

DOG GONE FIDO FEES

A Look At Dog Taxes & Alpha Towns In Connecticut



Located on the campus of Trinity College

The Yankee Institute for Public Policy
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Executive Summary

A dog's life in Connecticut may be cheap, but it's not free. Towns charge owners a dog license fee that is set by the state, which then shares in the revenue collected. The Yankee Institute tabulated how much each town collects in these "Fido fees," along with other dog-related income, and dug up some bones for fiscal year 2008. Highlights:

- State and local governments collected nearly \$2.5 million in dog-related licensing and fees in fiscal 2008.
 - A dog that lives to be 12 years old will cost more than \$100 in dog taxes over its lifetime, or more than \$1 dollar a year expressed in dog years.
- There are 211,524 licensed dogs in Connecticut.
 - The town with the most licensed dogs in Connecticut is **Enfield**, with 5,335 dog tags. Fairfield, Manchester, West Hartford, and South Windsor round out the top five.
 - **Scotland** has the most dogs per capita, at .608 dogs per human (336 dogs and 553 people).
 - **Bethlehem** has the most licensed dogs per household, at .236 dogs per home, followed by New Hartford, Colebrook, Killingsworth, and Tolland.
 - Data suggests that compliance rates vary considerably from town to town, with some towns clearly having high rates of pet owners who are "scoffdogs."
 - **Hartford and New Haven** have the fewest licensed dogs per household.
 - **Orange** has the highest rate of unaltered dogs, 42% of its dogs not having been spayed or neutered.
- 16% of Connecticut households have a licensed dog, less than half the national average of 37%, suggesting that at least some Connecticut hounds may be on the run from the law.
- Of the \$2,484,000 collected in dog-related licensing and fees, the State Department of Agriculture took \$1,177,000, of which \$507,000 went directly towards the state's Animal Control program; and towns retained \$1,306,000.
- Animal control costs reported by the towns totaled \$9,334,000
 - **Portland** is top dog when it comes to dog-related revenue, at more than \$84,000. Others towns in the top five are Enfield, Suffield, Stamford, and Meriden.
 - **Milford** lost the most money on dogs, spending \$346,000 more on animal control than it collected in dog-related revenue.
 - **East Lyme** led the pack in the fiscal black, with a net gain of almost \$7,236.
 - Only three Connecticut towns made enough in license and other dog fees to "turn a profit:" East Lyme, Stamford and Beacon Falls.
 - Others lose hundreds of thousands on them, including Hartford, Bridgeport, Danbury, and Norwalk.

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Doggie Demographics

Each year Connecticut towns must submit Dog Fund reports to the State Department of Agriculture, providing the state with information on the number and type of dogs licensed, other fees collected such as fines and impoundment charges, and animal control costs. This policy paper is based on Dog Fund reports for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008) for the 169 municipalities in Connecticut.¹

Top Dog Towns In Connecticut		
Town	# of Dogs	Population
1 Enfield	5,335	45,212
2 Fairfield	4,223	57,340
3 Manchester	3,804	54,740
4 West Hartford	3,011	63,589
5 South Windsor	2,988	24,412
6 Bristol	2,987	60,062
7 Southington	2,855	39,728
8 Meriden	2,824	58,244
9 New Britain	2,729	71,538
10 Windsor	2,716	28,237

By muzzle count alone, the **#1 One Dog Town** in Connecticut is Enfield, which reported 5,335 licensed pooches last year. Fairfield is second with 4,223 licensed dogs.

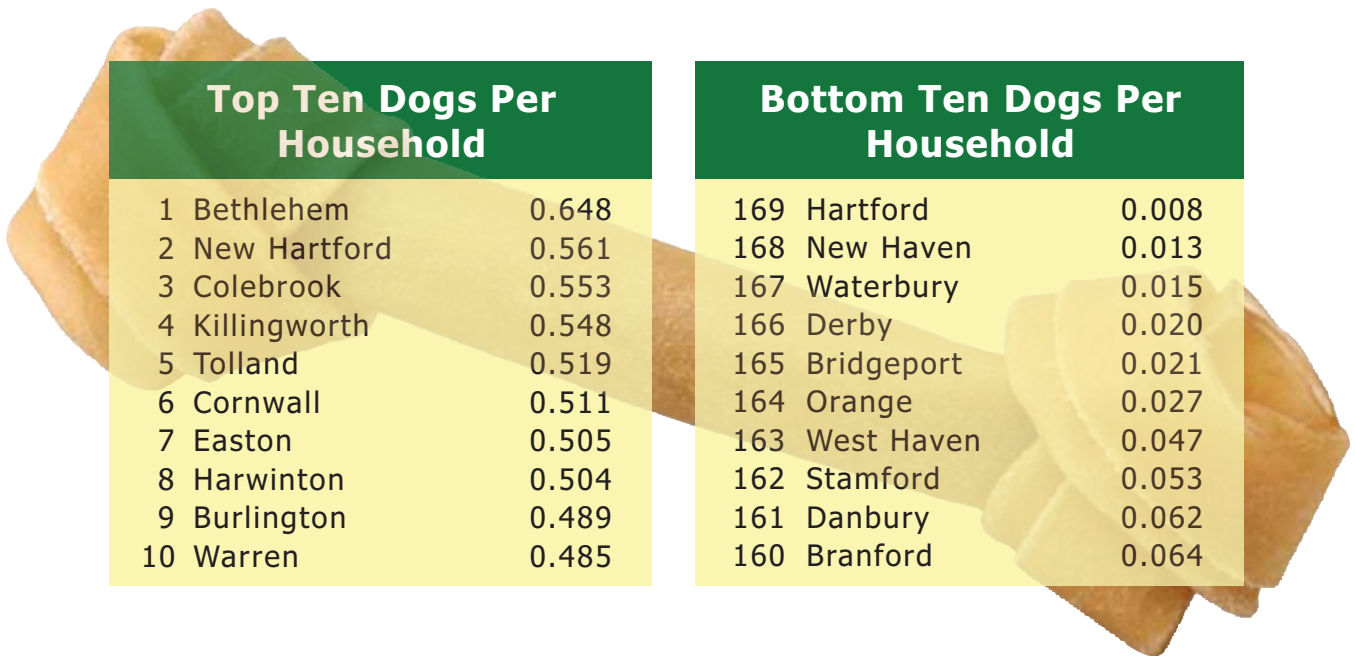
But raw numbers don't account for population size. Using 2000 Census data to compare the number of households to the number of dogs, the little town of Bethlehem is **Best in Show**, with .236 dogs per household. The town of Scotland gets an **Attaboy** for its #1 per capita ranking: Scotland's 553 residents own 336 dogs, or .608 per capita.

"Enfield has the most dogs, and Scotland has the most dogs per human capita"

Big cities are apparently no place for a nice doggie; Connecticut's cities rank at the bottom of registered dogs per household. Hartford gets the **Doggie Bag** with a mere .008 registered dogs per household. Other towns in the bottom ten of dogs per household include New Haven, Waterbury, Derby and Bridgeport.



¹ The Town Dog Fund Reports provided by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture are for the fiscal year running July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the latest year for which reports are available. Numerous towns provided incomplete data, so the compilation may not be 100% inclusive in all categories. Please see the Town Dog Fund table in the Appendix for details.



Orange captures a dubious award: it is Connecticut’s **Dogs Gone Wild Town**, with 42% of its licensed dogs *au naturale*. Statewide, neutered or spayed dogs outnumber unaltered dogs by a 10 to 1 ratio. Portland wins the **Canine Celibacy** award, for having only 27 out of 715 dogs “intact.”

But at least some of these figures may turn out to be nothing more than a shaggy dog story. According to the *2007 U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook*, put out by the American Veterinary Medical Association, 37.2% of all households in America own dogs, with an average of 1.7 per household. The total number of licensed dogs in Connecticut is 211,524. Using formulas provided by the AVMA, Connecticut is estimated to have 200,654 households owning some 340,896 dogs. If true, this implies that only about 62% of Connecticut dog owners bother to register their pooches.

Dogs As Government Mules: \$2.5 Million in Annual Dog Fees

For all the joy man’s best friends give us, you’d think dogs might be tax-exempt. In fact, Connecticut dog owners pay almost \$2.5 million in dog-related licenses and fees a year. Dogs that live to be twelve years old rack up more than \$100 in taxes over their lifetimes (though only about \$1 dollar per year expressed in dog years).

Annual licensing fees are \$8 if “altered” (neutered or spayed) and \$19 if “intact.”² Admittedly, dog lovers tend not howl too loudly at these costs. Law-abiding dog owners paid licensing fees totaling about \$2 million in fiscal 2008 – a nice bit of kibble for towns and the state. Of this, towns paid the

² By law, towns charge annual fees of \$8 for a license if the dog is altered—that is, spayed or neutered—and \$19 if it is not. The allocation of the collected fees is also controlled by statutory law: \$1 of each license fee is kept by the town clerk to cover administrative costs; \$2 for each altered dog license and \$6 for each unaltered dog license is a surcharge that is earmarked for the statewide Animal Population Control account; and the remainder is split between the town and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 40% to the state and 60% to the town (towns which do not conduct surveys for unlicensed dogs must split its proceeds with the DOA 50-50). Towns also reported \$3,899,196 in “other income” on their Dog Fund Reports. However, the forms do not indicate whether these funds were dog-related revenue or merely budget allocations or subsidies; therefore these figures were not included in calculating dog-related revenue.

state Department of Agriculture just over \$1,177,000, which included \$507,000 earmarked for the Animal Population Control program.

Top Ten Dog Revenue Towns		
	Captured license & dog-related fees	Dogs per capita ranking
1 Portland	\$84,768	104
2 Enfield	\$33,649	61
3 Stamford	\$29,034	162
4 Suffield	\$20,504	93
5 Meriden	\$20,336	141
6 Branford	\$19,589	159
7 Manchester	\$19,468	120
8 New Britain	\$18,198	154
9 Fairfield	\$17,308	118
10 Mansfield	\$17,290	113

Bottom Ten Dog Revenue Towns		
	Captured license & dog-related fees	Dogs per capita ranking
169 Canaan/Falls V.	\$508	72
168 Union	\$569	11
167 Franklin	\$1,167	44
166 Hampton	\$1,187	33
165 Eastford	\$1,203	77
164 Chaplin	\$1,242	54
163 Lyme	\$1,264	48
162 Norfolk	\$1,276	8
161 Bridgewater	\$1,277	12
160 Hartland	\$1,402	45

Towns also collect impoundment fees, kennel licensing fees, and other types of dog-related income, which puts a little bit more meat on the bone, or another \$396,000. The towns keep 100% of this non-license revenue. So, along with their share of the license fees, towns made over \$1,306,000 in dog revenue last year.

Total town revenue for dog-related income varies as widely as breeds of dogs. Two towns, Falls Village (Canaan) and Union, reported less than \$1,000 in total revenue, primarily because of low or non-existent impoundment fees.

Falls Village reported the least amount of dog-related revenue in the state, just \$508, while spending \$2,994 on animal control. On the other end of the spectrum are towns like Portland, which

“only three Connecticut towns made enough in license and other dog fees to ‘turn a profit’”

retained \$84,768 in combined license fees and other dog-related income. The town with the most dogs, Enfield, comes in second on the revenue list, with \$33,649 in captured license and dog-related fees. Stamford is third, with \$29,034 in revenue, even though it ranks nearly last (162nd) in dogs per capita. But these dollars are frequently offset by high animal control costs.

In fact, only three Connecticut towns made enough in license and other dog fees to “turn a profit:” East Lyme, Stamford and Beacon Falls, whose difference between their animal control costs and their dog-related revenue was \$7,236, \$6,162 and \$134, respectively.

All the other towns spent more on animal control than they made in dog-related revenue, with Milford in the absolute budget doghouse: its 2,148 canines brought the town a scant \$13,617, while costs for animal control reached \$359,751. Hartford, with just 363 licensed dogs, the fewest per capita in the state, did almost as poorly: it kept less than \$4,213 in licensing fees and other dog revenue, while spending \$329,434 on animal control. Smaller towns seemed much better at capturing the costs of animal control than larger communities, which have to make up a greater percentage of the difference from general funds.

Dogs in Connecticut Towns

Town	# of licensed dogs	total # of dogs ranking	# of human households	dogs per household	dogs per house-hold ranking	# Unaltered	# Altered	License Fees (excludes clerks fees)	Impoundment fees, sale of dogs, advertising fees, etc.	Other Income (may include budget allocation & subsidies)	Total Receipts (license+other)	Animal Control Costs	Total Amount to State	Animal Population Control Allocation	Amount Town Keeps (dog-related income only, with clerk fees added.)
Andover	448	136	1,150	0.390	30	44	404	\$3,940	\$0	\$4	\$3,944	\$3,147	\$2,506	\$1,072	\$1,882
Ansonia	1158	79	7,507	0.154	130	201	957	\$11,053	\$493	\$2,456	\$14,002	\$54,893	\$6,293	\$3,120	\$6,411
Ashford	1760	45	6,192	0.284	74	108	1652	\$14,704	\$1,705	\$3,782	\$18,188	\$15,510	\$9,328	\$3,566	\$2,959
Avon	549	125	1,334	0.412	22	39	510	\$4,603	\$416	\$0	\$5,019	\$10,135	\$2,929	\$1,254	\$8,841
Barkhamsted	313	157	2,032	0.154	131	24	289	\$3,001	\$2,389	\$164	\$5,554	\$3,708	\$2,922	\$2,722	\$2,640
Beacon Falls	1854	40	6,792	0.273	80	116	1738	\$15,173	\$1,902	\$103,475	\$120,549	\$120,549	\$9,673	\$4,172	\$9,256
Berlin	661	118	1,755	0.377	38	57	604	\$5,981	\$450	\$0	\$6,431	\$28,801	\$3,766	\$1,550	\$3,327
Bethany	1234	74	6,505	0.190	118	73	1161	\$10,070	\$2,310	\$8,000	\$12,380	\$70,124	\$6,415	\$2,760	\$7,199
Bethel	807	106	1,246	0.648	1	96	711	\$8,227	\$472	\$0	\$16,699	\$21,354	\$5,112	\$1,998	\$4,394
Bloomfield	832	103	7,902	0.105	151	116	716	\$8,157	\$2,460	\$0	\$10,617	\$74,133	\$5,783	\$2,128	\$5,666
Bolton	519	127	1,906	0.272	81	44	443	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,330	\$3,431	\$1,214	\$1,530
Bozrah	404	142	883	0.458	14	42	362	\$3,420	\$0	\$2,310	\$5,730	\$9,880	\$2,412	\$976	\$1,412
Brandford	799	107	12,543	0.064	160	47	752	\$6,746	\$16,310	\$0	\$23,056	\$132,565	\$4,266	\$1,786	\$19,589
Bridgeport	1072	83	50,307	0.021	165	419	653	\$13,794	\$1,473	\$0	\$15,267	\$277,389	\$8,817	\$3,820	\$7,522
Bridgewater	324	152	703	0.461	13	27	297	\$2,662	\$3,930	\$0	\$2,662	\$1,999	\$1,709	\$756	\$1,277
Bristol	2987	6	24,886	0.120	147	286	2701	\$25,367	\$0	\$11,500	\$40,797	\$154,658	\$16,243	\$7,118	\$16,041
Brookfield	1353	62	5,572	0.243	96	122	1231	\$11,460	\$0	\$0	\$11,460	\$7,873	\$7,327	\$3,194	\$5,486
Brooklyn	454	135	2,531	0.179	121	52	402	\$4,161	\$0	\$23,595	\$27,756	\$27,745	\$2,639	\$1,116	\$1,976
Burlington	1390	59	2,840	0.489	9	108	1282	\$11,938	\$0	\$36,593	\$48,531	\$44,726	\$7,575	\$3,212	\$5,753
Canaan/Falls V.	118	168	445	0.265	85	17	101	\$1,043	\$20	\$2,068	\$3,131	\$2,994	\$673	\$304	\$508
Cantonbury	573	124	1,717	0.334	51	63	510	\$5,972	\$227	\$23,795	\$29,993	\$24,809	\$3,685	\$1,398	\$3,086
Canton	1215	75	3,516	0.346	46	73	1142	\$10,243	\$700	\$37,024	\$47,967	\$57,265	\$6,483	\$2,722	\$5,675
Chaplin	279	159	858	0.325	55	33	246	\$2,446	\$85	\$0	\$2,531	\$7,904	\$1,568	\$690	\$1,242
Cheshire	2568	13	9,349	0.275	79	166	2402	\$20,985	\$910	\$0	\$21,895	\$121,975	\$13,393	\$5,800	\$11,071
Chester	467	133	1,824	0.256	90	47	420	\$4,034	\$595	\$12,489	\$17,118	\$17,184	\$2,578	\$1,122	\$2,518
Derby	103	169	5,252	0.020	166	n/a	n/a	\$3,655	\$250	\$34,948	\$38,853	\$30,313	\$2,326	n/a	\$1,682
Durham	1010	93	2,277	0.444	16	118	892	\$9,070	\$1,115	\$0	\$10,185	\$15,997	\$5,781	\$2,492	\$5,414
East Granby	751	109	1,848	0.406	24	79	672	\$6,704	\$190	\$18,157	\$25,051	\$25,210	\$4,261	\$1,818	\$3,384
East Haddam	918	98	3,174	0.289	918	79	839	\$8,625	\$1,735	\$19,503	\$29,863	\$29,863	\$5,389	\$2,152	\$5,889
East Hampton	1331	65	4,126	0.323	53	94	1237	\$11,121	\$221	\$45,754	\$57,096	\$42,561	\$7,080	\$3,038	\$5,293
East Hartford	2094	29	20,206	0.104	152	340	1754	\$20,727	\$2,782	\$0	\$23,509	\$104,380	\$13,138	\$5,548	\$12,465
East Haven	1215	76	11,219	0.108	150	158	1057	\$11,572	\$7,085	\$0	\$18,657	\$26,990	\$7,317	\$3,062	\$12,555
East Lyme	1441	57	6,308	0.228	99	80	1361	\$15,001	\$580	\$0	\$15,581	\$685	\$9,102	\$3,202	\$7,921
East Windsor	1333	64	4,078	0.327	54	188	1145	\$12,617	\$904	\$89,817	\$103,337	\$95,589	\$8,017	\$3,418	\$6,836
Eastford	171	165	618	0.277	78	18	153	\$1,898	\$290	\$55,235	\$70,549	\$74,24	\$1,156	\$414	\$1,203
Easton	1245	73	2,465	0.505	7	134	1111	\$12,137	\$3,178	\$5,500	\$20,549	\$68,114	\$6,670	\$3,026	\$9,889
Ellington	2117	28	5,195	0.408	23	263	1854	\$20,128	\$5,707	\$45,504	\$71,339	\$69,342	\$12,707	\$15,245	\$15,245
Enfield	5335	1	16,418	0.325	56	797	4538	\$51,390	\$5,795	\$15,773	\$72,957	\$66,951	\$28,871	\$13,858	\$33,649
Essex	824	104	2,811	0.293	70	72	752	\$7,004	\$478	\$49,177	\$56,658	\$25,950	\$4,470	\$1,936	\$5,836
Fairfield	4223	2	20,397	0.207	173	327	3896	\$35,924	\$0	\$35,924	\$33,489	\$22,839	\$22,839	\$9,754	\$17,308
Farmington	1763	44	9,496	0.186	120	106	1657	\$14,262	\$2,476	\$0	\$16,738	\$102,214	\$9,106	\$3,950	\$9,395
Franklin	244	163	687	0.355	45	24	220	\$2,250	\$90	\$0	\$2,340	\$1,594	\$1,417	\$584	\$1,167
Glastonbury	2548	14	12,257	0.208	112	163	2385	\$21,000	\$2,800	\$30,000	\$53,803	\$53,628	\$13,374	\$5,748	\$12,977
Goshen	391	145	1,066	0.367	40	28	363	\$3,264	\$7,477	\$10	\$10,750	\$9,679	\$2,079	\$894	\$9,053
Granby	1199	78	3,781	0.317	60	86	1113	\$10,332	\$728	\$10,600	\$21,660	\$19,035	\$6,537	\$2,742	\$5,722
Greenwich	1934	35	23,230	0.083	156	196	1738	\$16,070	\$2,330	\$750	\$19,150	\$180,723	\$10,361	\$4,652	\$9,973
Griswold	703	114	4,194	0.168	123	59	644	\$5,814	\$0	\$7,210	\$13,023	\$23,831	\$3,728	\$1,642	\$2,789
Groton	1895	37	15,473	0.122	145	218	1677	\$16,410	\$4,933	\$107,001	\$128,344	\$128,344	\$10,536	\$4,662	\$12,702
Guilford	1289	68	8,151	0.158	126	77	1212	\$10,302	\$2,440	\$69,735	\$82,477	\$63,795	\$6,594	\$2,886	\$7,437
Haddam	1020	92	2,701	0.378	36	98	922	\$9,137	\$30	\$10,000	\$19,167	\$29,372	\$5,784	\$2,432	\$4,402
Hamden	1841	41	22,408	0.082	157	126	1715	\$15,233	\$2,415	\$0	\$17,648	\$122,481	\$9,710	\$4,186	\$9,780
Hampton	255	162	674	0.378	34	27	228	\$2,481	\$0	\$7,000	\$9,481	\$7,810	\$1,550	\$618	\$1,187

Town	# of licensed dogs	total # of dogs ranking	# of human households	dogs per household	dogs per house-hold ranking	# Unaltered	# Altered	License Fees (excludes clerks fees)	Impoundment fees, sale of dogs, advertising fees, etc.	Other Income (may include budget allocation & subsidies)	Total Receipts (license+other)	Animal Control Costs	Total Amount to State	Animal Population Control Allocation	Amount Town Keeps (dog-related income only, with clerk fees added.)
Hartford	363	149	44,986	0.008	169	98	265	\$4,243	\$2,287	\$3,386	\$9,916	\$329,434	\$2,681	\$1,118	\$4,213
Hartland	266	160	707	0.376	39	35	231	\$2,524	\$210	\$7,145	\$9,879	\$10,099	\$1,598	\$672	\$1,402
Harwinton	986	94	1,958	0.504	8	95	891	\$9,118	\$4,489	\$16,055	\$29,662	\$27,901	\$5,735	\$2,352	\$8,858
Hebron	1028	91	2,993	0.343	47	91	937	\$12,660	\$1,260	\$20,120	\$30,098	\$28,753	\$5,569	\$2,350	\$5,437
Kent	432	138	1,143	0.378	35	51	381	\$3,711	\$605	\$34	\$4,350	\$7,815	\$2,390	\$1,068	\$2,359
Killingly	966	97	6,359	0.152	132	118	848	\$8,562	\$0	\$51,374	\$59,936	\$54,453	\$5,483	\$2,404	\$4,045
Killingworth	1203	77	2,196	0.548	4	96	1107	\$11,038	\$417	\$29,500	\$40,955	\$25,244	\$6,914	\$2,790	\$5,744
Lebanon	1050	88	2,446	0.429	21	123	927	\$9,352	\$560	\$17,000	\$26,912	\$30,208	\$5,972	\$2,592	\$4,990
Leedyard	1321	66	5,286	0.250	93	145	1176	\$12,647	\$1,705	\$91,465	\$105,817	\$96,694	\$7,935	\$3,222	\$7,738
Lisbon	478	132	1,525	0.313	62	136	342	\$3,331	\$140	\$7,204	\$6,245	\$11,927	\$2,116	\$1,500	\$1,834
Litchfield	750	110	3,310	0.227	100	58	692	\$6,215	\$30	\$0	\$6,245	\$20,613	\$3,974	\$1,732	\$3,021
Lyme	263	161	854	0.308	64	16	247	\$2,093	\$250	\$4,011	\$6,354	\$5,990	\$1,341	\$590	\$1,264
Madison	969	96	6,515	0.149	133	61	908	\$7,922	\$830	\$48,818	\$57,570	\$56,489	\$5,052	\$2,182	\$4,669
Manchester	3804	3	23,197	0.164	124	426	3378	\$34,102	\$3,269	\$105,277	\$142,647	\$141,439	\$21,707	\$9,312	\$19,468
Manfield	1582	53	5,291	0.299	66	180	1402	\$14,603	\$9,277	\$0	\$32,880	\$82,774	\$8,172	\$3,884	\$17,290
Marlborough	774	108	2,005	0.386	32	43	731	\$6,708	\$1,530	\$30,221	\$38,459	\$31,538	\$4,214	\$1,720	\$4,798
Meriden	2824	8	22,951	0.123	142	439	2385	\$27,029	\$7,700	\$9,000	\$43,729	\$45,420	\$17,216	\$7,404	\$20,336
Middlebury	493	129	2,398	0.206	114	30	463	\$4,150	\$220	\$800	\$5,170	\$3,702	\$2,628	\$1,106	\$2,235
Middlefield	408	141	1,645	0.248	94	46	362	\$3,918	\$145	\$0	\$4,063	\$20,553	\$2,459	\$1,000	\$2,012
Middletown	2362	21	18,554	0.127	139	244	2118	\$19,800	\$5,713	\$505	\$26,018	\$25,213	\$12,750	\$5,700	\$15,124
Milford	2148	26	20,900	0.103	153	222	1926	\$19,369	\$4,376	\$0	\$23,745	\$359,751	\$12,277	\$5,184	\$13,617
Monroe	2620	11	6,481	0.404	25	250	2370	\$24,202	\$1,957	\$83,419	\$109,577	\$109,577	\$13,425	\$6,240	\$15,354
Montville	2021	34	6,426	0.315	61	240	1781	\$18,316	\$2,012	\$41,460	\$61,788	\$61,788	\$11,659	\$5,002	\$10,690
Morris	397	144	912	0.435	18	44	353	\$3,263	\$30	\$0	\$3,293	\$19,128	\$2,117	\$970	\$1,574
Naugatuck	1063	85	11,829	0.090	155	116	947	\$9,849	\$1,840	\$86,719	\$98,408	\$93,089	\$6,220	\$2,590	\$6,533
New Britain	2729	9	28,558	0.096	154	767	1962	\$30,798	\$4,333	\$117,016	\$152,147	\$113,154	\$19,662	\$8,526	\$18,198
New Canaan	2584	12	6,822	0.379	33	257	2327	\$22,683	\$1,660	\$3,898	\$28,241	\$28,485	\$14,440	\$6,196	\$12,488
New Fairfield	1038	89	4,638	0.224	104	78	960	\$8,513	\$0	\$0	\$8,513	\$7,081	\$5,450	\$2,388	\$4,100
New Hartford	1250	71	2,228	0.561	2	150	1100	\$11,155	\$167	\$2,023	\$13,345	\$23,415	\$7,128	\$3,100	\$5,444
New Haven	613	122	47,094	0.013	168	111	502	\$5,609	\$5,950	\$0	\$11,559	\$120,776	\$3,633	\$1,670	\$8,538
New London	746	111	10,181	0.073	158	133	613	\$7,802	\$2,194	\$0	\$9,996	\$9,825	\$2,024	\$2,024	\$6,407
New Milford	2262	24	10,018	0.226	101	197	2065	\$19,052	\$0	\$997	\$20,049	\$19,476	\$12,182	\$5,312	\$9,132
Newington	2029	32	12,014	0.169	122	148	1881	\$16,419	\$340	\$0	\$16,419	\$15,953	\$10,534	\$4,650	\$7,913
Newtown	1874	38	8,325	0.225	103	139	1735	\$16,460	\$3,340	\$130,825	\$150,625	\$146,914	\$10,382	\$4,304	\$11,292
Norfolk	315	155	676	0.466	12	41	274	\$2,716	\$0	\$7,614	\$10,330	\$10,329	\$1,755	\$794	\$1,276
North Branford	655	119	5,132	0.128	138	62	539	\$5,699	\$0	\$593	\$5,699	\$5,396	\$3,629	\$1,558	\$2,726
North Canaan	347	150	1,343	0.258	68	40	307	\$3,228	\$0	\$6,000	\$9,228	\$6,750	\$2,045	\$854	\$1,531
North Haven	1057	86	8,597	0.123	143	59	998	\$8,328	\$1,180	\$83,523	\$93,031	\$90,681	\$5,339	\$2,350	\$5,226
North Stoughton	616	121	1,833	0.336	49	77	539	\$6,039	\$75	\$6,114	\$6,114	\$31,283	\$3,827	\$1,540	\$2,903
Norwalk	2210	25	32,711	0.068	159	255	1955	\$19,870	\$452	\$0	\$20,322	\$224,704	\$12,655	\$5,440	\$9,877
Norwich, City of	2063	30	15,091	0.137	137	279	1784	\$19,388	\$4,684	\$0	\$24,072	\$40,724	\$12,315	\$5,242	\$13,820
Old Lyme	839	102	2,958	0.284	75	72	767	\$6,999	\$2,230	\$59,179	\$68,408	\$64,845	\$4,483	\$1,966	\$5,585
Old Saybrook	844	100	4,184	0.202	115	52	792	\$7,055	\$1,235	\$20,000	\$28,290	\$29,909	\$4,476	\$1,896	\$4,658
Orange	127	166	4,739	0.027	164	53	74	\$6,445	\$164	\$0	\$6,609	\$8,010	\$4,143	\$466	\$2,593
Oxford	1037	90	3,343	0.310	63	110	927	\$9,808	\$375	\$2,128	\$12,311	\$14,378	\$6,161	\$2,514	\$5,059
Plainfield	1272	70	5,444	0.234	98	187	1085	\$12,235	\$3,211	\$79,325	\$94,771	\$87,271	\$7,764	\$3,292	\$8,954
Plainville	1639	52	7,385	0.222	106	170	1469	\$14,308	\$2,545	\$0	\$16,853	\$81,168	\$9,133	\$3,958	\$9,359
Plymouth	884	99	4,453	0.199	116	106	778	\$4,098	\$956	\$21,000	\$29,256	\$26,606	\$4,746	\$2,192	\$4,394
Pomfret	436	137	1,433	0.304	65	39	397	\$4,098	\$0	\$11,781	\$15,879	\$15,557	\$2,563	\$1,028	\$1,971
Portland	715	113	3,388	0.211	110	27	688	\$5,679	\$81,983	\$0	\$87,662	\$86,684	\$3,609	\$1,538	\$84,768
Preston	484	131	1,837	0.263	87	65	419	\$4,724	\$740	\$4,245	\$9,709	\$20,743	\$2,976	\$1,228	\$2,972
Prospect	745	112	3,020	0.247	95	46	609	\$6,151	\$1,356	\$34	\$7,541	\$5,458	\$3,912	\$1,674	\$4,340
Putnam	417	139	3,683	0.113	149	69	348	\$3,994	\$845	\$16,587	\$21,426	\$20,940	\$2,552	\$1,110	\$2,700
Redding	1376	61	2,918	0.472	11	108	1268	\$12,886	\$5,006	\$0	\$17,892	\$11,821	\$8,035	\$3,184	\$11,233
Ridgefield	2457	16	8,433	0.291	71	188	2269	\$21,522	\$2,045	\$96,190	\$119,757	\$173,078	\$13,594	\$5,666	\$12,430
Rocky Hill	1118	81	7,557	0.148	134	86	1032	\$9,556	\$769	\$0	\$10,325	\$7,762	\$6,068	\$2,580	\$5,375
Roxbury	320	154	848	0.377	37	34	286	\$3,041	\$0	\$10,890	\$13,931	\$13,931	\$1,909	\$776	\$1,452
Salem	537	126	1,358	0.395	28	64	347	\$6,044	\$45	\$9,724	\$15,813	\$14,284	\$3,687	\$1,330	\$2,939
Salisbury	379	147	1,737	0.218	107	32	473	\$3,243	\$355	\$11,966	\$15,564	\$12,382	\$2,065	\$886	\$1,912
Scotland	336	151	1,556	0.216	109	64	272	\$3,352	\$182	\$4,485	\$8,019	\$8,482	\$2,140	\$928	\$1,730
Seymour	842	101	6,155	0.137	136	59	783	\$6,488	\$199	\$0	\$6,687	\$33,990	\$4,204	\$1,920	\$3,325
Sharon	371	148	1,246	0.298	67	42	329	\$3,490	\$570	\$4,470	\$8,530	\$8,950	\$2,200	\$910	\$2,231
Shelton	1730	46	14,190	0.122	146	195	1535	\$14,736	\$2,255	\$0	\$16,991	\$84,429	\$9,488	\$4,240	\$9,233
Sherman	389	146	1,434	0.271	82	47	342	\$3,931	\$0	\$1,541	\$5,472	\$2,984	\$2,448	\$966	\$1,872
Simsbury	2467	15	8,527	0.289	72	144	2323	\$20,497	\$3,250	\$42,920	\$66,666	\$68,795	\$11,504	\$5,510	\$14,709

Town	# of licensed dogs	total # of dogs ranking	# of human households	dogs per household	dogs per household ranking	# Unaltered	# Altered	License Fees (excludes clerks fees)	Impoundment fees, sale of dogs, advertising fees, etc.	Other Income (may include budget allocation & subsidies)	Total Receipts (license+other)	Animal Control Costs	Total Amount to State	Animal Population Control Allocation	Amount Town Keeps (dog-related income only, with clerk fees added.)
Somers	1064	84	2,925	0.364	41	100	964	\$9,668	\$520	\$120	\$10,308	\$12,020	\$6,098	\$2,528	\$5,154
South Windsor	2988	5	8,905	0.336	50	250	2738	\$25,693	\$3,690	\$62,694	\$92,077	\$92,204	\$16,334	\$6,976	\$16,037
Southbury	2451	17	7,225	0.339	48	200	2251	\$22,210	\$0	\$0	\$22,210	n/a	\$13,956	\$5,702	\$10,705
Southington	2855	7	15,083	0.189	119	157	2698	\$22,264	\$1,726	\$187,502	\$211,492	\$201,784	\$14,301	\$6,338	\$12,544
Sprague	493	130	1,111	0.444	15	93	400	\$5,482	\$639	\$7,902	\$14,023	\$11,999	\$3,008	\$1,358	\$3,606
Stafford	1705	47	4,353	0.392	29	227	1478	\$15,828	\$405	\$5,400	\$21,633	\$24,983	\$10,073	\$4,318	\$7,865
Stamford	2417	19	45,399	0.053	162	307	2110	\$20,994	\$19,151	\$0	\$40,145	\$22,872	\$13,528	\$6,062	\$29,034
Sterling	401	143	1,116	0.359	44	61	340	\$4,718	\$0	\$10,318	\$15,036	\$15,108	\$2,882	\$1,046	\$2,237
Stonington	2041	31	7,665	0.266	84	195	1846	\$17,851	\$2,994	\$1,626	\$22,471	\$28,596	\$11,357	\$4,862	\$11,529
Stratford	2331	22	19,898	0.117	148	249	2082	\$23,228	\$250	\$2,512	\$25,990	\$190,228	\$12,916	\$5,658	\$12,893
Suffield	1248	72	4,660	0.268	83	118	1130	\$10,785	\$15,347	\$90,534	\$116,666	\$80,207	\$6,877	\$2,968	\$20,504
Thomaston	818	105	2,916	0.281	77	75	743	\$7,162	\$644	\$50,743	\$58,549	\$55,226	\$4,549	\$1,936	\$4,075
Thompson	1498	55	3,482	0.430	19	231	1267	\$14,342	\$1,237	\$21,178	\$36,757	\$35,133	\$9,131	\$3,920	\$7,946
Tolland	2381	20	4,586	0.519	5	195	2186	\$20,870	\$2,005	\$256	\$23,131	\$26,349	\$11,673	\$5,542	\$13,583
Torrington	2284	23	14,743	0.155	129	188	2096	\$18,583	\$2,066	\$4,507	\$25,156	\$90,335	\$11,452	\$5,320	\$11,481
Trumbull	1874	39	11,911	0.157	128	122	1752	\$14,701	\$6,570	\$0	\$21,271	\$21,645	\$9,469	\$4,236	\$13,676
Union	125	167	285	0.439	17	13	112	\$1,189	\$0	\$3,285	\$4,474	\$4,258	\$746	\$302	\$569
Vernon	1931	36	12,269	0.157	127	150	1781	\$16,046	\$3,005	\$22,912	\$41,962	\$40,935	\$10,254	\$4,462	\$10,728
Voluntown	409	140	952	0.430	20	67	342	\$4,833	\$255	\$15,500	\$20,588	\$21,870	\$2,960	\$1,086	\$2,538
Wallingford	2423	18	16,697	0.145	135	183	2240	\$19,627	\$5,073	\$0	\$24,700	\$146,214	\$12,603	\$5,578	\$14,521
Warren	241	164	497	0.485	10	40	201	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$1,749	\$9,362	\$1,517	\$642	n/a
Washington	455	134	1,416	0.321	59	48	407	\$4,222	\$200	\$0	\$4,422	\$24,348	\$2,662	\$1,102	\$2,215
Waterbury	1307	67	88,431	0.015	167	160	1147	\$12,892	\$10,789	\$0	\$23,681	\$171,645	\$8,073	\$3,254	\$16,915
Waterford	1469	56	7,542	0.195	117	116	1353	\$12,111	\$4,870	\$32,065	\$49,046	\$61,326	\$7,757	\$3,402	\$10,694
Watertown	2026	33	8,046	0.252	92	173	1853	\$17,683	\$4,220	\$0	\$21,902	\$76,079	\$11,213	\$4,744	\$12,715
West Hartford	3011	4	24,576	0.123	144	182	2829	\$23,477	\$1,365	\$177,893	\$202,734	\$202,734	\$15,113	\$6,750	\$12,739
West Haven	983	95	21,090	0.047	163	112	871	\$6,100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$2,414	n/a
Westbrook	324	153	2,605	0.124	141	22	302	\$2,608	\$415	\$4,097	\$7,120	\$24,626	\$1,672	\$736	\$1,675
Weston	1279	69	3,312	0.386	31	58	1221	\$10,413	\$0	\$67,091	\$77,504	\$69,900	\$6,602	\$2,790	\$5,091
Westport	2132	27	9,586	0.222	105	169	1963	\$16,862	\$2,540	\$113,835	\$133,237	\$133,038	\$10,901	\$4,940	\$10,633
Wethersfield	1809	42	11,214	0.161	125	118	1691	\$14,675	\$272	\$1,063	\$16,010	\$10,466	\$9,382	\$4,090	\$7,373
Willington	696	116	2,353	0.296	68	63	633	\$6,065	\$385	\$14,213	\$20,663	\$22,302	\$3,855	\$1,644	\$3,292
Wilton	1438	58	5,923	0.243	97	107	1331	\$13,246	\$695	\$0	\$13,941	\$101,260	\$8,275	\$3,304	\$7,104
Winchester	1155	80	4,371	0.264	86	151	1004	\$10,991	\$1,722	\$31,150	\$43,863	\$42,618	\$6,953	\$2,914	\$6,916
Windham	1051	87	8,342	0.126	140	75	976	\$9,335	\$1,370	\$140,034	\$150,739	\$144,167	\$5,869	\$2,402	\$5,887
Windsor	2716	10	10,577	0.257	89	395	2321	\$25,486	\$2,220	\$0	\$27,706	\$111,212	\$16,249	\$7,012	\$14,173
Windsor Locks	1388	60	4,935	0.281	76	133	1255	\$12,096	\$1,565	\$70	\$13,731	\$11,084	\$7,702	\$3,308	\$7,347
Wolcott	1798	43	5,414	0.332	53	202	1596	\$15,912	\$1,360	\$2,110	\$19,382	\$41,312	\$10,158	\$4,404	\$8,912
Woodbridge	700	115	3,103	0.226	102	50	650	\$5,657	\$500	\$0	\$6,157	\$50,426	\$3,629	\$1,600	\$3,229
Woodbury	1335	63	3,715	0.359	43	78	1257	\$11,478	\$1,230	\$21,318	\$34,026	\$34,026	\$6,380	\$2,982	\$7,662
Woodstock	578	123	2,754	0.210	111	56	522	\$5,523	\$50	\$23,453	\$29,026	\$27,480	\$3,452	\$1,380	\$2,700

Altogether, state and town dog revenue combined last year was nearly \$2,500,000, while Animal Control Costs reported by the towns topped \$9,355,000 – a difference of nearly \$6.5 million or nearly three times the revenue.

Top Ten Dog Budgets		
	Difference Between Animal Control Costs & Dog-related Revenue	Dogs per capita ranking
1 East Lyme	\$7,236	109
2 Stamford	\$6,162	162
3 Beacon Falls	\$134	131
4 Franklin	-\$427	44
5 Redding	-\$588	18
6 Goshen	-\$626	34
7 Bridgewater	-\$722	12
8 Sherman	-\$1,112	85
9 Prospect	-\$1,118	100
10 Andover	-\$1,265	31

Bottom Ten Dog Budgets		
	Difference Between Animal Control Costs & Dog-related Revenue	Dogs per capita ranking
169 Milford	-\$346,134	153
168 Hartford	-\$325,221	169
167 Bridgeport	-\$269,867	166
166 Danbury	-\$224,284	161
165 Norwalk	-\$214,827	160
164 West Hartford	-\$189,995	143
163 Southington	-\$189,240	119
162 Stratford	-\$177,335	145
161 Greenwich	-\$170,750	157
160 Ridgefield	-\$160,648	79

116 towns in Connecticut reported “other income” in their Dog Fund Reports totaling \$3,899,196. Amounts ranged from \$4 (Andover) to \$222,918 (Danbury) and averaged \$33,614. According to the Department of Agriculture, this figure should include only dog-related revenue, such as donations and grants. However, notations on some of the town reports sourced the money to the town’s own general fund. Due to this lack of clarity and consistency, this report excludes the “other income” category from its calculation of dog-related revenue against animal control costs, although the breakdown of all sources of income are shown in the **Dogs in Connecticut Towns** table.

“Of the \$2,484,000 collected in dog-related licensing and fees, the State Department of Agriculture took \$1,177,000, of which \$507,000 went directly towards the state’s Animal Control program”

Conclusion: One Last Bone to Pick

While not every dollar of a town’s animal control disbursements has dog paw prints on it, it’s safe to say that many activities of the town animal control officer are dog related. Therefore, non-dog owners, through their property taxes, may be subsidizing irresponsible dog owners.

On the other paw, though Fido fees may seem modest compared to their societal costs, dog-owning humans pay additional fees to the state through the 6% sales tax. This applies to dog food, toys and bedding, and many over-the-counter medicines such as flea, tick and heartworm pills. According to BusinessWeek, the pet economy is worth an annual \$41 billion dollars nationally.³ A typical 45 pound dog, eating brand name dog food and taking a monthly dose of flea, tick and heartworm preventatives, costs \$40 a year in Connecticut sales tax, or nearly \$500 over a twelve year lifespan. So, whether it’s through a dog license fee, a state sales tax on dog food, or a federal corporate tax on a pet supply store, man’s best friend must nonetheless pay the Man.

³ “The Pet Economy” by Diane Brady and Christopher Palmeri. BusinessWeek, Aug. 6, 2007.

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