



# County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES  
AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
138 EAST COURT STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

August 25, 2008

Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners  
138 East Court Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Honorable Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on the topic of dog licensing.

I would make several points for the record.

First, as I have consistently maintained over a decade or more, it is appropriate to have there be a General Fund subsidy of the dog related responsibilities the County undertakes. This is the case in all or almost all Ohio counties.

Second, I oppose any increase in the dog license fee as it will discourage compliance with the law. It places an unfair burden on a select group rather than spreading the financial responsibility across the entire population which benefits from the requirement.

Third, I hope to implement an on-line licensing option this year for those willing to pay a small convenience fee . . . similar to the fee paid when currently purchasing a license at an Auditor authorized agent location.

Fourth, the county budget office estimates that the Auditor currently spends only 7% to 8% of the Dog and Kennel Fund revenues on the administration of the licensing program. This is well below the 15% permitted by law.

Fifth, it is the responsibility of the County Commissioners to set the licensing fee and to arrange for Dog Warden services. It is the responsibility of the County Auditor to perform the ministerial tasks\* of licensing dogs in our County.

Sincerely,

**Dusty Rhodes**

Dusty Rhodes  
Hamilton County Auditor

\* The County Auditor's responsibilities under O.R.C. 955. are to receive registration applications, deliver a certificate of registration and metal tag to the applicant, to keep a permanent record of all certificates issued along with the applications, to authorize agents to assist in the registration of dogs, and to establish the rules for reporting and accounting of registrations.