A Shot? Why Not?

Marisa and Mario’s family adopted a lovable
dog named Fred. Fred was abandoned when
neighbors on their street moved away. Being
good citizens, the kids went to their town hall
to get Fred a license. They discovered a prob-
lem, though. The clerk said that before she
could issue a license, she would need proof that

Fred has had a rabies shot.

Marisa and Mario are upset. They hate shots—
and they don’t want their new friend to have to
get one! Help the clerk explain why Fred needs
to be vaccinated for rabies. Fill in the correct
words.

Like most laws, licensing laws are designed to keep people and animals ____________.

Rabies is a ______________ caused by a virus. The virus is found in the saliva of infected
(rabid) animals. When a ______________ animal bites or scratches, the disease can be
spread to people and other animals. Requiring rabies shots helps keep the disease
from ______________.

Take Fred to a ______________. The doctor will give him a ______________ and a rabies vac-
cination. The ______________ will keep Fred safe from the disease. Before you leave, the
vet will give you a rabies certificate. Bring the ______________ back to me with $10 for
the licensing fee. (The fee is only $6 if Fred has been neutered.) I will then give you a
tag to attach to Fred’s ______________. The tag has a ______________ on it. We keep a
record of the numbers here at ______________. If Fred should ever become
lost, the tag will be his ______________ home.

You can also ______________ yourself and your pets from rabies in other ways. Keep cats ______________
and walk Fred on a ______________. Avoid ______________ with wild animals and never keep them as
______________. Call animal control if you see strange-acting ______________ animals.

Marisa and Mario listened carefully to the clerk. They agreed that getting a rabies shot for Fred was
a good idea. They promised to make an appointment with their vet as soon as possible. They
thanked the clerk for her help and walked Fred home.

indoors  pets  leash
vaccination  protect  town hall
number  contact  spreading
veterinarian  certificate  collar
safe  rabid  disease
wild  ticket  checkup

Create an informational flyer explaining why pets should be vaccinated for rabies.
Ask if your town hall would display or distribute it.