

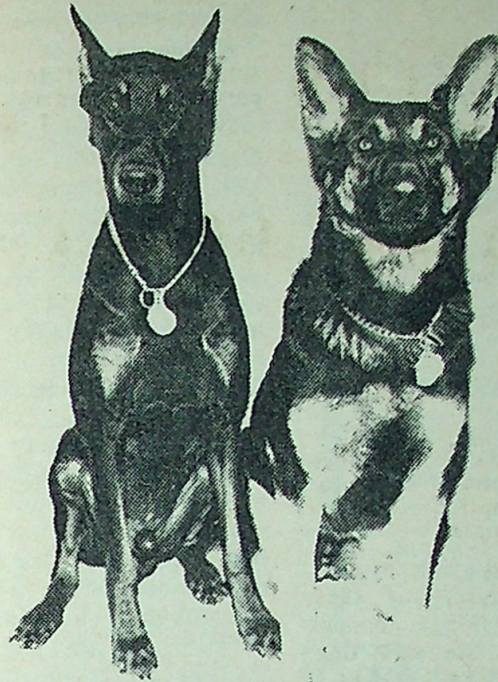
# The History of Dog Tags

by  
Mrs. John A. Lyons

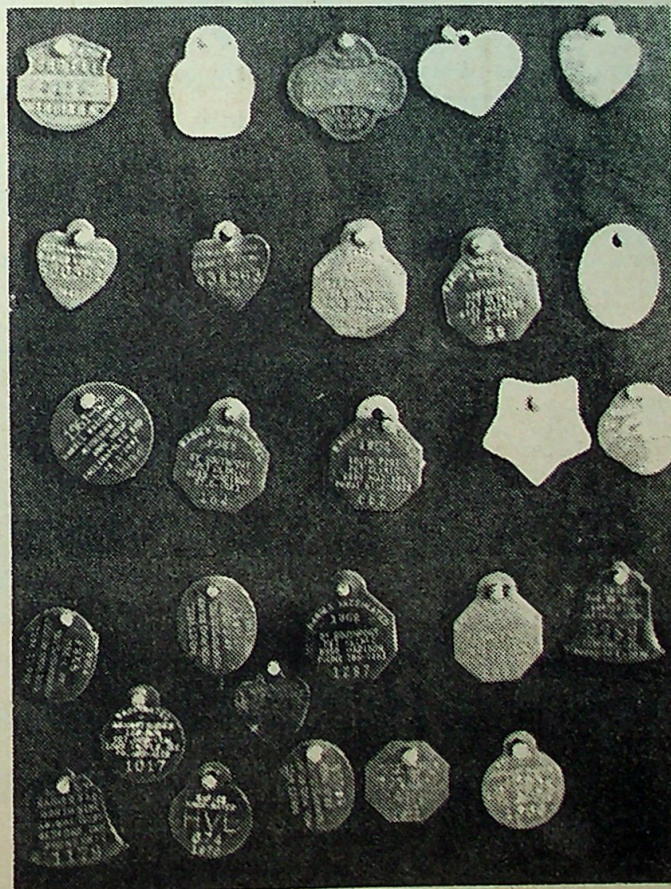
Few of us stop to consider how much we owe to dogs, man's best friend. Pioneers in Indiana kept one dog in the house and one outside the house to warn of Indian attacks. Dogs are playing an important role in aiding police capture criminals throughout the world. They were used by early settlers to track down animals needed for meat to feed their families. They were heroes in Vietnam in detecting the communists hiding in the jungle.

Books in the office of the Secretary of State mention laws and repeals in years 1883, 1885, and 1891. In 1901 dogs were to be taxed at rate of \$1.00 for male or spayed dogs, \$2.00 for female and any additional dogs kept on premises \$3.00. In a collection of old papers a receipt was issued in Union Township, Boone County, for one yellow shepherd dog in amount of \$1.00 signed by J.H. Bush Township Assessor, dated April 5, 1909.

Dogs were allowed to roam free and easy in Indiana until 1923, when they were declared personal property and a tax was declared. As members of the Indiana General Assembly stated - an act making dogs personal property and making it compulsory to list all dogs over three months old for taxation, to become effective April 30, 1923. A license fee of \$1.00 for male or spayed, \$3.00 for female, \$5.00 for each additional dog,



*Man's Best Friends  
sport their tags*



*Rabies Tags*

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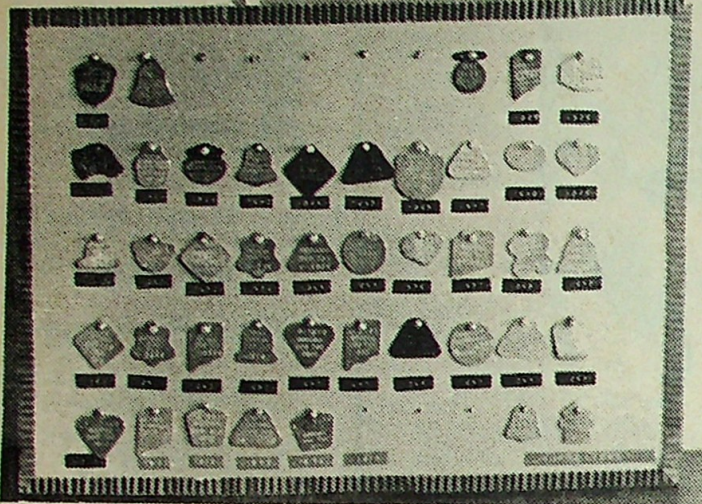
**Arab**

Dave Owens, Mgr.

78 N. First Street  
Zionsville 873-5414



## INDIANA DOG TAGS



male or female, so owned, harbored or kept on the premises

Members of a County Council have authority to increase the price to \$2.00 at their discretion.

When the license fee is paid to the Trustee or Assessor, a receipt is issued and a metal tag, which should be attached securely to the collar of the dog and worn continuously. All license tags are of uniform design or color for any one year, but the color or shape is not used for any two consecutive years. All tags are designed by the Auditor of the State of Indiana, paid for out of the state dog account, and are manufactured at the state prison, the same as motor vehicle license plates. The dog tags have a distinct number, and this number appears on the receipt issued to the owner.

In 1937 the General Assembly provided a penalty, not to exceed \$25.00 for anyone who harbors or keeps a dog that is more than six months old and does not wear a collar with the metal tag attached, or for any unauthorized person to

remove a dog tag except the owner or authorized agent. Owners are not to allow a dog to stray from their premises, the exception is while the owner is engaged in lawful hunting. Anyone violating these provisions will be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of not less than \$5.00 or more than \$25.00

Ordinances are sometimes made in cities and towns regarding dog tags. One special provision of such ordinance in the State Capitol is for blind persons having seeing eye dogs. A license is required, however, there is no charge.

Dog tags have been made in shape of hearts, dog houses, dog heads, bells, hats, shields, various shapes of the map of Indiana, four leaf clovers, fireplug, etc.

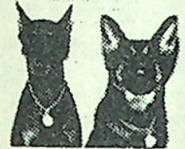
The exhibits of dog tags the rabies tags shown were made for the Zionsville Historical Society Fall Festival Booth by the writer. The earliest tags located were 1926 and 1930. The earliest rabies tags were 1941 and 1942.

These dates brought up some interesting questions by the visitors and a search was begun to find the answers. In looking through Burns Statutes it was found that the first dog tags were issued in 1923. The early tags were made of brass but later ones are of aluminum. The exception was in the war years of 1944 and 1945. Then they were made of black pot metal. In 1966 they were made of brass in honor of Indiana Sesquicentennial.

Some dogs were fortunate in having owners who believed in rabies shots prior to 1957, but the shots were not required by law until March 15, 1957, when an act was passed by the General Assembly prohibiting the harboring of any dog over the age of six months not immunized against rabies. Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be fined in any sum not

exceeding fifty dollars. In the event any person harbors a dog over the age of six months not immunized against rabies and allows such dog to run loose, with the result of bodily injury inflicted on a human being, - such person is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$100.00, to which may be added imprisonment, not to exceed thirty days.

Now is the time to see your trustee for dog tags and any time is a good time to check with your Veterinarian. Take good care of your dog and you'll both be happy.



I can lick the toughest wear  
and tear — Lollipop's the name!  
I support boys' and girls' growing feet  
— child-proof, too! A sweet  
treat for kids'  
feet!



LOLLIPOP



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