



## **News for Immediate Release**

**March 22, 2013**

### **Agriculture Secretary Reminds Pennsylvanians to License Their Dogs During 'March Dog License Awareness Month'**

PetSmart® Challenge to License 100,000 Dogs Continues through April 6

**Williamsport** – Agriculture Secretary George Greig today reminded Pennsylvanians to license their dogs in March as part of "Dog License Awareness Month," saying a dog license is the best way to protect lost dogs.

Earlier this month, Greig and pet specialty retailer [PetSmart®](#) challenged Pennsylvanians to license 100,000 dogs through April 6. If the licensing goal is met, PetSmart will donate \$10,000 to [Susquehanna Service Dogs](#), a non-profit organization that trains and provides service and hearing dogs that help children and adults with special needs become more independent.

"Licensing your dog is a responsibility of dog ownership, and it's the law," said Greig, during a visit to the Lycoming County SPCA. "Buy a license for your dog in March. You'll help your best friend and if we meet our goal, you'll support an organization that helps Pennsylvanians lead independent lives."

State law requires all dogs three months and older to be licensed each year. Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.

"Licensing your dog is easy and affordable," said Lycoming County Treasurer Connie Rupert. "Pennsylvania dog owners can purchase a license at their county treasurer's office, through agents and online."

An annual dog license is \$8.45, or \$6.45 if the animal is spayed or neutered. Lifetime licenses are available for dogs that have permanent identification like a microchip or tattoo. Discounts are offered to older adults and people with disabilities.

"Each day we rescue lost dogs, some of which are not licensed," said Victoria Stryker, Lycoming County SPCA executive director. "Your best friend's best chance at a happy homecoming is a dog license."

Licensing fees are the primary source of revenue for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement Office, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations. State dog wardens completed 4,711 kennel inspections last

year and issued 3,113 summary citations and 56 misdemeanor charges related to violations of the Pennsylvania Dog Law.

For more information, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com) or call the Dog Law Enforcement Office at 717-787-3062.

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