



PENNSYLVANIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

advancing animal welfare and human health while ensuring the vitality of the profession

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September 26, 2017

The Honorable Martin Causer
P.O. Box 202067
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2067

Dear Majority Chair Causer, Minority Chair Pashninski and Honorable Members of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA), I am pleased to offer our support of House Bill 1463, PN 1868; legislation that would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to establish, operate, and maintain a statewide dog licensing internet website capable of selling dog licenses in each county and collecting payments. When our Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee reviewed the legislation, several questions were identified and are worth the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee's consideration. They are as follows:

- Does it change anything for veterinarians in regards to issuing lifetime licenses?
- Will it be a searchable database for agents to search to confirm dog licensure even if the dog is found after regular business hours, on the weekend, or on a holiday?
- Will those veterinarians, who do not act as agents, and animal control officers have access to searching the database?
- Would all counties have the same form, procedure, and be required to offer the online ability to apply for a dog license?

Our Association is also supportive of tying this system to rabies vaccination tags. It would be beneficial to do so to assist the state in ensuring that rabies vaccinations are current and therefore, protecting public health, and dog licenses are issued. If rabies tags and dog licenses are housed in the same system, compliance and enforcement will become easier. In addition, each year, veterinarians could recertify that the rabies vaccination and license are current. In regards to lifetime licensure, it could be required that the veterinarian recheck and confirm that the microchip or tattoo is still intact and record it in the system with no fee. Checking that the microchip or tattoo is intact will also assist in ensuring dogs are returned to their owners if lost.

If you have any questions regarding our questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at cwandzilak@pavma.org or 717-220-1437.

Sincerely yours,

Charlene Wandzilak, CAE
Executive Director