



Dog Licence Renewals Now Available from the Comfort of Your Couch

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Have you already taken your favourite pooch out for a walk and are now ready to curl up on the couch out of the January winds and rain? New this year, you can renew your dog licence online. Put on your slippers and housecoat and follow these simple steps:

- 1) Visit: www.victoria.ca/payments
- 2) Enter the account number from the Dog Licence Renewal Notice or search using your address
- 3) Enter your payment information
- 4) Your dog tag will be mailed to you

Dog licences can also be renewed at City Hall, the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, Victoria Animal Control Services, the SPCA and 12 local businesses. Applications for new dog licences must be made in person. A list of locations can be found here: www.victoria.ca/dogs.

Dog owners that renew on or before February 29 will save \$20 and will be entered into a draw to win the first dog tag of the year (0001) and the associated bragging rights of owning the City of Victoria's 'Number One Dog'. The cost for a dog licence on or before February 29 for neutered or spayed dogs is \$30, or \$40 for unaltered dogs. On March 1, fees increase to \$50 and \$60 respectively.

In 2015 there were 6,500 dogs licensed in Victoria. Based on 2014 data the top five dog breeds in Victoria were: Lab or Lab cross, Chihuahua, Golden Retriever, Shih Tzu and Jack Russell Terrier. Fairfield was the neighbourhood with the most licensed dogs at 802, while Victoria West had the highest percentage of homes with a dog at 50%. Only 9% of homes downtown owned a licensed dog and that's where Pugs were most popular. Dog breed maps can be viewed here: [VicMap](#).

Hundreds of dogs are quickly reunited with their owners in the City of Victoria each year because they are found wearing a current licence. Licensing is a mandatory requirement for all dogs over the age of four months. Dog licence fees help to offset the costs of operating an animal control and pound service, which shelters, feeds and provides veterinary care for lost and injured animals. These fees also offset the costs of providing dog waste bags in City of Victoria parks. Owners of unlicensed dogs can be fined up to \$125 per day for non-compliance.

-30-

For More Information:

Katie Hamilton
Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning
Office: 250.361.0210
Cellular: 250.217.8343