



**Franklin County Municipal Court  
Environmental Division  
Judge Stephanie Mingo**

# Dog Licensing and Control Laws

## How Do I Get a Dog License?

Dog license information is available on the Franklin County Auditor's Dog License website. All dogs older than three months of age must be licensed.

<https://doglicense.franklincountyohio.gov/>

## Where Can I Purchase a Dog License?

### Franklin County Auditor

373 S High Street, 21st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614)-525-3260

### Franklin County Dog Shelter

4340 Tamarack Boulevard  
Columbus, OH 43229  
(614)-525-3647

## General Dog License Information

- Keeping owner information current on a dog's license aids in their return when lost.
- Dog licenses must be renewed annually between December 1-January 31.
- Annual base fee: \$35 (with some exceptions).

## Who Enforces Dog License Laws?

The primary mission of Franklin County Animal Care and Control is to enforce the dog laws in Franklin County and keep the public safe from animal-related health and safety dangers (i.e. loose/unlicensed dogs).

## What are Dangerous Dog Laws?

Effective May 22, 2012, the State of Ohio no longer defines a "breed of dog commonly know as a pit bull" as a vicious dog.

However, any dog may be designated as vicious, dangers, or a nuisance based on its actions. Any law enforcement officer, dog warden, or animal control officer may make this designation.

## What are Dangerous Dog Laws?

There are currently three designations a dog can receive: Nuisance, Dangerous, or Vicious.

*More information on **Dog Designations** can be found in the Ohio Revised Code Section 955.11.*

## Does My Dog Need a Rabies Shot?

All dogs in Franklin County over four months of age must be currently immunized against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. This is a requirement of the Franklin County Board of Health. Licenses will not be issued without a current valid rabies tag number and immunization.

## General Tips for Dog Owners

- All dogs regardless of age must be kept confined on the property of the owner, keeper, or harborer at all times.
- Acceptable methods for confinement include a fence, tethering device, dog pen, inside house or garage, or under adequate supervision.
- If you are walking your dog off your property, you must maintain reasonable control over your dog on a leash so that it doesn't run away.

### Prepared by:

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<https://franklincountymunicourt.org/courts/environmental-court>