



For Immediate Release: 03.26.10

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Mike Charley
Environmental Health Supervisor
708.358.5489

Pet owners urged to renew licenses online

Oak Park pet owners who receive an animal license renewal application in the mail are encouraged to renew online at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. Renewal notices are scheduled to go in the mail around March 29.

The renewal form provides an online renewal number that allows current pet owners to renew a license without doing any math, searching for a stamp or making a trip to Village Hall. The number also allows pet owners to delete pets they no longer own and add new ones they may have recently acquired.

Payment is then made with a credit card, a receipt sent via e-mail and the actual tag delivered in the U.S. Mail.

Pet owners still have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

All dogs and outdoor cats in Oak Park are required to display a current animal license by May 1. The license fee is \$10 for a neutered/spayed dog and all cats, and \$13 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog.

Residents who have never registered a pet will need to come to Village Hall to complete the process, but then will be eligible for online renewal in future years. Proof of a current rabies inoculation and spaying/neutering is required for licensing.

Licensing is very beneficial if the dog or cat is lost, officials say, since the license identifies the owner, and allows for quick return if the pet is picked up by an animal control officer, rather than a trip to the shelter.

In addition, fees collected through animal licensing help feed and shelter cats and dogs, provide professional veterinary care at the shelter and help the Village educate cat and dog owners about responsible pet ownership.

About 2,700 dogs and 400 cats were licensed in Oak Park last year.

For more information on animal licenses, call 708.358.5680 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

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