

Dog Tags Questions and Answers

Q. Our puppy just turned 6 months old. Do we have to buy a dog tag?

A. Yes. Dogs under the age of 3 months do not need a tag. After 3 months they require a tag.

Q. It is difficult for working people to buy tags during the day.

A. There are 7 locations available to purchase dog tags. Some are open extended hours and on Saturdays. We recommend that residents should call to confirm hours.

Residents can mail their dog tag application with a cheque, **along with a stamped, self-addressed envelop** to the Odessa Office and the tag and receipt will be mailed back to them.

Application forms for dog tags will go out with the tax bills and water bills. Also, notice will be in the newspaper, on the website and in the Recreation brochure reminding people of the March 31st cut-off for the reduced rate.

Dog tags can be purchased at following locations:

- Loyalist Township Office – 613-386-7351 ext. 100
263 Main St., Odessa
- W.J. Henderson Recreation Centre – 613-389-3648 ext. 200
322 Amherst Dr., Amherstview
- Amherstview Pet Hospital – 613-384-6618
(formerly Loyalist Animal Hospital)
4507 Bath Road, Amherstview
- Frontenac Animal Hospital - 613-389-3696
745 Development Dr., Kingston
- Kingston Humane Society - 613-546-1291
1 Binnington Court, Kingston
- Bath Village Animal Hospital - 613-352-3333
363 Main St., Bath
- Berry's Pet Food - 613-389-5593
Amherstview

Q. When individuals phone the animal control number, there is an answering service, some people have indicated they want to speak to a person, not a service.

A. *They can speak to a person by simply leaving a message. There is a pager system to indicate to the officer that there is a call. Everyone receives a call back but if an officer is busy on a call, there may be a slight delay. Frontenac Municipal Law Enforcement staff have always been very good at returning calls.*

Q. **Microchip Identification -**
Many people have had their vets put microchips in their dogs. Does the Animal Control have a microchip reader, in case they pick up an animal without a tag? A few owners have stated that they do not put the tags on their animals, since they are microchipped.

A. *Frontenac Municipal Law Enforcement cannot scan for microchips but officers will take dogs to The Kingston Humane Society where there is a scanner that can identify the microchip. This is an extra benefit that is all part of the service provided by Frontenac Municipal Law Enforcement and the Kingston Humane Society. These costs are absorbed in the charges that the municipality pays to both agencies and, in turn, are somewhat reimbursed by dog tag fees. This does not replace the fact that everyone still has to buy a tag.*

The by-law indicates that the tag must be affixed to the dog. This is a decision of the resident as to whether they actually do this or not but we cannot tell them not to do this. There is a provision in the By-law that they could be fined if the tag is not attached and the dog is running at large. All dogs that are running at large (without tags) are taken to the Kingston Humane Society to be reclaimed by their owners.

Q. **Why does someone who moved into Loyalist Township or acquire their dog(s) after March 31st have to pay the penalty?**

A. *Cut-off dates are always difficult to determine. There were many variables to consider, that aren't specifically outlined in the By-law, as follows:*

- *People moving in and out of the municipality*
- *Newly acquired pets after the fee has increased*
- *Pets that die after tags are purchased*
- *Residents who have a female dog that has a litter of pups and they keep the pups longer than 3 months*
- *Children have moved back home and bring their pets with them*
- *People that have purchased a tag from another municipality and then moved to Loyalist Township*

The wording in the By-law indicates that all residents of Loyalist Township must have a valid dog tag.

The short answer is: People that have moved into Loyalist Township after the fee increase date and have bought a current tag from another municipality, must also buy a tag from Loyalist Township. The intent of the dog tag sale is to help pay for the By-law enforcement costs to enforce the dog By-law in our municipality. Revenue received by another municipality does not assist Loyalist Township in its dog control costs. We want to make this system is “user pay”. This may not appear to be fair but it is how the By-law is worded and we have to enforce the rules in accordance with the By-law.

Q. Why do cats not have to have cat tags?

A. *Loyalist Township does not have a “cat” By-law. Unfortunately, some cat owners have a tendency to allow their cats to run free. Cats are, by their nature, very difficult to catch. The cat owners must have respect for their neighbour’s property and keep their animals at home. Cat By-laws are very difficult to enforce and, for this reason, staff have not recommended that Council look at implementing a cat by-law.*

Q. What is the dog tag money used for?

A. *A dog control By-law has been in effect for many years (in all three former municipalities – Bath, Ernestown and Amherst Island) and so has the requirement to purchase a dog tag. Most municipalities have a dog control By-law and require that residents buy dog tags. Certainly the area municipalities (such as Kingston, Napanee, Brockville, South Frontenac, Gananoque, Ottawa, Belleville, Quinte West, Toronto to name a few) have dog control By-laws. Many years ago, it was the role of the dogcatcher to go door-to-door to sell dog tags.*

Loyalist Township has a record of all dogs in Loyalist Township and reminder notices are sent to those people who owned a dog in the previous year but did not acquire a dog tag in the current year..

Q. What happens when a dog is picked up, and they are wearing a tag?

A. *Every attempt is made to return it to its owner. If the Frontenac Municipal Law Enforcement In. picks up a dog with a tag, the officer will return the dog to their owner.*

Q. What happens when a dog is picked up, and they are not wearing a tag?

A. *The dog is taken to the Kingston Humane Society and held there for 7days until it is reclaimed. The owner will be levied a charge for each day that the dog is at the Humane Society. If it is not reclaimed within the 7 days then it can be sold or disposed of.*