



## Vermont Dog and Wolf-Hybrid Licensing

### 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)]

## 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)]

Adoption Date (on or before)	April 1	Late Fee	After April 1*	Late Fee	After October 1*	Late Fee
Neutered or spayed	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$7.00	\$8.00
NOT neutered or spayed	\$13.00	\$17.00	\$13.00	\$17.00	\$9.00	\$11.00

\* 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.

Dates	BREEDING [OR SPECIAL] LICENSE		PET DEALER PERMIT FEE
	1-10 Dogs or Wolf-Hybrids	Additional Each (over 10)	Total (flat) fee
On or before April 1	\$30.00	\$3.00	\$25.00
After April 1	\$45.00	\$4.50	\$37.50

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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.
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