



April 24, 2017

Re: Handling Strays Dogs and Kennel Licensing Requirements
3 P.S. § 459-302

Dear :


Please accept this correspondence regarding the handling of stray dogs. It has recently come to our attention that some veterinarian offices have been adopting out or re-homing stray dogs which are brought in by the public. While we appreciate the medical care you provide for stray dogs, as well as your legal obligation to provide treatment for all sick/injured dogs brought into you, adopting out or re-homing stray dogs requires an appropriate kennel license. Pursuant to 3 P.S. §§ 459-207 and 603, selling, adopting out or re-homing a dog without obtaining the proper kennel license is unlawful.

If your veterinary hospital is not licensed and would like to adopt out or re-home stray dogs, you can obtain a kennel application to do so on the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement's website: www.licenseyourdogpa.com. Thereafter, if you would like to be eligible to detain stray dogs pursuant to Section 302 of the Dog Law you can file a request to do so with the Bureau. In the alternative, if you receive and/or provide medical care for a stray dog received from a member of the public you can contact the Bureau or police department to transport the dog to a kennel approved by the Secretary.

We appreciate your cooperation in this regard. If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement at 717-787-3062.

Thank you.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement


Kristen Donmoyer
Director