
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2008

For additional information contact:

Bridie Kent at (616) 632-7110 or bridie.kent@kentcountymi.gov

Dog Licensing Season Starts Today

(Grand Rapids, MI) – ‘Tis the season...to license your pet. Dog licensing season starts today and goes until March 1, 2009. Over the next three months, dog owners may stop by the Animal Shelter or city or township office to renew the license, or renew licenses online at www.accesskent.com/services with no additional transaction fees.

Fees range from \$9 to \$20 depending on spay or neuter status of the animal, and discounts apply to senior citizen pet owners. After March 1, fees will more than double. A dog license is a very important way that dog owners can demonstrate responsible pet ownership. A licensed pet means that the dog has an up-to-date rabies vaccination and ensures that, if found running loose, the dog can be returned to its owner quickly and with minimal cost and hassle.

“Michigan law requires all dogs over four months of age to be licensed. What people don’t always realize is that failure to get a license each year can result in steep fines,” said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. “Most important, licensing your dog is part of responsible pet ownership, and it protects the health and safety of people and animals in our community.”

The Kent County Animal Shelter, located at 711 Ball Ave., NE, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. After January 12, you may visit the shelter at its new location, 740 Fuller Ave., NE, just around the corner from the current location. Licenses are available there year-round. Pet owners who already have a dog licensed in Kent County will receive a postcard denoting their fee and requirements, and may renew their license online or by mail.

###

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to the whole of Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and the Westside of Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD and our services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503