



## News Release

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### **2012 Dog Licence Renewals – 29 Days Left to Save**

Central Okanagan dog owners have a 'bonus' day to save on their dog licence renewal. That's because this is a Leap Year and February 29<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for 2012 dog licence renewals without a \$20 late fee.

Regional District Communications Officer Bruce Smith says, "Dog owners can renew their pet licence for \$20 if the dog is spayed or neutered and \$60 if it isn't. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, renewals will cost an extra \$20."

Licenses can be renewed at 28 vendor locations across the Central Okanagan including all local government offices and many veterinary clinics and pet stores. A full list of licence locations is available on the back of renewal notices or by visiting [regionaldistrict.com/dogs](http://regionaldistrict.com/dogs).

Smith adds, "Many renewing dog owners are taking the opportunity to purchase the new permanent dog licence from either the Regional District office (1450 KLO Road) or the Regional Dog Pound (860 Weddell Place). The permanent licence is the only dog tag they'll have to attach to their pet's collar and it allows them pay for future licence renewals online." This is a particular benefit for those snowbirds that may not be here during licence renewal time.

Smith adds, "Revenue from the sale of licenses helps offset the cost of providing Dog Control services throughout the entire regional district and keep people, dogs and other animals safe while promoting responsible dog ownership. The benefits are very clear. Having a dog tag on your pet's collar makes it very easy for our dog control officers and pound staff to re-unite stray pets with their owners. It's often a matter of just a couple of phone calls, so paying the \$20 licence fee now is a small price and could save you money. Last year almost 65% of the dogs that ended up in the pound were not licensed. So before they had their pet returned, these owners had to pay an additional \$100 fee, on top of the regular impound and licensing fees."

Dog owners are reminded that the Dog Control bylaw only requires the Regional District to hold a dog at the pound for up to 72 hours. Smith says, "That's why we encourage the owners of dogs that unfortunately do get away to contact our Dog Control staff as quickly as possible so that we can facilitate a happy reunion."

**-30-**

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