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## DOG BITES:

If a dog bites you or if your dog bites any person, you are required to report the incident to the Columbia County Department of Health (518-828-3358) and/or the Dog Control Officer (518-794-0225). The biting dog must be quarantined for 10 (ten) days at the owner's expense.

## DANGEROUS DOGS:

NYS Law defines a "dangerous dog" as any dog that:

- (1) without justification attacks a person and causes physical injury or death, or
- (2) poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of harm to one or more persons, or
- (3) without justification attacks a service dog, guide dog, or hearing dog and causes physical injury or death.

Should you encounter such a dog, you must contact the Dog Control Officer (794-0225) or the NYS Police (794-8445). The law provides that any person may make a complaint to the Dog Control Officer 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 DCO immediately inform the complainant of his/her right to commence a dangerous dog proceeding and, if there is a reason to believe the dog is a dangerous dog, the DCO is required to commence such a proceeding.

## RABIES:

If you encounter, or your pet has contact with, an animal you believe may be rabid, contact the Columbia County Department of Health at 518-828-3358.

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## NEW YORK STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROPRIATE SHELTER FOR DOGS LEFT OUTDOORS

New York State Agriculture & Markets Law ~ Article 26 . 353-b requires any person who owns or has custody or control of a dog that is left outside to provide it with shelter appropriate to its breed, physical condition, and the climate. Violations of this law are subject to penalties including fines and forfeiture of the animal.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR APPROPRIATE SHELTER:

- For dogs restrained in any manner outdoors, shade to protect the dog from direct sunlight.
- For all dogs that are left outdoors in inclement<sup>1</sup> weather, a housing facility that must:
  - (1) have a waterproof roof;
  - (2) be structurally sound with insulation appropriate and sufficient to protect from inclement weather;
  - (3) allow each dog adequate freedom of movement (stand up, turn around, lie down with limbs outstretched); and
  - (4) allow for effective removal of excretions, other waste material; dirt and trash.

The housing facility and area immediately surrounding it must be cleaned regularly.

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<sup>1</sup> Conditions likely to adversely affect the health or safety of the dog, including but not limited to rain, sleet, ice, snow, wind, or extreme heat and cold.

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**DOG CONTROL OFFICER,  
WES POWELL  
Cell: 518-794-0225**

**TOWN CLERK  
518-794-8888  
MON., WED., & THURS. 9 – 5  
FRIDAY 3 – 7**

**COLUMBIA-GREENE HUMANE  
SOCIETY/S.P.C.A.  
125 Humane Society Road  
Hudson, New York  
518-828-6044**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
518-828-3358**

Updated 1.6.10

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# PET PET OWNER'S GUIDE



**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
14755 Route 22 North  
P.O. Box 328  
New Lebanon, NY 12125  
Ph: 518-794-8888  
Fax: 518-794-9694  
[www.townofnewlebanon.com](http://www.townofnewlebanon.com)**

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

You are now responsible for a canine companion. The Town of New Lebanon has enacted certain legislation that all pet owners should be aware of. The purpose of our local DOG CONTROL LAW, in combination with NEW YORK STATE LAW, is to protect the health, safety, and well being of persons and property within the Town of New Lebanon. We hope this pamphlet will provide assistance with local regulations as well as New York State regulations.

### LICENSING:

All dogs owned or harbored in New York State for longer than 30 days **must** be licensed<sup>2</sup>. Licenses are issued at the Town Clerk's Office and are renewed annually. All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies; a dog license cannot be issued without proof of a valid rabies vaccination.

#### LICENSING PROCEDURE:

- **WHEN:**

When a dog reaches the age of **4 (four) months**, it is time to be licensed.

- **WHAT TO BRING:**

**New Licenses:** Bring a current rabies vaccination certificate and proof of spaying or neutering, if applicable, to the Town Clerk's Office.

**License Renewals:** Bring the 3 (three) part renewal form sent to you by the NYS Ag. & Markets, Animal Industry Division. Check the rabies information on the form. If the expiration date has passed or no rabies information is listed, you will need to bring a new rabies certificate. *(The clerk issuing the license must see the certificate, do not fill in the information yourself.)*

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<sup>2</sup> Dogs residing in NYC are licensed with NYC Dept. of Health(Proof of said licensing is required). If a non-resident brings a dog into NY for less than 30 days, proof of licensing according to the resident state's licensing laws is required.

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- **FEES:**

**Spayed/Neutered Dogs:**  
\$2.50 state fee + \$5.00 local fee = **\$7.50**

**Unspayed/Unneutered Dogs:**  
\$7.50 state fee + \$5.00 local fee +  
\$3.00 population control = **\$15.50**

- **TAGS:**

Upon 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. Section 119 of the NYS Ag. & Markets Law **requires** that your dog wear this tag for identification purposes. Failure to do so may result in issuance of a ticket, seizure of your dog, and/or fines.

**Lost Tags:** If the tag is lost, you may order a new tag from the Town Clerk for \$2.00. The replacement tag is mailed to you within 6 (six) to 8 (eight) weeks.

#### NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES:

NYS Law **requires** that the owner of record<sup>3</sup> notify the municipal clerk:

- If dog is **deceased**, on or before **receipt of renewal form**.
- **Within 10 days** of the change if:
  - Owner has a **change of address**, or
  - Dog is **lost or stolen**, or
  - Dog is transferred to a **new owner**. (Under NYS Law, the owner of record is responsible for the dog and any violations until notice is received.)

*Failure to provide notification within the time frames noted is a violation and subject to fines up to \$300.00.*

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<sup>3</sup> The person in whose name any dog was last licensed except if the owner is under 18 years of age, the owner shall be deemed to be the parent or guardian of such person.

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## LOCAL DOG CONTROL LAW:

Chapter 71 of the Code of the Town of New Lebanon governs dogs. The full text of this law is available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

- **HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL DOG CONTROL LAW:**

#### NO DOG MAY:

- run at large unless restrained by an adequate collar and leash or accompanied by its owner or responsible person *and* under their control,
- engage in habitual howling or barking or other behavior that will annoy any person,
- cause damage or destruction to property,
- chase or harass any person or animal to cause intimidation, or
- habitually chase or bark at automobiles, bicycles, or other vehicles.

#### ALL DOGS:

- must be vaccinated against **rabies** (*fine is \$100*).

#### FEMALE DOGS:

- must be confined when in heat.

*Violation of the local Dog Control Law is subject to penalties.*

### TOWN PARK:

If you bring your dog to the Town Park, your dog must be under your control at all times and you are responsible for cleaning up after your dog.

### LOST/FOUND DOGS:

If your dog gets away from you, you need to contact the Dog Control Officer (794-0225) or the Town Clerk (794-8888) as soon as possible.

If your dog is picked up by the Dog Control Officer, is licensed, and is wearing his/her tag, we will make every effort to contact you and return your dog. If your dog is unlicensed or unidentified, it will be impounded at the Columbia-Greene Humane Society.

***See next panel for impoundment fees.***

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**Impoundment Fees** are the responsibility of the dog owner and are due when the dog is claimed.

If a dog is claimed **within 24 hours** of impoundment, the fee is **\$75.00**.

If a dog is claimed **after 24 hours**, the fee is **\$305.00**.

You may also be responsible for **additional costs** and/or fees:

- licensing fees (all dogs must have a valid license before they can be claimed, unlicensed dogs must be licensed when they are claimed),
- fines, if applicable, for violations of state laws (i.e. licensing) and/or local laws (i.e. running at large), and
- Veterinary fees (if your dog needs emergency medical attention, it will be provided and you will be responsible for the cost).

It is a dog owner's responsibility to claim his/her dog from a shelter in a timely manner. Failure to claim your animal may result in charges of abandonment punishable by imprisonment for up to one year and/or fines up to \$1,000.00.

## STRAY DOGS:

NYS Law defines the "owner" of a dog as any person who keeps or harbors (provides food or shelter to) any dog. Should you encounter a stray dog, contact the Dog Control Officer at 794-0225 or the Town Clerk at 794-8888 to arrange pick up or you will be held responsible for the animal.

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