

Frequently Asked Questions

PLEASE READ THIS PAGE BEFORE APPLYING FOR A DOG LICENSE

Why should I license my dog?

Under Ohio law all dogs older than three months of age must be licensed (ORC 955.01). All dogs kept, sheltered or owned must display a valid registration tag. The law applies regardless of whether the dog is kept inside or out. It is also a great identification tag to get your lost dog back to you. There are many cases where a dog gets loose from its owner, and is able to be reunited because of the license.

How often does the license have to be renewed?

Dog licenses must be renewed annually between December 1 through January 31, unless you purchase a three-year or permanent dog license.

How much does a dog license cost?

The **One** year dog license is **\$16**; a **Three** year dog license is **\$48**; and **Permanent** dog licenses are **\$160**. Puppy (a dog that is 6 months of age or less prior to July 1) licenses are available after July 1 for a fee of **\$8**. Puppy licenses are not eligible for a three-year or permanent license until the following year.

How can I purchase a dog license?

Renewal of an existing license can be completed online via the [Auditor's online registration](#) or by returning your dog license renewal form mailer along with payment. The renewal form is mailed to existing licensed dog owners in early December. Individuals may also visit locations throughout the county including the Auditor's office to renew a license.

If you are a **first time dog owner** purchasing a new dog license through the Auditor's online registration, you must first request a Customer ID by email prior to accessing the Auditor's online registration/Payment. Send an email to dogtags@clermontcountyohio.gov to request a customer ID; be sure to include name, address and phone number in your email.

You may also complete the [dog license application](#) form and return via mail to the Auditor's office or visit locations throughout the county including the Auditor's office to purchase a new license.

For online purchases and mailed applications, tags will be mailed once applications are processed.

Where do I send a renewal or new application?

Please make check or money order payable to the Clermont County Treasurer and mail to: Clermont County Auditor's Office, Dog License, 101 East Main St., Batavia, Ohio 45103.

How can I avoid late fees?

The penalty can be avoided by purchasing your dog license immediately upon acquiring the dog. After the renewal period of December 1 through January 31, a penalty will be assessed for all dogs licensed that are older than three months of age and have been owned for more than 30 days.

What should I do if I missed renewing my dog tag last year?

Since dog tags are issued annually, you can purchase a tag during the renewal period without penalty. See "How can I purchase a dog license?"

Will the license deadline be extended?

The county commissioners may extend the deadline by county resolution. Currently there is no extension contemplated. When the license renewal deadline falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.

Where does all the money go?

The license fees collected, along with all fees collected at the Clermont County Animal Shelter, go into a fund referred to as the Dog and Kennel Fund. The fund is specifically designed to cover the cost of operating the shelter; Animal Control costs to pick up stray dogs and a portion of the fees are distributed to Ohio State University for research of animal diseases.

What do I do if I find a lost dog?

You can search our online database to find the owner [here](#)

How do I replace a lost license?

If you or your pet loses a license, you can request a duplicate tag for \$5. Please email a request to dogtags@clermontcountyohio.gov with your name, address and license number, if known, and we will send a replacement tag.

How do I transfer a license to a new owner?

The ownership of a current dog license can be transferred to another owner for just \$5. The current owner on file, or executor of the current owner's estate, must sign the [transfer form](#). It is also advisable for the new owner to sign the form. Licenses are not transferrable between dogs.

Loss of a Beloved Pet

If you have lost a dog due to death, please inform us by email as soon as possible. dogtags@clermontcountyohio.org If we receive this information before November 1 we won't mail out a renewal notice reminder for that particular dog. If you get a new dog you will need to purchase a new tag for the new dog.

Kennel License Information

The Auditor's Office requires a letter confirming that the location of the kennel meets local zoning regulations before a kennel license will be issued for the first time.

Townships and municipalities may have different requirements.

A kennel license includes 5 dog tags at a cost of \$80.00 per year as long as the license is renewed by January 31 annually. After January 31 there is a \$80.00 penalty for all renewals. Up to 5 additional tags may be purchased for \$1.00 each. Please complete the [kennel license application](#) and mail to the Auditor's office.

Dangerous Dog Registration

Per state statute, the County Auditor is required to issue a dangerous dog registration certificate and a dangerous dog tag to a person who is the owner of a dangerous dog, who is 18 years of age or older, and who provides a fee of \$50 and certain specified information. The owner of a dog who is issued a dangerous dog registration certificate is required to renew the dog's registration certificate annually for the same fee and in the same manner as the initial certificate was obtained.

Where can I find the laws that apply to dog licensing?

The laws governing dog licensing in the State of Ohio can be found in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), sections 955 and 956.

Is there a limit to the number of dogs I am allowed to own in Clermont County?

There is no limit to the number of dogs you can legally own in the county. However, some restrictions may apply if you reside in your township/city/village areas of the county or some homeowner associations. You should check with your local township/city/village government and your HOA.

How do I notify your office that I have moved?

Please update your address through the [Auditor's online registration](#) or contact our office. If you have moved to another County, please note that most counties in Ohio will recognize the tag until it expires. When that license expires (if it is not a permanent tag), you will need to contact the auditor of the county in which you have moved to obtain a new tag.

If I move here from another county, is that county's current license still valid?

If you are moving from another county in Ohio, we will honor the license until it is expired. You will need to provide a change of address to the auditor of the county from which you have moved. You can find their contact information from the following link: <https://caao.org/> When that license expires, you will need to purchase a new Clermont County license.

If you are moving from another state or country, you are required to purchase a license immediately upon arrival. If you wait more than 30 days, the county auditor is required to charge a penalty equal to the fee.

What if I have more questions?

If you have further questions, or if you need assistance with dog licensing, please e-mail dogtags@Clermontcountyohio.gov or contact our office at 513-732-7150 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.