



## **News for Immediate Release**

**March 14, 2014**

### **Pennsylvania Elementary Students Encouraged to Enter Dog License Awareness Poster Contest**

**Mercer, Pa.** – Agriculture Secretary George Greig today invited Pennsylvania students in first through sixth grades to enter a poster contest to raise awareness about the importance of dog licensing. The deadline to enter the statewide contest is April 30.

“Dog ownership comes with a lot of responsibilities, and licensing your dog is on the top of the list,” said Greig. “This contest is a great way to educate students and their families about the importance of licensing their dogs. I encourage all eligible students to participate, get creative and talk with their families about safeguarding their ‘best friend.’”

Greig joined Mercer County Treasurer Ginny Richardson to remind Pennsylvanians to purchase dog licenses in recognition of March as “Dog License Awareness Month.”

State law requires all dogs three months and older to be licensed each year. Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.

An annual dog license is \$8.45 and a lifetime license is \$51.45. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.45 and lifetime is \$31.45. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities.

“Licensing your dog is easy and affordable,” said Richardson. “Licenses can be purchased from your county treasurer, another licensing agent or online.”

Licensing fees support the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement Office, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations.

The poster contest is open to all students enrolled in public, private or home school. Students involved with a sponsoring 4-H club or scouting organization may also participate.

The poster must reflect the theme “License your dog. It’s his ticket home.” and include the website [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com).

Judging will be based on effective communication of the theme and importance of the dog license law and creativity.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$20 cash prize and a visit by the Secretary of Agriculture and a dog warden during an official poster unveiling at their school. Grand prize artwork will be used on promotional displays and websites and will be the cover page of the 2015 Dog Law Enforcement Office Coloring Book. Winners of each age division (first and second grade, third and fourth grade, fifth and sixth grade) will receive a \$15 cash prize and their artwork will appear in the office's coloring book.

For complete contest details, visit [www.licenseyourdogPA.com](http://www.licenseyourdogPA.com) and click "2014 Poster Contest" or call the Dog Law Enforcement Office at 717-787-3062.

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