

Admending Sec. 14-21 – Dog license requirement to establish a Lifetime Dog License.

Current Requirements for a Dog Tag:

- All Dogs 4 months old in the County must purchase a county tag
- Must have a valid Rabies vaccination
- The Treasurer's Office currently issues dog licenses annually to residents who own or keep dogs in the County. Licenses issued are for one (1) year based on a calendar year of January 1 – December 31; and cost:

ONE YEAR TAGS

Male / Female	\$10.00
Sprayed/ Neutered Dog	\$4.00

For a kennel up to 20 dogs, \$45.00 per year

For a kennel up to 50 dogs, \$50.00 per year

Duplicate tags \$1.00

Provisions of the Lifetime Dog Tag:

- All owners of dogs in the County must purchase a County Tag
- Must have a valid Rabies vaccination, signed by a license Veterinarian
- License is valid for the life of the dog as long as it is residing in the County
- Lifetime Tag is non-transferable to a new owner and is not refundable
- License becomes void if rabies vaccination is not renewed within thirty days of rabies vaccination expiration.

*** This change would only affect individual one year dog tags.**

*** Kennel License, duplicate and dangerous dog fees and requirements would remain the same.**

Benefits of a Lifetime Tag:

- Less burden on citizens by saving time and money over the life of the dog
- Allow us to focus on the requirements that exist under current VA Code
- This allows us to reduce internal time and expense of mailings
- Revenue has been steadily on the decline. An uptick may occur initially and then will level off
- Tag inventory will be less expensive, store and manage

Recommendation:

Establish a lifetime dog license of \$10.00 effective January 1, 2026. This license would be for both non-Sprayed/ Neutered dogs and Sprayed/ Neutered dogs. No refunds will be issued. New lifetime tags will go on sale January 1, 2026.

Surrounding Counties with lifetime dog licenses:

Goochland \$10.00

Orange \$10.00

Hanover \$10.00

New Kent \$15.00

Dog Tag Sales
5-year History

	Revenue FY2020	Revenue FY2021	Revenue FY2022	Revenue FY2023	Revenue FY2024
Dollars	\$8,013.00	\$8,157.00	\$9,046.00	\$8,495.00	\$8,873.00
Tags	5172	4741	5591	6169	5769

First two to three years implementation will result in a slight increase since many owners who would have purchased a one-year dog tag will now purchase a lifetime dog tag.

After the initial three years, revenue is expected to decrease as renewals are phased out and only new dogs will be added on an annual basis.

The decline in revenue will be offset slightly by a decrease in program administration costs and Sprayed/Neutered dogs will purchase a lifetime tag at the same cost as Non Sprayed/Neutered dogs

- **ARTICLE II. - DOGS AND CATS**

CURRENT:

- **Sec. 14-21. - Dog license required; amount of license tax.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog four months old or older in this county unless such a dog is licensed as required by the provisions of this article. Dog licenses shall run by the calendar, namely, January 1 to December 31, inclusive, and the license tax shall be payable at the office of the treasurer. The license tax shall be \$10.00 for each intact dog, and \$4.00 for each spayed or neutered dog. The license tax for each kennel block of up to 20 dogs shall be \$45.00. No license tax shall be levied on any dog that is trained and serves as a guide dog for a blind person, that is trained and serves as a hearing dog for a deaf or hearing-impaired person, or that is trained and serves as a service dog for a mobility-impaired person.

(Res. of 4-6-15(2015-87), Att.(§ 14-201))

State Law reference— Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6528.

NEW:

- **Sec. 14-21. - Dog license required; amount of license tax.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to own a dog four months old or older in this county unless such a dog is licensed as required by the provisions of this article. **Dog licenses shall be life time with the exception of kennel block tags** which run by the calendar, namely, January 1 to December 31, inclusive, and the license tax shall be payable at the office of the treasurer. The license tax shall be **\$10.00 for each intact, spayed or neutered dog**. The license tax for a kennel block of up to 20 dogs shall be **\$45.00 and for a kennel block of up to 50 dogs shall be \$50.00**. No license tax shall be levied on any dog that is trained and serves as a guide dog for a blind person, that is trained and serves as a hearing dog for a deaf or hearing-impaired person, or that is trained and serves as a service dog for a mobility-impaired person.

(Res. of 4-6-15(2015-87), Att.(§ 14-201))

State Law reference— Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6528.

Code of Virginia
Title 3.2. Agriculture, Animal Care, and Food
Chapter 65. Comprehensive Animal Care

§ 3.2-6528. Amount of license tax.

A. The governing body of each county or city shall impose by ordinance a license tax on the ownership of dogs within its jurisdiction. The governing body of any locality that has adopted an ordinance pursuant to subsection B of § 3.2-6524 shall impose by ordinance a license tax on the ownership of cats within its jurisdiction. The governing body may establish different rates of taxation for ownership of female dogs, male dogs, spayed or neutered dogs, female cats, male cats, and spayed or neutered cats. The tax for each dog or cat shall not be more than \$10 for each year or \$50 for a lifetime license issued pursuant to subsection B of § 3.2-6530. If the dog or cat has been spayed, the tax shall not exceed the tax provided for a male dog or cat. Any ordinance may provide for an annual license tax for kennels of 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 dogs or cats not to exceed \$50 for any one such block of kennels.

No license tax shall be levied on any dog that is trained and serves as (i) a guide dog for a blind person, (ii) a hearing dog for a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, or (iii) a service dog for a mobility-impaired or otherwise disabled person.

As used in this subsection, "hearing dog," "mobility-impaired person," "otherwise disabled person," and "service dog" have the same meanings as assigned in § 51.5-40.1.

B. A locality may by ordinance exempt any dog that served as a police or law-enforcement dog or military working dog from the license tax provided in subsection A. Such ordinance shall include a verification process for vaccination records of such dog.

1984, cc. 248, 492, § 29-213.57; 1986, c. 169; 1987, c. 488, § 3.1-796.87; 1993, c. 817; 1994, c. 108; 2006, c. 836; 2008, c. 860; 2014, c. 616; 2017, cc. 559, 567; 2019, c. 288; 2024, c. 187.

Current

- **Sec. 14-24. - What dog licenses shall consist of.**

A dog license shall consist of a license receipt and a metal tag. The tag shall be stamped or otherwise permanently marked to show the jurisdiction issuing the license, **the sex of the dog**, the calendar year for which issued and bear a serial number. The license tag for a kennel shall show the number of dogs authorized to be kept under such license and have attached thereto a metal identification plate for each such dog, numbered to correspond with the serial number of the license tag.

(Res. of 4-6-15(2015-87), Att.(§ 14-204))

State Law reference— Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6526.

New

To delete the wording the sex of the dog from the ordinance

- **Sec. 14-24. - What dog licenses shall consist of.**

A dog license shall consist of a license receipt and a metal tag. The tag shall be stamped or otherwise permanently marked to show the jurisdiction issuing the license and the calendar year for which issued and bear a serial number. The license tag for a kennel shall show the number of dogs authorized to be kept under such license and have attached thereto a metal identification plate for each such dog, numbered to correspond with the serial number of the license tag.

(Res. of 4-6-15(2015-87), Att.(§ 14-204))

State Law reference— Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6526.

Code of Virginia

Title 3.2. Agriculture, Animal Care, and Food

Chapter 65. Comprehensive Animal Care

§ 3.2-6526. What dog or cat license shall consist of.

A. A dog or cat license shall consist of a license receipt and a metal tag. The tag shall be stamped or otherwise permanently marked to show the jurisdiction issuing the license and bear a serial number or other identifying information prescribed by the locality.

B. No license tag shall be issued for any dog or cat unless there is presented, to the treasurer or other officer of the locality, or other agent charged by law with the duty of issuing license tags for dogs and cats, satisfactory evidence that such dog or cat has been inoculated or vaccinated against rabies by a currently licensed veterinarian or currently licensed veterinary technician who was under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises.

1984, c. 492, §§ 29-213.60, 29-213.67; 1987, c. 488, §§ 3.1-796.90, 3.1-796.97; 1993, c. 817; 1996, c. 351; 1998, c. 394; 2006, c. 836; 2008, c. 860.