

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 3, 1974

John A. Smiley, Director

Agriculture

Harrison Wetherill, Jr., Assistant

Attorney General

Dog licensing

I have received your memorandum indicating that a person from California plans to visit Maine with his dog for about four months. You have asked whether the dog will require a Maine license and, if so, how soon after the dog's entry into the state would it have to be licensed. The dog from California will have to be licensed within 10 days of its arrival in Maine.

In 7 M.R.S.A. § 3454 the legislature has stated broadly that "[n]o dog shall be kept within the limits of this State unless such dog shall have been licensed by its owner in accordance with the laws of Maine."

The Legislature, in 7 M.R.S.A. § 3451 has provided that any person becoming the owner of a dog, which is not licensed as required, shall have 10 days after he becomes the owner to have the dog licensed. By this provision the Legislature has expressed a determination that 10 days is a reasonable length of time to allow a person to obtain a dog license after such person becomes initially subject to Maine's dog licensing laws.

HW/mf

**AN INFORMAL OPINION**