



BREVARD County
Animal Services & Enforcement

Public Information Release

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Brevard Animal Services Encourages Pet Licensing

MELBOURNE, Fla. -- Brevard County Animal Services is encouraging dog and cat owners to purchase a county license for each of their pets, for several reasons: a license tag on a pet's collar is the fastest way to reunite an animal with its owner; license fees fund the County's animal shelters; licensing demonstrates responsible pet ownership; and it's the law.

As peak hurricane season approaches, it is an important time to register family pets, as many cats and dogs become lost during storms or their aftermath. An animal license includes a tag for the pet's collar. That tag includes the department phone number as well as a unique identification number which links the owner's contact information to the pet.

Animal Control officers responding to reports of stray animals can simply check the tag number in a database, look up the owner's name and address, and return the pet directly to the owner. This saves the County the trouble and expense of housing it at a shelter, as well as reducing the risk of exposing the pet to other stray animals that may not be current on their vaccinations.

All of the money collected through licensing fees goes directly to Brevard County Animal Services. This means that pet owners who license their dogs and cats are not only protecting their own pets, but also strays and other pets in the area. The registration fee varies from \$10 to \$16 depending on whether the dog or cat is spayed or neutered. Renewal is annual, just like vehicle registration.

In addition to animal registration being required by law, unlicensed dogs and cats create a serious financial impact on the operation of the shelter. The animal shelter relies on fees generated by license sales to pay for the many services provided to the community, including lost animals and adoption services. Owners with licensed dogs and cats are contributing their fair share toward funding the shelter, while unclaimed and unlicensed pets cost the county money to feed, house, provide medical treatment for, and place in new homes.

Animal licenses are available through veterinarians, both County shelters, and Brevard County Animal Services' main office. For specific locations, call 321-633-2024 or check the veterinarian listings at www.brevardanimalservices.com.

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