

## **Ask the Chief**

**Dear Chief:** What are the laws regarding dog licensing in the City of Alamosa?

**Dear Citizen:** Essentially, any person owning, keeping or having custody of a dog over three months old in the City Limits must apply for and obtain a license within 30 days after obtaining the dog. With your dog license you will receive a tag with an identifying number and year of issuance and the tags must be attached to the dog's collar or harness. The licensing period shall begin with the calendar year and shall run for one year; expiring on the thirty-first day of December of the year of issuance. Licenses can be purchased at the Alamosa Police Department at 425 4th Street during normal business hours. Licenses are \$2.00 for dogs that are spay/neutered and \$10.00 for those that are not. In years past we have not tracked those who have not renewed their license, but this will be changing in 2012. Later this year, all dog owners/licensees can expect to receive written notification for annual renewal; much cheaper than a ticket for not licensing your dog. Also, we are planning a dog licensing event in the early part of the summer where owners can conveniently license their dog on a Saturday or Sunday. In addition to licensing your dog's annually we encourage pet owners to comply with other municipal ordinances pertaining to dogs. Two of the biggest nuisance's in our community is dog-at-large and the barking dog. As a reminder, it is unlawful for dog owners or keepers to permit a dog run at large in our city and it is unlawful for dog owners or keepers to permit dogs to disturb the peace and quiet of any family, individual or neighborhood by barking. Beyond the nuisance created by the barking dog, we have noted that this in and of itself can create divisiveness in our neighborhoods and lead to even greater disputes. So, be a good neighbor (and dog owner) by licensing, caring for, and controlling your dog.

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police