

2012

**DOG
LICENSING**

MUNICIPAL POSTING

**TITLE 7 M.R.S.A.
CHAPTER 721 & 725**

A COPY OF THIS BOOKLET MUST BE POSTED AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES

BUREAU OF HEALTH

Chapter 260: REGULATIONS REGARDING RABIES IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
DOG LICENSURE

SUMMARY: These rules state and explain the requirements for rabies vaccination of puppies and dogs, as required for licensure. These rules are consistent with 7 M.R.S.A. Section 3922(3) and with current veterinary practice and vaccine specifications.

1. No license shall be issued for any dog, including kennel dogs, in the State without the presentation of a valid certificate showing that the animal has been immunized against rabies, or presentation of a valid letter of exemption, as described in paragraph 5. Letters deemed not to meet the requirements of paragraph 5 must be rejected by the licensing agent.
 2. Except as hereinafter provided, the only valid certificate of immunization shall be the certificate of immunization specified by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians in effect at the time the dog is subject to licensure or renewal of license, and authenticated by a licensed veterinarian. Certificates generated by computer systems, and containing the same information, in the same locations, shall be considered acceptable alternative certificates. The certificate must be fully completed, and must show the date of vaccine administration, and the date a booster vaccination is due (expiration date), in accordance with the manufacturer's label for the vaccine used. Only vaccines licensed by the US Food and Drug Administration shall be used.
 3. The certificate must show that the immunization is effective at the time of licensure.
 4. For dogs vaccinated in other states, or Canadian Provinces, a certificate of immunization consistent with the requirements of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, and authenticated by a Veterinarian licensed in that state or province, in effect at the time of licensing shall be considered acceptable. If any other certificate is presented, the owner shall be advised by the municipal clerk to present the certificate to a Maine licensed Veterinarian for authentication or for preparation of a National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians certificate.
 5.
 - A. A letter of exemption from vaccination may be submitted for licensure, if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the dog. Qualifying letters must be in the form of a written statement, signed by a licensed veterinarian, that includes a description of the dog, and the medical reason that precludes vaccination. If the medical reason is temporary, the letter shall indicate a time of expiration of the exemption.
 - B. A dog exempted under the provisions of paragraph 5 A, above, shall be considered unvaccinated, for the purposes of 10-144 C.M.R. Ch.251, Section 7(B)(1). (Rules Governing Rabies Management) in the case of said dog's exposure to a confirmed or suspect rabid animal.
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LD 11 a Act to Regulate the Keeping of Wolf Hybrids

How does this affect the clerks?

In a nutshell.....

Anyone owning or possessing a wolf hybrid after June 1st 2011 must have a permit from Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, unless the following provisions are met:

- A. The wolf hybrid was licensed in the state prior to June 1st 2011, if it was over the age of 6 months at that time, or by December 31, 2011 if it was less than 6 months on June 1st. 2011
- B. The wolf hybrid is currently spayed or neutered.
- C. Has a registered Microchip implanted under the skin or a permanent tattoo that is registered with a nationwide organization.
- D. Is current on rabies vaccinations.

Wolf hybrids are no longer included in the definition of "kennel".

What information does the town need to collect?

As with all licenses:

- A. The name address and phone number of the current owner.
- B. Proof of Rabies.
- C. Proof that the wolf hybrid has been spayed or neutered.
- D. Copy of the tattoo or microchip registration.

The law states that a clerk may not issue a license for a wolf hybrid unless these conditions are met.

Because the department will need to track ownership we are asking the towns to please forward a copy of the above information to Animal Welfare upon licensing of a wolf hybrid. If at any time a licensed wolf hybrid dies, please forward that information immediately to the Animal Welfare Program.

What if someone doesn't meet the criteria but still wants to own a Wolf Hybrid?

Anyone wanting to keep a wolf Hybrid must contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to acquire a wildlife possession permit . The forms are available at http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/forms_applications.htm

If you or your Animal Control Officer are aware of a wolf hybrid that is not licensed please contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with owner's name and address. You may direct these calls to Susan Zayac at 287-5240.