Animal Control Frequently Asked Questions

Dog Licensing:

- **What do I need for paperwork in order to license my dog?**
  - Current Rabies Certificate
  - Proof of Spay/Neuter if applicable
- **Where do I go to license my dog?**
  - The Town Office will be happy to license your dog
  - License online (October through January 31) at: [https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl)
- **How much does it cost to license my dog?**
  - $11.00 for non spayed/neutered dogs
  - $6.00 for spayed/neutered dogs
- **Where does the license money go?**
  - **Not Spayed/Neutered Dogs**
    - $1.00 stays right here in the Town of West Gardiner
    - $10.00 goes to the State of Maine Animal Welfare Program
  - **Spayed/Neutered Dogs**
    - $3.00 stays right here in the Town of West Gardiner
    - $3.00 goes to the State of Maine Animal Welfare Program
- **How long is my dog’s license good for?**
  - All dog licenses expire on December 31 of the licensing year.
  - Dogs licensed after January 31 of the licensing year and after 10 days of ownership or turning 6 months of age shall be subject to a $25.00 late fee per state law.
- **When do dogs need to be licensed?**
  - All dogs need to be licensed upon reaching the age of 6 months in the town where it resides, or after the dog has been with the family for 10 days, if adopted.

General Animal Control:

- **What is the Animal Control Officer’s business hours?**
  - The Animal Control Officer is on-call 24/7/365 to receive calls. Please keep in mind that he has a full-time job and may not immediately available at all times to take your call.
- **What is the responsibility of the Animal Control Officer?**
  - The Animal Control Officer is charged with enforcing the State of Maine Animal Welfare Laws regarding domesticated animals including:
    - Dogs at Large (7§3911)
    - Rabies Vaccinations (7§3916)
    - Dog Licenses Necessary (7§3921)
    - Keeping a Dangerous Dog (7§3952)
- Animal Trespass (7§4041)
- Investigating Animal Cruelty (17§1023)

- **Does the Animal Control Officer handle wildlife?**
  - No, the Animal Control Officer handles domestic animals only.
  - Wildlife concerns and issues should be directed to Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at 207-287-8000.

- **What should I do if my dog or cat goes missing?**
  - The animal Control Officer should be contacted so they can keep their eyes and ears open while out on the road.
  - There are multiple pages on Facebook (i.e. Maine Lost Dog Recovery, Maine Lost Cat Recovery, Lost Dogs in Maine etc.) that are helpful resources for helping find your dog or cat.
  - Your Animal Control Officer should be notified when the missing animal has been reunited with their family so they’re no longer looking for the animal.