

## **McLean County Registration of Dogs and Cats Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the major changes of the McLean County Registration of Dogs and Cats Ordinance?**

- Cats are now required to be vaccinated for rabies and registered with the McLean County Health Department within 30 days of vaccination.
- All pet owners whose pets are not spayed or neutered will pay additional registration fees.

### **When do the changes in the ordinance take effect?**

January 1, 2009

### **What will cat owners now be required to do?**

- Cats over four months must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian.
- Owners must register their cats within 30 days of vaccination with the McLean County Health Department.
- Cats must wear the rabies registration tag issued to them by the veterinarians that vaccinated them.

### **Why are cats now required to be vaccinated for rabies?**

Rabies is a deadly disease that threatens people and pets. Both dogs and cats could come into contact with wild, rabid animals and could then endanger their owners. By ensuring that all pets are vaccinated for rabies, the chances of human exposure to rabies is greatly reduced.

### **Are there any changes in the ordinance that apply to dog owners?**

Yes. All pet owners whose dogs or cats are not spayed or neutered will have to pay additional registration fees.

### **Why do I have to pay more if my pet is not spayed or neutered?**

McLean County is now required by Illinois law to collect additional registration fees for pets that are not spayed or neutered. This part of the state law is intended to encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce pet overpopulation.

### **How do I register my cat once it is vaccinated?**

You have several options to register your pet and pay the accompanying fees.

- Register online at [www.mcleancountyil.gov/animal](http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/animal) and pay with MasterCard, American Express or Discover. Visa is NOT accepted.

- Mail your payment with the envelope provided by your veterinarian. Do not send cash.
- Bring your envelope with payment to the McLean County Health Department, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 200 W. Front Street, Bloomington.
- Ask your veterinarian if they accept the registration payments. Some vets do this as a service to their clients, some do not.

**I have an indoor cat. Why does it need to be vaccinated?**

Even if you keep your cat inside, there is a chance that it may come into contact with rabid animals inside the home, particularly bats, without your knowledge.

**Are feral, barn or farm cats required to be vaccinated?**

Cats that are not domesticated or socialized, such as feral cats or barn cats are NOT required to be vaccinated.

**What is the cost to register my cat once it is vaccinated?**

Paid <b>WITHIN</b> 30 Days of Vaccination				Paid <b>AFTER</b> 30 Days of Vaccination			
	Under 7 months of age	Spayed/Neutered	NOT Spayed/Neutered		Under 7 months of age	Spayed/Neutered	NOT Spayed/Neutered
1 Year Tag	\$9	\$9	\$20	1 Year Tag	\$35	\$35	\$45
3 Year Tag		\$25	\$60	3 Year Tag		\$70	\$160

**Have the registration fees increased from last year?**

The registration fees have not changed for responsible pet owners that have spayed or neutered pets.

**How will the additional fees be used by the county?**

These fees will be used to establish a pet population control fund. This fund will pay for the alteration of pets that are adopted out of the Animal Control Center. This will make pet adoption more affordable for families.

**Are there other fees for violating the ordinance?**

Yes. Owners whose dogs or cats lack current rabies vaccinations could face \$100-\$250 in fines (up from \$25) for first and second offenses and \$500 fines for subsequent offenses. Pet owners may also face additional fines for reclaiming their pets should they be running at large and picked up by Animal Control.