



Animal Ordinances

Animal Limitations

In Marin County (including all cities) the limit is 3 dogs over 4 months old per household. Individual cities may have limitations on cats and other animals.

Licensing

Any dog over 4 months of age must wear a current license tag. Licenses may be purchased at the Society. Licenses are not the same as rabies tags. Licenses are available for 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years and coincide with the expiration of the rabies vaccination.

If someone redeems a dog from the Society, they must show proof of a current rabies vaccination and a current license tag before the dog is released. A rabies vaccination and a license may be purchased at the time of redemption.

While a current rabies vaccination is required throughout Marin County, licensing for cats is only required within the City of Novato. Unfortunately, as most cat guardians do not put ID tags on their cats, the redemption rate for stray cats is much lower than that of dogs (17% compared to 82%). In an attempt to reunite lost cats with their guardians, the Society sells a lifetime microchip ID.

Microchip I.D.

The Novato Cat Ordinance encourages the use of the microchip ID as a form of identification for cats. This permanent, rice-sized ID is implanted under the skin on the back of an animal's neck, which is in the same location where they would receive a vaccination. The ID contains an alpha numeric code which quickly connects lost pets with their guardians. The Marin Humane Society offers the microchip during regular business hours, \$10 for cats and \$20 for dogs.

Leash and Control Laws

Dogs in Marin County must be kept under the immediate control and direction of a responsible person at all times and not become a nuisance to others. The City of Ross has no control or leash law (other than on school grounds and in the downtown areas). The following cities have strict leash laws:

- Mill Valley
- Larkspur
- Fairfax
- Tiburon
- Corte Madera
- San Rafael
- Sausalito



People with dogs who do not abide by the leash law in those cities, and guardians who allow their dogs to run at large in the county areas and other cities, may receive a citation or have their dog(s) impounded.