

To provide ready means for identifying a dog and ascertaining who its owner is, it seems clear that a transfer of ownership certificate should be filed with the auditor of the county, wherein such dog is registered, whether the buyer thereof is a resident of such county or not. The tag worn by a dog duly registered is valid for the entire year for which issued and upon such a dog being sold during such year the sale does not terminate the registration and the license tag may still be worn by the dog for the balance of the year. By reference to the records kept by the auditor of the county where the tag was issued, one can readily ascertain who is the owner, keeper or harbinger of a dog. If a transfer of ownership certificate be filed in the county in which the dog is licensed, a complete record is at all times available from which the name of the dog's owner may be ascertained. To hold otherwise would lead to an unreasonable result. The records of the county where the dog was duly registered would show no change of ownership. The seller might not know in which county the purchaser resided and to ascertain where the owner, keeper or harbinger of such dog resided might necessitate a search in each of the eighty-eight counties of the state.

Your attention is directed to a recent opinion of this department, being Opinion No. 967, dated September 8, 1927, Opinions, Attorney General, 1927, the first and third paragraphs of the syllabus of which read as follows:

"1. The tag worn by a dog duly registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 5652, General Code, as amended in House Bill No. 164, passed by the 87th General Assembly, is valid for the entire year for which it is issued; and, if such dog be sold during such year, upon the giving and recording of a transfer of ownership certificate as prescribed in Section 5652-7c, General Code, and the payment of the fee therefor, the sale does not terminate the registration and the license tag may still be worn by said dog for the balance of the year.

3. Section 5652-7c of the General Code, as enacted in House Bill No. 164, passed by the 87th General Assembly applies only to the transfer of ownership of a dog duly registered or required to be registered and has no application in case of the transfer of ownership of a dog bought from outside the state, or of a dog not over three months of age, or of a dog bred or kept for sale in a duly registered kennel."

In view of the foregoing, and answering your question specifically, it is my opinion that all transfer of ownership certificates should be filed in the county in which the dog in question is duly registered, even though the buyer thereof may reside in a different county. In the specific case that you present, the transfer of ownership certificate should be filed in Brown County.

Respectfully,
EDWARD C. TURNER,
Attorney General.

1226.

APPROVAL, BONDS OF STEUBENVILLE TOWNSHIP RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, JEFFERSON COUNTY, OHIO—\$9,000.00.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, November 1, 1927.