



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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## **P R E S S R E L E A S E**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **What's on Your Dog's Collar?** **Door to Door License Canvassing Continues** **Throughout Santa Barbara County**

Did you know dog licenses are required by law? Did you know that a rabies tag is not a dog license? Many dog owners do not realize that state and local laws require all dogs over 4 months of age to be licensed and wearing the animal license tag at all times.

The Responsible Pet Ownership Program has restarted the license canvassing program. We have begun canvassing door-to-door throughout the County to increase the number of dogs currently rabies vaccinated and to ensure that all dogs that reside in the County are currently licensed. The County of Santa Barbara enforces a zero tolerance policy on all unlicensed dogs. The penalty for having an unlicensed dog is \$319. Dog owners with unlicensed dogs are reminded to purchase dog licenses to avoid penalties and be in compliance with the license law.

Where can you purchase a County Animal License?

- In person at one of the three county animal shelters
- Online though [www.sbcphd.org/as](http://www.sbcphd.org/as)
- Download application form from website and mail to shelter
- Check with your veterinarian to see if licenses are sold at their hospital
- City of Carpinteria or Santa Barbara-contact City Animal Control

A dog license is more than a quick trip home for a lost dog. County Animal Services can quickly reunite a lost dog with its family when the dog is wearing a license. A pet wearing a license may never have to come to the shelter. County Animal Services makes every effort to return the pet home. Dog owners need to make sure they keep their dog's license information up to date at all times.

A dog license also makes a difference to the less fortunate animals in our community. Revenue from the sale of dog licenses helps Santa Barbara County Animal Services operate three open door shelters. A dog license shows that you are a responsible pet owner and helps the animals at the shelters find loving homes. For more information, please contact Project PetSafe, 805.934.6968 or [www.projectpetsafe.org](http://www.projectpetsafe.org).

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