

**DOG BITES:** If you are bitten by a dog or if your dog bites anyone, you are **required** to report the incident to Washington County Public Health at 746-2400 and the Dog Control Officer at 879-8169. Washington County Public Health will contact the bite victim to be sure the proper medical treatment has been administered.

**RABIES:** If you encounter a possible rabid animal, contact Washington County Public Health at 746-2400 to obtain instructions on handling the animal.

**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR RESIDENTS:**

Dog Control Officer	(518) 879-8169
Shelter	(518) 879-8169
Greenwich Town Clerk's Office	(518) 747-4623
Washington County Sheriff	(518) 746-2400
Washington County Public Health	

This booklet has been prepared for you by the Greenwich Town Clerk's Office and we hope it will be of assistance to you.

Greenwich Town Clerk  
2 Academy Street  
Greenwich, NY 12834  
(518) 692-7611 ext 1

Monday	8 am-3 pm
Tuesday	8 am-3 pm
Wednesday	8 am-3 pm
Thursday	Noon - 7 pm
Friday	8 am – Noon

# TOWN OF GREENWICH



## GUIDE TO DOG OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

## CONGRATULATIONS! You are a dog owner!

The purpose of our local law is to protect the health, safety and well being of persons and property within the Town of Greenwich by enacting certain regulations on the keeping and running-at-large of dogs, as well as dangerous dogs 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, Washington County was declared a **Rabies County**. Therefore, all dogs must be vaccinated against the rabies disease. The Town Clerk cannot issue a dog license without proof of a rabies vaccination.

**PROCEDURE:** When your dog reaches the age of four (4) months old, or younger if it has been found to be running-at-large, it is time to license your dog. Running-at-large means "off the premises of the owner". Bring a current rabies 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 form. Check to be sure the rabies information is current. If it is not, a new rabies certificate will be required.

License fees are as follows:

Spayed/Neutered Animal:	\$10.00
Unspayed/Unneutered Animal:	\$20.00

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. The law requires that your dog wears the tag for identification purposes.

**CHAPTER 100 OF THE TOWN OF GREENWICH CODE** governs dogs. A full copy of the code is available at the Town Clerk's Office for your review. Highlights of the law are:

It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog in the Town to permit or allow such dog to:

A) Run at large unless the dog is accompanied by its owner or a responsible person and is under the full control of such owner or person. For the purpose of this chapter, a dog or dogs hunting in the company of a hunter or hunters shall be considered as accompanied by its owner.

B) Engage in habitual howling, barking, crying or whining or conduct as to unreasonably and habitually disturb the comfort of any person other than the owner of such dog.

C) Cause damage or destruction to public or private property, defecate, urinate or otherwise commit a nuisance upon the property of other than the owner or harbinger of the dog.

D) Chase, jump upon or at, or otherwise harass any person in such manner as to reasonably cause intimidation or fear or to put such person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm.

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.

F) If a female dog, when in heat, be off the owner's premises, unrestrained by a leash.

**PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED DOGS** as well as violations of A-F (as listed) are addressed in Section 100-9 Enforcement as follows:

A. The Dog Control Officer of the Town of Greenwich shall, and all peace officers may, administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and for that purpose shall have the authority to issue appearance tickets and to seize dogs, either on or off the owner's premises, if witnessed to be in violation of this chapter.

B. Penalties for offenses: Any person convicted of a violation of this chapter shall be liable for a penal penalty of \$25 for a first violation; of \$50 for a second violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation.

**IF YOUR DOG IS PICKED UP BY DOG CONTROL:** Shannon Celeste-Hahn provides the Town of Greenwich with Dog Control services. Call the Dog Control Officer at (518) 879-3889 to see if your dog has been picked up.

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

Prior to releasing a dog to its owner, the Dog Control Officer or the shelter will give the owner a statement listing the number of days the dog has been in the shelter and the costs for any veterinary care. The owner shall take this statement to the Greenwich Town Clerk to whom all fees due shall be paid as well as any licensing fees. These fees must be paid at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours. The Town Clerk will give a receipt to the owner who will then give it to the Dog Control Officer or the shelter at which time such dog may be released to the owner.

**FEES FOR SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS:** The fees for seizure and impoundment of dogs in violation of this law or the Laws of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Law are as follows:

(1) First offense: for the first impoundment of any dog owned by that person, a \$20 pickup fee plus \$30 for the first 24 hours or part thereof and \$15 for each additional 24 hours or part thereof.

(2) Second offense: for the second impoundment of any dog owned by that person, a \$20 pickup fee plus \$40 for the first 24 hours or part thereof and \$15 for each additional 24 hours or part thereof.

(3) Third offense: for the third and subsequent impoundments of any dog owned by that person, a \$20 pickup fee plus \$60 for the first 24 hours or part thereof and \$15 for each additional 24 hours or part thereof.

If not redeemed in accordance with Section 100-7 of the Dog Control Law of the Town of Greenwich, the owner shall forfeit all title to the dog and it shall be released for adoption or euthanasia.