



# Animal Control Newsletter



TOWN OF STERLING - FEBRUARY 2015

## ACO REMINDERS

1. 2015 dog licensing in Sterling begins January 1<sup>st</sup> till April 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. After that a \$25.00 late fee is added automatically per dog, also a \$25.00 Citation could be issued per week for having an unlicensed dog in the town of Sterling. This is in addition of your licensing fee which is \$8.00 for spayed females and neutered males and \$12.00 for intact females and Males. This is according to the Town of Sterling's Animal Control By-Laws.
3. Be prepared! Make sure your dogs rabies shot is up to date. Call your veterinarian to check. Without an updated rabies shot for your dog, you **cannot** license Your dog in the State of Massachusetts (State Law).

In the state of Massachusetts for having a unvaccinated dog or cat or **ferret** against rabies a fine of not more than \$100.00 may be issued.

**The rabies virus is out there so protect your FAMILY PET!**

4. Failure to license a dog in the town of Sterling may result in a criminal complaint being issued against you at Clinton District Court.

Contact the Sterling Police Department at 978-422-7331 to reach Louis Massa the Animal Control Officer (ACO) town of Sterling.

**Remember there is a secure drop off box outside the town hall for your convenience 24/7!**

## MICRO-CHIP INFORMATION

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT ALL DOG OWNERS MAKE SURE THEIR DOGS MICRO-CHIPS ARE REGISTERED WITH COMPLETE AND UPDATED INFORMATION!!!

The Sterling ACO has a micro-chip scanner which reads all chips. Without charge, he will gladly check your micro-chip registration details and/or confirm micro-chip registration information. Interested persons please call 978-422-7331 and request to speak to the ACO for an appointment. Also, be aware that when getting a micro-chip put in your dog's neck area; make sure you ask your veterinarian, "Is the micro-chip readable by all micro-chip scanners?" A good chip that is readable by all micro-chip scanners is the brand name Res-Q or Pet Finder.



TOWN OF STERLING  
SPRING RABIES AND MICROCHIP CLINIC  
SATURDAY, March 14, 2015  
**ALL TOWNS ARE WELCOME!**

STERLING VETERINARY CLINIC  
4 CLINTON ROAD (RT. 62)  
(978) 422-6262

CHECK OR CASH ONLY  
9:00AM – 10:00AM      CATS IN CARRIERS  
10:00AM – 11:00AM      DOGS ON LEASHES

**RABIES VACCINATIONS \$12.00**  
RABIES VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED ARE VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM 3/14/2015.

**TO QUALIFY FOR THREE YEAR STATUS, PROOF OF TWO RABIES VACCINES ADMINISTERED WITHIN 9-12 MONTHS MUST BE PROVIDED. NO EXAMS WILL BE PERFORMED...RABIES VACCINE ONLY.**

**MICROCHIP PLACEMENT \$48.50**  
STERLING VETERINARY CLINIC WILL BE USING MICROFINDR MICROCHIPS. THIS CHIP IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED BY ALL ISO COMPLIANT MICROCHIP SCANNERS AND INCLUDES LIFETIME REGISTRATION. STERLING VETERINARY CLINIC WILL PROVIDE ALL OF THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

THE ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK FOR THE TOWN OF STERLING WILL BE AT THE CLINIC LICENSING DOGS FOR 2015. (TOWN OF STERLING ONLY)

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT LOUIS MASSA, THE STERLING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO), AT 978-422-7331. THE ACO WILL BE AT THE RABIES AND MICROCHIP CLINIC TO ASSIST AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

## Underground Fencing Facts

For residents who have installed underground fencing for containment of their dog(s), or those residents who may be thinking about purchasing such a system; the Animal Control Officer (ACO) commends you for being a responsible dog owner and wishes to share with you some noteworthy facts:

Underground fence systems **do not** keep other dogs/cats/wildlife from coming onto your property when you leave your pet outside and this is **ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS** when you are not home.

Some other hidden dangers are:

1. Dog fights with other dogs that come onto your property.
2. Visits from a stray or feral cat which can bite or attack your dog.
3. Your dog chases another dog/cat off the property and in doing so, runs right through the fence system. Now your dog is off property, loose and not under control. It usually won't come back onto the property because it got zapped when going off the property!
4. Wildlife dangers can also exist for a contained dog such as a possibly rabid animal wandering onto the property and biting an unvaccinated dog which can result in a fatal injury if nobody is aware the incident occurred. The ACO advises even though your dog is contained, be sure your rabies vaccination is current.
5. During power failures or lightening strikes, underground fence systems sometimes go down or malfunction. Be sure your system has the option to attach a twelve volt battery as back-up power in such an event and if you have that option check annually to be sure battery is still working. Underground fencing relies mainly on the battery in the dog collar. **PLEASE** check the collar battery life and change batteries when needed!