



**CITY OF PASSAIC
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF HEALTH
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING CAT LICENSING

I live in the City of Passaic and I just adopted a cat from the Animal Shelter. Do I need a cat license?

Yes. If you reside in the City of Passaic and own a cat you must obtain a license. It is illegal to own or harbor a cat in Passaic that does not have a current cat license. According to City Ordinance, you must obtain a license within ten (10) days after having acquired the cat. Failure to obtain a license may subject you to a fine.

I just moved to Passaic and I own a cat. Do I need to obtain a cat license by a certain date?

According to city regulations, you must license your cat within ten (10) days after moving into Passaic. If your cat is licensed in another state and will be kept in the City of Passaic for more than thirty (30) days, you must obtain a license.

I have a kitten. How old does my cat have to be for a cat license?

Residents are required to obtain a license when the cat has reached what is termed "licensing age." Licensing age is defined by city regulation as: "any cat which has attained the age of seven months or which possesses a set of permanent teeth."

I do not live in Passaic, but live in another NJ municipality. Do I need to obtain a cat license?

Cat licensing regulations vary from municipality to municipality in New Jersey. You should check with your local health department and/or municipal clerk's office to determine if your town requires a cat license.

Do I need proof that my cat received rabies shots prior to getting a license?

Yes. You must provide proof that your cat has received a rabies immunization in order to obtain a cat license. A certificate of immunization issued by your veterinarian or from a local health department rabies clinic must be presented as proof.

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Where do I get rabies shots for my cat?

You can obtain rabies shots from a veterinarian. The City of Passaic Health Division also offers rabies clinics at least twice a year (one in the spring and one in the fall). These clinics are open to city residents. Notices of upcoming clinics are posted in the local paper. For more information on upcoming clinics or other alternatives, please contact Passaic Animal Control at (973) 365-5669.

My veterinarian indicated that my cat cannot receive a rabies vaccine because of a medical condition or because of medical therapy. Am I still required to obtain a cat license?

Yes. You are still required to obtain a license. An exemption to the rabies vaccination requirement will be granted only if you present a letter from your veterinarian that certifies the medical condition or therapy. The letter must also detail how the receipt of a rabies vaccine is medically contraindicated.

Where do I go to obtain a license?

In order to obtain a license you must visit the Passaic City Clerk's Office. The office is located on the first floor of City Hall at 330 Passaic Street, Passaic, New Jersey. The office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The City Clerk's Office telephone number is (973) 365-5584.

What must I bring to obtain a license? Is there a fee for a cat license?

You must bring a certificate of rabies immunization for the cat or a certification of medical exemption for the immunization as previously indicated. The fee for a license is dependent on whether or not your cat is spayed or neutered. If your cat is spayed or neutered, the fee is \$15.20. If your cat is not spayed or neutered, the fee is \$18.20.

Do licenses expire?

Yes. All licenses are valid for one licensing year. The licensing year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Consequently, a cat license expires on June 30 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which it was issued.

What do I do with the metal tag that the City Clerk provides with my license?

Your cat must wear this tag when it is outside of your home at all times. This will serve as proof that your cat is licensed. In addition, the tag contains a serial number which will help the City Animal Control Officer return the cat to you in the event your cat runs away and is found.

Acceptable methods of displaying the tag shall include, but are not limited to, breakaway or elastic collars. It is not advisable that you use collars that are not breakaway or elastic since use of any other type of collars may result in injury to your cat including choking.