Vermont Dog and Wolf-Hybrid Licensing

**PDF to print for ready reference** [1]

**Annual Licensing Deadline for Existing Pet Owners: April 1**

A person who fails to license a dog or wolf-hybrid in the required manner may be fined up to $500.00.  [20 V.S.A. § 3550(a) [2]]

**Minimum Fee Schedule**

All licensing requirements apply to dogs and wolf-hybrids (DWH) **age 6 months or older**. Per Vermont law, municipalities may levy an optional additional surcharge fee, not to exceed $10.00, to enforce its animal and rabies control program.  [20 V.S.A. § 3581(c)(2) [3]]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adoption Date (on or before)</th>
<th>April 1</th>
<th>Late Fee</th>
<th>After April 1*</th>
<th>Late Fee</th>
<th>After October 1*</th>
<th>Late Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neutered or spayed</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT neutered or spayed</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* DWH adopted between April 1 and October 1: Owner has 30 days to license from time of adoption.

**Working Farm Dog Fee**: Add $5.00

**Minimum Fee Components**: All minimum fees include a required $1.00 State of Vermont Rabies Control Program fee and a required $4.00 State of Vermont Spay/Neuter Program Fee. The municipal clerk retains $2.00 for his or her own use for each license or permit he or she issues.

**Impoundment Financial Hardship Waiver**: A municipality may waive the license fee for an impounded dog or wolf-hybrid, upon showing current vaccinations and financial hardship. State
forfeits their portion of the fee.

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**Special Situations**

**Annual Breeding License (or Special License) and Pet Dealer Annual Permit Fees**

Pet dealers are not exempt from other licensing requirements. See definition of Pet Dealers below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>BREEDING [OR SPECIAL] LICENSE</th>
<th>PET DEALER PERMIT FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-10 Dogs or Wolf-Hybrids</td>
<td>Total (flat) fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or before April 1</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After April 1</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>$37.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Additional Each (over 10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On or before April 1</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After April 1</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Definitions and Requirements**

**General Licensing Requirements**

- Neutered or Spayed Verification: Certificate of Sterilization signed by a licensed veterinarian
- Vaccination Certificate (or certified copy) signed by a licensed veterinarian
- Owner Certification of vaccination (should be recorded by the Municipal Clerk)

**Breeding Licenses**

Breeders may request a breeding [or special] license. Animals must be held in a proper enclosure. A current rabies vaccination is also required for each dog or wolf-hybrid. Such licensed dogs or wolf-hybrids are exempt from other license fees and any town surcharge. However, each breeding license issued is subject to the $1.00 state fee for state rabies control programs. NOTE: Breeders of cats and ferrets may also apply for a breeding license for their operations.

**Pet Dealers**

A pet dealer is any person (excluding pet shops, animal shelters, or rescue organizations) who sells or exchanges, or offers to sell or exchange cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids, or any combination thereof, from three or more litters in any 12-month period. The permit must be displayed prominently on the premises where the cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids are kept. **Dealers are not exempt from other required license(s).**
Clerk requirements regarding pet dealers:

1. Provide the pet dealer a copy of Part 3 of the Animal Welfare Regulations (with Animal Health Contact Information) - Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
2. Provide the pet dealer information about sales tax obligations.
3. Maintain a record of the types of animals kept by the permit holder.

Working Farm Dog License

“Working farm dog” means a dog that is bred or trained to herd or protect livestock or poultry or to protect crops and that is used for those purposes and that is registered as a working farm dog. Municipalities may not prohibit or regulate a “Working Farm Dog” barking and/or running at large, on the license holder’s property, in order to herd or protect livestock, poultry, or crops.

Temporary Vermont Visitors

A person may bring a licensed dog(s) into Vermont for a period not to exceed 90 days, provided the owner has a valid, current certificate of rabies vaccination.

Municipal Clerk Reporting and Record Requirements

- Deposit license fees into the town treasury within 60 days of receipt
- Provide a sworn statement regarding amount of money received and paid over by him or her to the town treasury
- Maintain record of issued licenses, with the names of the owners/keepers, names and descriptions of the Dogs or Wolf-Hybrids, and registration numbers.
- A license is valid in any part of the state and may be transferred, provided the license is recorded by the municipal clerk where the dog or wolf-hybrid is currently being kept.

Rabies Vaccination Requirements

1. All dogs and wolf-hybrids over 3 months old must be vaccinated.
2. All vaccinations, including the initial vaccination, must use a U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved three-year rabies vaccine product.
3. All vaccinations must be conducted by a licensed veterinarian.
4. Every animal must receive a booster 9-12 months after initial vaccination.
5. Vaccinations must be given every 36 months.

Links