



All dogs in the state of Ohio must be licensed. License should be purchased within 30 days of getting the dog, or by the time they are 3 months of age. All dogs over 3 months must be licensed, and should display the license tag on their collar. If you lose the tag, you may purchase a duplicate tag for \$5 from the county auditor. If your dog accidentally gets out, and has not bitten someone, or attacked another animal, or caused extensive property damage, we will give it a free ride home if at all possible if it is wearing its current tag. If your dog is impounded at the shelter, and it does not display a current tag, we are required to keep it for just 3 days, after which it may be adopted out or disposed of. If your dog is wearing its current tag, we will notify you and hold it for up to 14 days. Dogs with no license tags are considered strays.

Keep your dog up to date on its current vaccinations. The board of health requires that all rabies vaccinations must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. Call several different vets for prices; it varies. If you choose, you may purchase and then give a "7 in 1" shot to protect against distemper, parvovirus and other diseases. These inoculations are available at feed stores and larger pet supply outlets. However, the rabies vaccine must be given by a licensed vet. Rabies is a fatal illness, and can be transmitted to humans. Rabies is in this area, especially in the raccoon and bat population, so it is very important for all dogs, cats and ferrets to be current with their inoculations.

Dogs must be kept under control at all times. This means they should be confined to your property and unable to harass others by reaching over a fence or crossing onto a public walkway. Confinement may be accomplished by a number of means. Fencing works for most dogs. Some people choose to use a cable or tie out. Dogs should be taken off their tie out and safely walked on a leash or brought indoors on a regular basis. Many dogs develop temperament issues and become aggressive if they are tied out 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Avoid this if at all possible. Underground or electric fencing is another option for confinement. This method works best for docile dogs that have owner supervision. Other people rely on obedience training and train their dogs to remain in their yard. Very few dogs can be totally trusted with this method, though. It is not recommended as the only means of confinement. One cannot control outside distractions, such as cats, other dogs, squirrels and the like. Most dogs can and will chase other animals, even if just in play.

Dogs that are kept outside, even if just for a portion of the day, are required to have access to shelter, water and food. Some dogs are portion fed and can't have food before them at all times, but water is absolutely necessary and required in all types of weather. Heated water dishes are available for the cold weather months with freezing temperatures. Dogs must have access to shelter, even if they sleep inside at night. The only exception would be the dog that is let outdoors for very short periods of time (20 minutes is a reasonable time) to relieve itself. These dogs should be supervised by someone indoors.

Shelter for outside dogs can be provided by a doghouse with a floor in it. The dog should be able to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably in the doghouse. For very large dogs, an open shed of some sort may be adequate, as long as the door is small enough to provide sufficient windbreak. Bedding should be provided. Straw makes the best bedding for outdoor dogs. Blankets get wet, stay wet and become mildewed. It is very important to provide a stationary water source that cannot be tipped over or chewed up.