



# DOG DAZE



## An Analysis of Syracuse's Dog Licensing, Sheltering & Control

### Key Findings:

**Shelter Crisis:** The City's primary shelter contractor, B&R Bunkhouse, will soon end its contract. Without a new agreement or facility, the City will only have access to 10 kennel spaces at the Second Chance Shelter.

**Legal Non-Compliance:** Syracuse is currently out of compliance with the New York State Companion Animal Shelter Care Standards Act, which took effect December 15, 2025.

**Declining Licensing:** The number of dog licenses issued has decreased annually since FY 2021, dropping by approximately 700 licenses as of FY 2024.

**Missed Funding:** The City missed the January 30, 2026, deadline for the latest round of state funding from the Companion Animal Capital Fund.

### Recommendations:

**Build a Municipal Shelter:** Prioritize constructing a city-owned, 80+ kennel facility to meet NYS standards and end reliance on external contractors.

**Restructure Leadership:** Move Dog Control to the Parks Department and appoint a Deputy Commissioner of Animal Control for professional oversight.

**Modernize Fees & Finance:** Raise the unaltered dog fee to \$100 and centralize revenue tracking under the Commissioner of Finance for transparency.

**Mandate Spay/Neuter:** Enact laws to curb backyard breeding and require spay/neuter procedures for all animals impounded by Dog Control before release.

**Improve Data Transparency:** Integrate stray reporting into CityLine and publish resolution data on the Open Data portal for better accountability.



### Current City of Syracuse Dog License Fees

Dog Type	1-Year License	3-Year License
Altered	\$10.00 (\$9.00 + \$1.00 State Surcharge)	\$30.00 (\$27.00+ \$3.00 State Surcharge)
Unaltered	\$20.00 (\$17.00 + \$3.00 State Surcharge)	\$60.00 (\$51.00+ \$9.00 State Surcharge)
Replacement Tag Fee	\$5.00 For Any Replacement	