



## **Why is my rabies certificate for my pet being forwarded from my veterinarian to the Washoe County Health District?**

Under state law (Nevada Administrative Code 441A.412) your veterinarian is required to send a copy of the vaccination certificate to the Washoe County Health District. This is to ensure that rabies vaccinations are being regularly administered for the safety of our pets, residents, and visitors.

## **What is being done with this information?**

Once the rabies certificate is received by the Washoe County Health District, they are sent to Washoe County Regional Animal Services who is the “Designee” to monitor possible rabies exposure to domestic animals and required to input the information into their database to record accurate rabies vaccination records within the county. This is to help ensure community safety as well as drive proactive strategies for disease prevention.

## **Is this information being used for dog licensing compliance?**

Washoe County Regional Animal Services has a duty to help ensure a safe and healthy community for both pets and people. In addition to other regulations, WCRAS is responsible for obtaining licensing compliance from owners of dogs living within the congested areas of Washoe County that are four months of age or older (W.C.C. 55.340). Rabies certificates are utilized to help ascertain the animal population in Washoe County and their license status and helps provide a friendly reminder to the pet owner about when their vaccine and / or license is due.

## **Why license my dog?**

Within congested areas of Washoe County, all dogs over the age of four months are required to be vaccinated for rabies and licensed with Washoe County Regional Animal Services (W.C.C. 55.340, W.C.C. 55.350). In addition, licensing your dog provides proof of ownership should they become lost. WCRAS will attempt to notify you and return your dog home without impounding the dog, which lessens the stress on you and your pet. In fiscal year 14/15, WCRAS successfully reunited over 900 licensed pets with their owners.

## **How is license revenue utilized?**

License revenue helps to provide support for proactive outreach and valuable community service such as educational programs for students and civic groups, pet assistance for seniors, low-cost pet vaccinations and free microchips to the community and assistance in times of disasters and emergencies. Additionally, revenues are used to care for the thousands of Washoe County’s lost and abandoned animals that enter the shelter.

## **How do I license my dog?**

WCRAS has made it simple to license your dog in one of three ways:

- 1) Online-[www.washoeanimals.com](http://www.washoeanimals.com)
- 2) In person- 2825 Longley Ln, #A Reno, NV 89502
- 3) By mail- (application is on reverse side of this document)