

District of Columbia

Title 6: Health and Safety

Chapter 10: Animal Control

D.C. Code § 6-1004 (2001)

§ 6-1004. Licenses and fees [recodified in 2001 as § 8-1804]

(a) For purposes of this section, "owner" shall not include:

(1) A licensed veterinary hospital;

(2) A licensed pet shop; and

(3) An incorporated animal welfare agency not engaged in the sale of animals.

(b) An owner who has a dog over the age of 4 months shall before July 1st of each year, or within 10 days of acquiring the dog, or within 10 days after the dog becomes 4 months of age, obtain an annual license. An owner shall ensure that his dog wears a collar and a license.

(c) Before any annual license may be issued, the owner of the dog shall have the dog vaccinated against rabies and distemper, and shall pay any outstanding fines.

(d) The Mayor shall collect the fees and issue the licenses as provided in this section. The Mayor shall promulgate regulations to allow veterinarians to collect license fees and issue licenses. The regulations shall permit veterinarians to collect an additional \$2 for each license issued as reimbursement for administrative costs.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the annual license fee for a dog is as follows:

(1) No fee for a dog trained to aid the audio-handicapped or blind and actually used for that purpose;

(2) \$10 for a male dog certified by a licensed veterinarian as either neutered or incapable of enduring neutering;

(3) \$10 for a female dog certified by a licensed veterinarian as either **spayed** or incapable of enduring **spaying**; and

(4) \$35 for all other dogs.

(f) For the year July 1, 1979, to June 30, 1980, the annual license fee for a dog is as follows:

(1) No fee for a dog trained to aid the audio-handicapped or blind and actually used for that purpose;

(2) \$8 in any other case.

(g) No license may be transferred from 1 dog to another.

(h) Any license issued pursuant to this section shall be issued by the Department of Health.

HISTORY: 1973 Ed., § 6-2404; Oct. 18, 1979, D.C. Law 3-30, § 5, 26 DCR 765; Mar. 17, 1993, D.C. Law 9-236, § 2(a), 40 DCR 614; Sept. 26, 1995, D.C. Law 11-52, § 101, 42 DCR 3684; Apr. 20, 1999, D.C. Law 12-261, § 2004, 46 DCR 3142.

NOTES:

SECTION REFERENCED IN OTHER SECTIONS. --This section is referenced in §§ 6-1001, 6-1006, 6-1007, and 6-1009.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS. --D.C. Law 11-52 added the last two sentences in (d).

D.C. Law 12-261 added (h).

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION. --For temporary amendment of section, see § 101 of the Omnibus Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Act of 1995 (D.C. Act 11-124, July 27, 1995, 42 DCR 4160).

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF LAW 11-52. --Law 11-52, the "Omnibus Budget Support Act of 1995," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 11-218. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on April 19, 1995, and June 6, 1995, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 13, 1995, it was assigned Act No. 11-94 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 11-52 became effective on September 26, 1995. Law 12-261, the "Second Omnibus Regulatory Reform Amendment Act of 1998," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 12-845. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on December 1, 1998, and December 15, 1998, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on December 31, 1998, it was assigned Act No. 12-615 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 12-261 became effective on April 20, 1999.