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Marion County Dog Shelter offers free rabies vaccines at dog license amnesty event

Marion County Dog Control will offer amnesty for late fees and licensing violations as well as provide licenses and vaccinations from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at the Wilco Farm Store at 734 McClaine Street in Silverton. "Marion County Dog Control is aware that current economic situation is forcing people to make tough choices about their budgets and we want to help make sure people can provide vaccinations and licenses for their dogs," said Sonya Pulvers, office manager. She added that when a dog is lost and is brought to the shelter, having a dog license "helps shelter staff reunite the dog with its family."

For that reason, free rabies vaccinations will be offered to the first 250 dogs whose owners purchase or renew a Marion County dog license on a first-come / first-served basis. Two local veterinary clinics, Abiqua Animal Clinic and Silver Creek Animal Clinic, will be at the event to provide low-cost vaccinations for dogs.

Licenses are \$17 a year for neutered or spayed dogs and \$32 for unaltered dogs. Proof of neutering or spaying must be provided to receive the reduced fee. Multi-year licenses are also available. The license fee is \$5 for seniors 65 and older with a spayed or neutered dog. Please bring a check or exact change. Dogs must be on leashes or in carriers.

All owners and keepers of dogs in Marion County are required by law to purchase a license when a dog reaches six months of age. Licenses are also required within 30 days of becoming a dog owner or moving into Marion County. License fees support the work of the dog control program, which rescues stray and injured dogs, handles dog complaints, and helps ensure the safety of the community through enforcement, education, and mediation.

For more information, call (503) 588-5233.

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