



## VETERINARY NOTIFICATION OF RABIES VACCINATIONS: A NEW REQUIREMENT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Effective March 1, 2015, all veterinarians in Washington County are required to notify Animal Services when they administer a rabies vaccination to your dog. This handout, prepared by Washington County Animal Services, should answer your questions about this requirement.

- 1. Why does Washington County Animal Services need to know whether my dog has her rabies vaccination?** About 350 dogs in Washington County bite a human every year and break the skin. Washington County Animal Services investigates each of those bites. This reporting allows us to do that job effectively and efficiently. Dogs that have bitten a person and broken the skin must be quarantined for 10 days. *Dogs with proof of current rabies vaccination can almost always be kept in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes during the quarantine period, while dogs with no documentation of rabies vaccination must usually be quarantined at the animal shelter or a veterinarian's office.*
- 2. What will Washington County Animal Services do with the information?** We will enter your dog's rabies vaccination status in our database. If your dog is licensed with Washington County, we will update your dog's rabies vaccination status in our system for you automatically – you will not be required to take any action. If your dog is not licensed, we will send you a notice with information to license your dog.
- 3. What if I don't want to license my dog?** Your dog is required by law to be licensed. Licensing your dog also has many advantages to you and your pet. If your dog is lost, we will have your contact information to return your dog to you – often we can do that without the dog even coming to the shelter. The fees from dog licenses are also a major source of funding for the County's Animal Services program, which cares for lost animals, investigates cases of cruelty and neglect, and operates the animal shelter. Your dog's license fee helps keep our community a safe and compassionate place for the animals in need.
- 4. Do veterinarians in other counties have to report rabies vaccinations?** Yes. Counties throughout the Portland metropolitan area have similar requirements.
- 5. Can I tell my veterinarian that I do not want him or her to give Washington County this information?** Your veterinarian is required by law to provide this information.
- 6. Where can I get more information about this?** Please contact Washington County Animal Services. Our phone number is 503-846-7041. Our email address is [Animal\\_Services@co.washington.or.us](mailto:Animal_Services@co.washington.or.us).

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