



WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES ON DOG ISSUES & LICENSEING

174.042 Dogs running at large and untagged dogs subject to impoundment; penalties.

174.042(1) (1) DOG RUNNING AT LARGE.

(a) Except as provided in par. (b), a dog is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person.

(b) A dog that is actively engaged in a legal hunting activity, including training, is not considered to be running at large if the dog is monitored or supervised by a person and the dog is on land that is open to hunting or on land on which the person has obtained permission to hunt or to train a dog.

(2) UNTAGGED DOG. A dog is considered to be untagged if a valid license tag is not attached to a collar which is kept on the dog whenever the dog is outdoors unless the dog is securely confined in a fenced area.

(3) DOG RUNNING AT LARGE OR UNTAGGED DOG SUBJECT TO IMPOUNDMENT. An officer shall attempt to capture and restrain any dog running at large and any untagged dog.

(4) PENALTIES. If the owner of a dog negligently or otherwise permits the dog to run at large or be untagged, the owner shall forfeit not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 for the first offense and not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 for subsequent offenses.

History: 1979 c. 289; 1983 a. 451; 1999 a. 50.

174.05 Dog license tax.

(1) REQUIREMENT. Except as provided in s. 174.054, the owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 of any year, or 5 months of age within the license year, shall annually, or on or before the date the dog becomes 5 months of age, pay the dog license tax and obtain a license.

(2) TAX. The minimum dog license tax is \$3 for a neutered male dog or spayed female dog, upon presentation of evidence that the dog is neutered or spayed, and \$8 for an unneutered male dog or unspayed female dog, or one-half of these amounts if the dog became 5 months of age after July 1 of the license year.

(3) ADDITIONAL TAX. The governing body of any county may by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting raise the minimum dog license tax on dogs within its jurisdiction and the governing body of any town, village or city may by resolution raise the minimum dog license tax on dogs within its jurisdiction. If the governing body of any county, town, village or city increases the minimum tax, it shall provide that the tax for unneutered male dogs and unspayed female dogs is greater than the tax for neutered male dogs and spayed female dogs. The additional tax may not exceed the total cost of all dog licensing, regulating and impounding activities for the previous year, less any refunds which may be received under s. 174.09 (2), and shall be levied and collected in the same manner as other dog license taxes.

(4) LICENSE YEAR. The license year commences on January 1 and ends on the following December 31.

(5) LATE FEES. The collecting official shall assess and collect a late fee of \$5 from every owner of a dog 5 months of age or over, if the owner failed to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or within 30 days of

acquiring ownership of a licensable dog or if the owner failed to obtain a license on or before the dog reached licensable age. All late fees received or collected shall be paid into the local treasury as revenue of the town, village or city in which the license was issued. The governing body of any county, town, village or city may, when setting the amount of the tax, provide that any person purchasing a dog license for a dog 5 months of age or over after April 1 shall pay an additional late fee.

History: [1979 c. 289](#); [1983 a. 451](#); [1991 a. 39](#).

174.052 Publication of the dog license requirement and rabies vaccination requirement.

(1) JANUARY NOTICE. Except as provided in sub. (3), the county board of each county shall cause a class 1 notice under ch. [985](#) to be published between January 1 and January 15 of each year in a newspaper having general circulation in the county notifying the public that rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required under the statutes.

(2) MARCH NOTICE. Except as provided in sub. (3), the county board of each county shall cause a class 1 notice under ch. [985](#) to be published between March 1 and March 15 of each year in a newspaper having general circulation in the county notifying the public that rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required under the statutes and that late fees may be assessed after April 1.

(3) NOTICE IN CERTAIN POPULOUS COUNTIES. In a county in which an agreement under s. [174.10 \(2\)](#) is in effect, the intergovernmental commission shall cause the notices under subs. (1) and (2) to be published.

History: [1979 c. 289](#); [2003 a. 133](#).

**Town Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm
Friday 8:30am-Noon
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IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS OR ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT:
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