

1. This Act applies to Towns and Cities of Belize, not to rural areas: Belize City, City of Belmopan, Corozal Town, Orange Walk Town, Dangriga, San Ignacio and Santa Elena, Punta Gorda, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Pedro, Caye Caulker and St. George's Caye  
*An Owner* is anyone who has a dog in their custody, charge, or possession, or if a dog is found or seen regularly on their property.
2. Residents must licence each and every dog they 'own', or face a \$10 fine for every 7 days the dog remains unlicensed. (Exceptions: you are in town less than 40 days in a year, or the dog is less than 6 months old, and you can prove it)
3. Fees and fines are set by the local council and can be charged for unlicensed dogs, dog seizure and pound fees. A licence is issued by the local council upon payment of fee.
4. A name, address and occupation register of all licences is held at the issuing authority offices and is open to inspection by the public.
5. A paper licence and an appropriate dog-tag are provided upon receipt of payment, both renewable annually.
6. Lost or damaged tags may be renewed for \$1
7. Production of the paper licence or tag will be sufficient proof of purchase.
8. You may be liable for a \$50 if you cannot or will not produce your licence or tag on request
9. A dog can be seized if: it isn't wearing his collar and tag, it appears to be a stray, is a female on heat and not restrained, is carrying a contagious disease and is not led or carried, or is suffering from disease or injury and is in pain and is not being led or carried. A dog-catcher will be uniformed and identifiable and carry the same authority as a police officer.
10. A seized dog may be destroyed immediately if it is deemed to be suffering from a contagious disease or is in such pain that it is humane to destroy it.
11. Otherwise healthy seized dogs will be detained for 3 days, during which time an owner may reclaim his/her dog after paying the appropriate fines and fees. After 3 days, unclaimed dogs may be 'disposed of'.
12. The Authority will occasionally advertise the location of the Pound
13. Nuisance dogs include excessive barking, turning over trash cans, vicious or savage dogs or those which pose a health risk.
14. An owner will be ordered to keep his/her animal under control, failing which the animal will be destroyed and the owner fined and ordered to pay expenses.

15. The licensing authority will benefit from revenue generated by license fees and fines
16. An owner which allows his dog to stray may be fined up to \$100
17. Poisoning: Licensing authorities have the authority to use strychnine capsules anywhere in their region to poison any dog 'at large' within that area. This poisoning will be carried out by a team from the licensing authority, accompanied by a public health inspector and a police officer who will ensure that: (a) distribution of the poison is not random and only strays dogs are targeted (b) poison will not be dispersed in a general and haphazard manner (c) the areas treated are unfrequented (d) all unconsumed poisons are recovered and disposed of properly. The poisoning may take place anywhere within the Authority limits not deemed private property. The authority is not liable for any dog destroyed in this poisoning exercise. The authority must alert the public via an appropriate medium and manner before poisoning commences.
18. Rabies: liable to change depending on circumstance. The Authority may appoint officers to destroy infected animals and/or carcasses, muzzle, control, detain or isolate suspected cases or at risk dogs, and enforce quarantine and restrict movement for dogs during an outbreak. Dissenting owners will be fined or imprisoned. (The entire Rabies section applies to all rabies-carrying animals, not only dogs)

*Example of a dog licence:*

*The Dogs Act*

*Dog Licence*

*(Name, occupation, and place of abode of licensee)* having paid the fee of *(state amount)* is hereby licensed to keep *(number)* dog(s) in the town of *(name of town)* until the first day of January next.

*Issued by me this (date)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of issuer of licence.)*

on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_  
*(state title of the licensing authority).*