



Animal Control Newsletter



TOWN OF STERLING- MARCH 2015

**TOWN OF STERLING
SPRING RABIES AND MICROCHIP CLINIC
SATURDAY, March 14, 2015
ALL TOWNS ARE WELCOME!**



**VCA STERLING ANIMAL HOSPITAL
4 CLINTON ROAD (RT. 62)
(978) 422-6262**

CHECK OR CASH ONLY
9:00AM – 10:00AM **CATS IN CARRIERS**
10:00AM – 11:00AM **DOGS ON LEASHES**

RABIES VACCINATIONS \$12.00

**RABIES VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED ARE VALID
FOR ONE YEAR FROM 3/14/2015.**

**TO QUALIFY FOR THREE YEAR STATUS, PROOF OF
TWO RABIES VACCINES ADMINISTERED WITHIN 9-12
MONTHS MUST BE PROVIDED. NO EXAMS WILL BE
PERFORMED...RABIES VACCINE ONLY.**

MICROCHIP PLACEMENT \$48.50

**STERLING VETERINARY CLINIC WILL BE USING
MICROFINDER MICROCHIPS. THIS CHIP IS
UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED BY ALL ISO COMPLIANT
MICROCHIP SCANNERS AND INCLUDES LIFETIME
REGISTRATION. STERLING VETERINARY CLINIC WILL
PROVIDE ALL OF THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION.
THE ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK FOR THE TOWN OF
STERLING WILL BE AT THE CLINIC LICENSING DOGS
FOR 2015.**

(TOWN OF STERLING RESIDENTS ONLY)

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT LOUIS MASSA,
THE STERLING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO), AT
978-422-7331. THE ACO WILL BE AT THE RABIES AND
MICROCHIP CLINIC TO ASSIST AND TO ANSWER ANY
QUESTIONS.**

ACO REMINDERS

1. 2015 dog licensing in Sterling begins January 1st till April 15th.
2. After that a \$25.00 late fee is added automatically per dog, also a \$25.00 Citation may be issued per week for having an unlicensed dog in the town of Sterling. This is in addition of your licensing fee which is \$8.00 for spayed females and neutered males and \$12.00 for intact females and Males. This is according to the Town of Sterling's Animal Control By-Laws.
3. Be prepared! Make sure your dogs rabies shot is up to date. Call your veterinarian to check. Without an updated rabies shot for your dog, you cannot license Your dog in the State of Massachusetts (State Law).

OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Sterling Animal Control By-Law is designed to promote responsible animal ownership and to: **1)** ensure the safety and well-being of both the animals and people residing in town **2)** create an alliance and sense of commonality between Animal Control officials and animal owners **3)** swiftly but effectively identify and deal with problematic animal situations and their owners.

To be recognized as a responsible animal owner in Sterling, choose to achieve the following goals:

A. Anticipate the behavior of your animal. There is no person who knows your animal better than you.

B. Provide adequate care to your animal. Remember your animals are totally dependent on you and in your ability to provide them with the minimum components necessary to sustain their lives. Keep them healthy and thriving.

C. Vaccinate for rabies, neuter, and register your animal. Aside from providing your animal with all the components of adequate care, these three actions will do more to keep you and your animal safe and out of serious trouble more than anything else you do.

D. Restrain and confine your animal. What is needed to implement this is determined by your own knowledge of your animal and your ability to exercise authority over your animal's behavior by anticipating how your animal may react in any given situation. You must be in control of your animal at all times, which may mean you need to leash your animal in order for you to be in control. If you have fencing and it needs to be fixed, repair it. To keep your animals safe, you need to control threatening or aggressive behavior because some people are so afraid of animals that they may perceive your animal to be imminently dangerous.

E. Prevent your animal from becoming a nuisance. Keeping your animal confined on your own property and under your unquestionable control when off your property, promptly picking up your animal's waste, bringing your animal indoors at night so it doesn't disturb the neighborhood's sleep while also protecting it from nocturnal predators, inhibiting your animal's ability to damage another's property and preventing your animal from chasing or intimidating anything or anybody will virtually eliminate any reason for anyone to ever file a complaint against your animal.

The Town of Sterling is pet friendly. The Animal Control Officer is your animal's best friend and guardian, not someone to be outsmarted or feared. If your animal gets away from you, contact the Animal Control Officer to assist you. The Animal Control Officer is committed to educating Town residents through advising reasonable animal control measures which when implemented; promote public acceptance, understanding and compliance far above the norm.

To reach the Animal Control Officer (ACO), call the Sterling Police Department at 978-422-7331. Tell the dispatcher what the issue is and if it is not an emergency they will connect you to his voicemail. Leave a message and he will return your call ASAP. Remember, this is a part-time position. If this animal control call is an emergency, tell dispatch and they will get in touch with the (ACO) ASAP.