

# PA Dog Law and Puppy Lemon Law

## What are Pennsylvania's Dog Laws?

- **All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed.** Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer.
- **All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large.** Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- **No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.**
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- You must have a current kennel license if you operate a facility that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away or transfers a total of 26 or more dogs in any one calendar year.
- Owners of dogs and cats 3 months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination. It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

## Puppy Lemon Law:

In an effort to ensure that consumers buying a dog in Pennsylvania know their new pet has a clean bill of health, Pennsylvania's dog sellers and breeders must now post a visible notice that informs consumers of their rights under the state's Dog Purchaser Protection Act, also known as the "Puppy Lemon Law". Sellers and breeders must also provide a written copy of the consumer's rights at the time of the sale.

For more information on Pennsylvania's "Puppy Lemon Law", go to

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/037/chapter309/chap309toc.html>. To file a complaint, visit the Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection.

## Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Enforcing licensing and control of dogs
- Enforcing kennel licensing and inspections
- Investigating dog bites
- Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
- Reimbursing individuals for dog-caused damage to livestock, poultry and domestic game birds
- Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required
- Funding counties and humane organizations to establish dog control facilities
- Providing educational services concerning dog ownership in Pennsylvania
- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law

**Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement phone number: (717) 787-3062**

Source:

[http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_24476\\_10297\\_0\\_43/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?palid=100&](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_24476_10297_0_43/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?palid=100&)