

For Eco-Tip 3/31/19

Pet License Amnesty, Options, and Reasons

By David Goldstein, Ventura County Public Works Agency

Animal licensing can help reunite you with a lost pet, and although licensing is not as effective as having a microchip implanted under your pet's skin, licensing has additional advantages. Importantly, a license proves your pet is vaccinated against rabies. This is crucial if your animal ever bites or scratches someone. Victims of animal attacks can be reassured and calmed if the animal is licensed, but if it is not licensed, the animal control protocol for response to a biting incident is to quarantine the animal and observe them for signs of rabies, according to Randy Friedman, Marketing Manager at Ventura County Animal Services.

Licensing is also the law, with penalties for the owner of any unlicensed dog "owned, rescued, or harboured" in Ventura County for 30 days or longer, according to the Ventura County Animal Services web site. In addition to the requirement for licensing dogs, the city of Oxnard also requires licensing of cats.

Both of the two major animal shelters in Ventura County practice "no kill" policies. The Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center, which began this policy first, follows an inspirational motto, "Every animal gets a second chance at life," according to Nicky Gore-Jones, the Executive Director. This is almost regardless of cost to the shelter, which, she says, receives less than ten percent of its revenue from the city and relies instead on non-profit fund raising. Last year, animals at the Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center, including a dog on chemotherapy, racked up \$300,000 in medical bills. One arthritic dog, which recently found a new home, has been receiving acupuncture treatments. The Ventura County Animal Shelter similarly depends on a non-profit foundation for extraordinary care and also has a "no kill" policy; they do not euthanize pets simply for being unwanted, unhealthy, unmanageable, or based on how full they are with animals already in their care. They euthanize animals only after a veterinarian determines such action is justified by the animal's extreme medical condition and suffering, according to Friedman.

Consequently, failure to license will not result in your dog being killed at a local animal shelter, but Gore-Jones, of the Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center, has heard cases of dogs being taken from or wandering out of Ventura County. The additional holding period some shelters outside the county give to licensed dogs has saved their lives.

During the month of April, Ventura County Animal Services is offering a pet licensing amnesty, forgiving all past license fees and late penalties when pet owners renew or license their pets. The amnesty is partly inspired by an urgent need to vaccinate pets against rabies. There were 11 confirmed rabies cases in bats tested by the shelter in 2018. Rabies is deadly and can be transferred to both animals and humans. To participate in license amnesty, obtain a rabies vaccination for your pets and bring the proof of the vaccination to either the shelter in Camarillo or Simi Valley in the month of April.

Alternatively, you can license online at www.vcas.us/license, uploading the proof of rabies vaccination. The cost of a one-year license ranges from \$7.50 to \$100, with rates varying based on city and age of the pet owner. Lower yearly rates are available for some three-year licenses. Animal Services offers \$10 vaccination clinics at a different location each month throughout Ventura County.

The Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center never charges for a first-time registration, regardless of the animal's age. Licenses cost \$75 for an unaltered animal and \$20 for spayed or neutered pets. The Santa Paula Shelter has a \$20 spay and neuter clinic, and licensed animals are also eligible for a \$20 microchip.

Licensing in Oxnard is different. If you come in with a pet needing licensing, and it is obvious the pet is over a year old, Oxnard assesses fees for up to three unlicensed years. You can eliminate this fee by showing proof the animal lived previously outside the city. This proof can include bills for veterinarian care outside the city, or, of course, a license from another jurisdiction. For dogs and cats, fees are \$100 for unaltered animals and \$20 for spayed or neutered pets. Licensed pets qualify for spay or neuter vouchers, providing \$60 for dogs or \$50 for cats.

Notes:

Last year, their 11 animal control officers and other staff responded to 9,848 requests for services, according to Frieman. Staff responded to call topics ranging from biting incidents to deceased animal pickup on roadways

VCAS extends stays 5-10 days for strays with ID

VCAS cares for around 11,500 animals who enter their shelter annually, many of whom require extensive medical and behavioral attention.

Incubator kittens too small to survive. With non-profit bought \$3,000 microscope to diagnose diseases faster. Vet-surg husky named Iceberg. Pins and plates instead of amputating. \$3,500.

Fees from licensing help fund animal shelter expenses, including a "no kill" policy at the Ventura County Animal Shelter, where only animals suffering subsidized vaccination clinics,

License going forward. Santa Paula. Through the city, Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center. administered by non-profit. Protect the animal in the public. Requires a rabies shot. Discounted vaccine clinic at least once per month. 75 for pets 30 if spayed or neutered. All shelters are trying to educate the public, and no one wants to discourage owners from being responsible. Spade, neutered, and vaccine. nickysparc@gmail.com E.D. License for one year if no history. \$10 Then can get three. \$10. Rabies vaccine \$10. Less than 10% of funds come from city, the rest is fund raised 501(c)3. Stated the trend of no kill. \$300,000 in medical bills. Every animal gets a second chance at life. Has a dog on chemotherapy. \$10,000 chihuahua recently. Unless vet says no treatment is possible. A dog is getting acupuncture, has a home in one month. If people bring dead animals. Doesn't euthanize. No vet. Nicky **Gore-Jones 310 702 8104**

County and Humane society in ojai also offers euthenasica.

Oxnard requires licensing of cats. (805) 385-7640

Dead animal roadkill. Animal control officer through police dept in sp. 805/933-4287

Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) is offering a unique opportunity to pet owners. April will be License Amnesty month where VCAS will forgive all past license fees and late penalties when pet owners renew or license their pets between April 1-30, 2019. What is a pet license? A pet license is proof of rabies vaccination and also serves as a form of ID for your pet. The goal of the License Amnesty Program is to increase the number of rabies-vaccinated pets in our county. There were eleven (11) confirmed positive rabies cases in bats in 2018. Rabies can be passed from animal to animal and from animal to

human. Rabies is deadly to both animals and humans. Animal Services wishes to remind everyone that licensing your pets is the law.

How to participate in License Amnesty: 1) Obtain a rabies vaccination for your pets. 2) Bring the proof of rabies vaccination to either shelter in Camarillo or Simi Valley. You can also license your pets online at www.vcas.us/license. If you are renewing online, you will be able to upload the proof of rabies vaccination. 3) You're done! Once VCAS processes the license, all past fines and penalties will be erased from their system.

License Amnesty is available to residents who reside in cities for which VCAS processes licenses. The cities of Oxnard and Santa Paula sell their own pet licenses and will not be able to participate in the License Amnesty program, however VCAS encourages everyone to vaccinate their pets against rabies and other diseases such as distemper, parvovirus and bordetella.

VCAS offers monthly low-cost vaccination clinics at new locations each month. Below is a list of upcoming \$10 vaccination clinics where pet owners can obtain a rabies, distemper/parvovirus, bordetella or feline FVRCP vaccination. VCAS can also microchip your pet for \$10 as well at any of these clinics. If you are unsure what your pet needs, their medical staff will be able to tell you.

2019 Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic Schedule (6:00pm – 7:00pm)

Tues., April 9th	Fire Station #53	304 Second St., Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Tues., May 14th	Fire Station #51	3302 Turnout Park Circle, Oxnard, CA 93036
Tues., June 11th	Ventura County Fairgrounds	10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001 (Santa Rosa Hall)
Tues., July 9th	Camarillo Animal Shelter	600 Aviation Dr., Camarillo, CA 93010
Tues., August 13th	Fire Station #28	513 N. Church St., Fillmore, CA 93015
Tues., September 10th	Fire Station #42	295 High St., Moorpark, CA 93021
Tues., October 8th	Fire Station #6	10797 Darling Rd., Ventura, CA 93004
Tues., November 12th	Fire Station #22	466 La Luna Ave., Ojai, CA 93023
Tues., December 10th	Camarillo Animal Shelter,	600 Aviation Dr., Camarillo, CA 93010

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact VCAS at info@vcas.us . Thank you! Ventura County Animal Services.

License on line at <http://www.vcas.us/programs-services/license-your-pet> \\

If You Love Them.
License Them.



PET LICENSE FEE SCHEDULES:



Pet License Fees for residents of: **Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley and Ventura.**

	Seniors (55 years+)	Altered ("Fixed")	Unaltered ("Not Fixed")
1-Year License	\$10	\$20	\$100
2-Year License	\$15	\$35	\$190
3-Year License	\$20	\$55	\$280

Pet License Fees for residents of: **Moorpark**

	Seniors (55 years+)	Altered ("Fixed")	Unaltered ("Not Fixed")
6-Month License	\$7.50	\$15	\$50
1-Year License	\$15	\$30	\$100
2-Year License	\$30	\$60	\$200
3-Year License	\$45	\$90	\$300

Altered Fees - Must provide proof of sterility (spay/neuter) from a licensed veterinarian in order to receive this special discounted rate.

When applying for a Senior Discount, please provide proof of age. The Senior Discount only applies to those whose pets are altered.

The cities of Oxnard and Santa Paula will not be participating in the Licensing Amnesty program.

License
AMNESTY

April 1-30, 2019

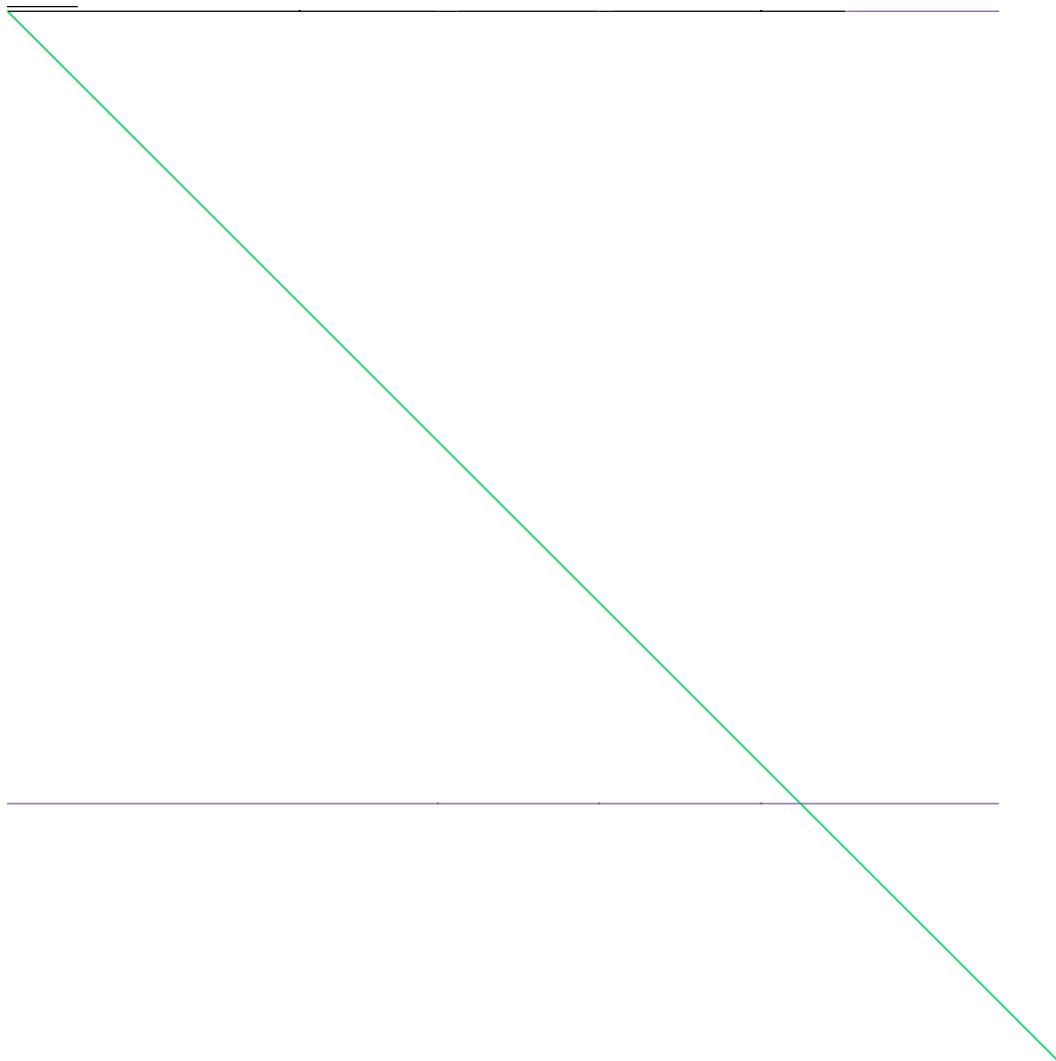
How does amnesty work?

License your dog or cat or renew an expired license between **April 1-30** and all license penalties will be waived.



A Pet License is the law.
Pet License = Proof of Rabies Vaccination

DOGS/CATS/RABBITS	September 2017	September 2018	PERCENT OF CHANGE
INTAKE			
STRAY	742	738	-0.5%
OWNER SURRENDER	12	136	21.4%
OWNER REQ. EUTHANASIA	63	136	115.9%
ADOPTION RETURNS	38	43	13.2%
OTHER	15	30	100.0%
TOTAL INTAKE	989	1036	4.8%
OUTCOME			
ADOPT	485	464	-4.3%
RETURNED TO OWNER	181	179	-1.1%
RETURNED TO FIELD	41	67	63.4%
TRANSFER TO RESCUE	32	29	-9.4%
TRANSFERRED	13	4	-69.2%
EUTHANASIA	61	75	23.0%
EUTHANASIA - OWNER-REQ	56	40	28.6%
DIED	8	18	125.0%
ASILOMAR LRR	91.6%	88.9%	-3.0%



Other Animals Received September 2017 – 115 Other
Animals Received September 2018 – 104 **Total Animals
Received September 2017 – 1,080**
Total Animals Received September 2018 – 1,101 (1.9% Increase)

- 1-888-223-PETS (7387)

805-388-4341

FAX: 805-388-4393

- info@vcas.us

VCAS spokesman Randy Friedman, (805) 388-4252