



## **“Top Dog” 50 Word Essay Contest 2011-2012**

The “Top Dog” essay contest is being introduced in Cuyahoga County to educate children about the importance of responsible dog ownership and to provide a creative outlet for them to share with others why their dog is “number one” in Cuyahoga County. All dogs in Ohio three months of age and older must be licensed annually by January 31<sup>st</sup> or within thirty days after assuming ownership. The license tag must be displayed on your dog’s collar at all times. It is important to remember that each year hundreds of dogs arrive at local shelters; if they are wearing their license it makes it much easier to return them safely home to their families. The Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office is continually seeking ways to improve services to Cuyahoga County residents. 2012 dog licenses cost \$16.00 if spayed / neutered or \$20.00 if not and are available for sale beginning December 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. *Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, licenses renewed after February 1, 2012 are subject to a late fee equal to the cost of the license.*

**Write an essay no longer than 50 words about why your dog should be chosen to be Cuyahoga County's "Top Dog".**

1. There are two categories, dog owners and non-dog owners. There will be one winner from each grade level (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>) per category. An overall contest winner will be selected from among the five winners in the dog owner category.
2. All dogs must be currently licensed and immunized.
3. All entries must be received in the Cuyahoga County’s Fiscal Office by 4:30 p.m., November 16, 2011. Entries postmarked after that date will not be eligible.
4. Employees of the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office, Cuyahoga County Animal Control, Humane Society and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate in the contest.
5. The judges will be members of the Cuyahoga County Council.
6. The top contest winner chosen from the dog owner category will receive the very first (#1) dog tag for 2012, along with other prizes donated to the contest.
7. The other four winners from the dog owner category will receive the next four dog tags for 2012, along with other prizes donated to the contest.
8. Please use 8 ½ by 11’ lined paper, with pen or pencil. All entries will become property of the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office.
9. Winners will be contacted by November 30, 2011.
10. The overall winner’s essay will be displayed on the Cuyahoga County Website.
11. The "Top Dog" awards ceremony will be held at the Cuyahoga County's Animal Shelter on Sweet Valley Drive.