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Ventura County Animal Services to launch automated citation pet license program

(VENTURA COUNTY, Calif.) - Beginning in October, Ventura County Animal Services will institute an innovative approach to pet license enforcement through the use of a new automated citation animal license program. The automated citation program is designed to ensure that owners keep their pet ownership information up-to-date, pay their pet license fees on time and comply with the state and local laws pertaining to pet ownership and rabies certification.

Applying to pet owners living in the cities of Ventura, Camarillo, Moorpark, Simi Valley and Ventura County's unincorporated areas who have not responded to three mailed license renewal notices, the automated citation program will issue a fourth notice that includes a fine, ranging from \$100 - \$135.

"When a lost and scared stray pet arrives at one of our adoption centers, it is important that we have the correct information on file so that we can contact the pet owner quickly and reunite them with their animal," said Tara Diller, VCAS Director. "Far too often, people move, give their pet away or the animal passes away and they never think to inform Animal Services. The auto citation program should help with this problem."

Once a pet owner receives an automated citation, they have 30 days to pay the fine and/or notify VCAS of ownership changes. If the owner no longer owns the animal or it has passed away, the fines will be reversed once VCAS has been notified.

Similar automated citation programs in other California cities and counties have increased compliance with licensing and rabies vaccination laws and have generated additional revenue. The additional revenue will help VCAS offset the higher costs associated with caring for animals for longer periods of time now that they are operating as a no-kill shelter.

For more information, call: 1-888-223-PETS (7387) or go to www.vcas.us.

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