

INTRODUCTION

Dog licensing is a vital part of every animal control program. Dog-licensing programs protect the public health; they are design to ensure that all dogs maintain a current rabies vaccination at all times. In addition, license tags help to reunite lost dogs with their owners.

OBJECTIVE

To provide the officer with basic knowledge regarding the dog licensing program and the enforcement of the laws regarding dog licensing.

APPLICABLE LAWS

In Arizona, dog-licensing regulations arise from A.R.S. Article 6, § 11-1008 (formerly 24-367), which enables local governments to set license fees and require all dogs, over three months of age, to be licensed. In addition, it allows local governments to set a lower fee for animals incapable of procreation. The following are the applicable laws enforced by the Pima Animal Care Center:

Jurisdiction	Code	Comments
Pima County	6.04.070	All dogs, over three months of age, owned, possessed, harbored or maintained within the boundaries of the County, for more than 30 consecutive days.
Tucson	4-81	All dogs, over three months of age, owned, possessed, harbored or maintained in the city for more than 30 days.
Marana	6-2	A.R.S. is controlling.
Oro Valley	89-13 II B	It is a civil infraction to own, keep, possess, harbor or maintain a dog over the age of four months, for more than 30 days without a license.
Sahuarita	6-2	A.R.S. and the Pima County Code are controlling.
South Tucson	3-81	All dogs, over three months of age, owned, possessed, harbored or maintained in the city for more than 30 days.

In addition, the City of Tucson Code § 4-89 requires that the license tags be worn at all times, and § 4-98 allows the Pima Animal Care Center to impound any unlicensed dog.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of every field enforcement officer to check the license of every dog with which he/she comes in contact. This includes dogs that were attacked by other animals and those dogs owned by complainants and neighbors involved in a case. Citations shall be issued for violation of the dog licensing requirements in each and every case. There are no exceptions to this policy.