



News Release

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New Permanent Regional District Dog License Now Available

You may not be able to teach an old dog a new trick, but you can make it easier to license your pet in the Central Okanagan!

Dog owners in Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland, West Kelowna and the two electoral areas may now register and receive a permanent dog license tag to attach to their pet's collar. Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith says, "The new permanent dog tag is only available by registering at either the Regional District of Central Okanagan office (1450 KLO Road) or at the Regional Dog Pound (890 Weddell Place). It replaces the need to attach a new tag for your dog every year. Once you register and receive the permanent dog tag from our staff, in late December you'll receive your annual license renewal notice in the mail and no matter where you are, you can go onto the Regional District website to pay your dog's license fee. When you have a permanent tag, there's no longer any need to leave home and line up to renew the license and get a new tag."

Smith adds, "By offering the new permanent dog tag and its easy online payment feature, we're making it even more convenient for dog owners to do the responsible thing and license their pet. This will be particularly useful for dog owners who may be away from the area for any extended time and miss our regular dog licensing renewal program in January and February each year."

"This new feature" Smith says, "is only available at the Regional District or Dog Pound facilities. Our licensing agents and vendors are not set up to receive permanent tag registrations. They and the two Regional District facilities will continue to offer annual dog tags for sale for those dog owners choosing to renew and receive a yearly dog tag for their pet."

The benefits of a dog license are clear. "By keeping your license up to date and having the dog tag on your pet's collar" Smith says, "it's very easy for our dog control officers and pound staff to re-unite stray pets with their owners. Often it's a matter of just a couple of phone calls and a dog that's been found is back with its family."

All RDCO Dog licenses (permanent and annual tags) renewed before the end of February cost \$20 for pets that are spayed or neutered and \$60 if they aren't. After February 29th an additional \$20 late charge will be added for any renewals.

The Regional District is responsible for Dog Control and Licensing of dogs in the City of Kelowna, the District's of Lake Country, Peachland and West Kelowna and the Central Okanagan East and West Electoral Areas

A list of license agents is available in the Dog Control section of the Regional District website: regionaldistrict.com/dogs. That's where you'll also find other information about the Dog Control service, bylaw and licensing details and what to do if you lose or find a dog.

Dog owners are reminded that the dog bylaw only requires the Regional District to hold a dog at the pound for up to 72 hours. In light of that, dog owners are encouraged to report missing pets to RDCO Dog Control staff as quickly as possible.

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