratoga County Sheriff's Department at (518) 885-6761 to see if a report of an injured cat has been logged.

**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

Denise Murphy	(518)792-9179
Town of Northumberland's Town Clerk	fax (518)792-9203
Ed Cross-Dog Control Officer	(518)793-5485
Saratoga County Animal Shelter	(518)885-2570
• 6010 County Farm Road	
Ballston Spa, NY 12866	
• Website: <a href="http://saratogacountyny.gov">saratogacountyny.gov</a> (click on animal shelter)	
Saratoga County Sheriff's Department	(518)885-6761
Saratoga County Public Health Nurse	(518)584-7460