

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

2.76



FROM: Community Health Agency, Department of Animal Services

SUBMITTAL DATE:
August 29, 2003

SUBJECT: Blue Ribbon Committee Report Recommendations on
Cat Licensing in Riverside County

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the Blue Ribbon Committee Report recommendations on cat licensing in Riverside County.

BACKGROUND: On April 29, 2003, the Board of Supervisors enjoined a Blue Ribbon Committee to determine the advisability of cat licensing in Riverside County and to present its findings back to the Board. After numerous meetings and considerable deliberation on the issue of cat licensing, the Blue Ribbon Committee recommends that the Board adopt a cat licensing ordinance. The Department of Animal Services agrees with the findings and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee. A copy of the Blue Ribbon Committee Report is attached as Exhibit 1. A copy of the Department of Animal Services Staff Report is attached as Exhibit 2. If the Board concurs with the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations, an ordinance proposal will be submitted at a later date.

JGM:hh

Departmental Concurrence

[Handwritten Signature]
Janis G. McLaughlin, Director
Department of Animal Services

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2003/04

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Board Policy

County Executive Office Signature *Barbara Runmore*

Consent
 Policy
 Consent
 Policy
 Dep't Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.36 | District: | Agenda Number:

3.28

Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee On Cat Licensing in Riverside County

The Blue Ribbon Committee would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to review and recommend on the cat licensing issue in Riverside County.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors make the following findings, which will preface a proposed ordinance for licensing cats. These findings point out that the primary reason made to existing law is to reduce the rate of euthanasia carried out on adoptable cats, and on unclaimed cats.

1. There is a direct correlation between an increase in the overall number of animals that are spayed or neutered and a decrease in the number of animals that are turned into animal control services as unwanted.
2. The Proposed Cat Licensing Ordinance will replicate the current Dog Licensing Ordinance in order to ease administration, and to promote fairness of pet licensing fees.
3. A substantially higher fee for un-sprayed or un-neutered cats will motivate owners to alter their cats, effecting a reduction in feline production, over-population, and the often end-result of euthanasia.
4. An aggressive campaign to educate and encourage the public to microchip their cats, in conjunction with the Proposed Cat Licensing Ordinance, will increase the rate of reuniting cats with their owners, resulting in a reduction in the rate of euthanasia carried out on unclaimed cats.

It is not required that a Veterinarian performs or oversees microchip implantation. The feasibility of on-site chip implantation by Riverside County Animal Services will augment the viability of, and facilitate the implementation of the campaign to encourage microchipping.

By an overwhelming majority, the Blue Ribbon Committee votes to recommend that the Board of Supervisors make the preceding findings and adopt a proposed cat-licensing ordinance.

County of Riverside Department of Animal Services

Staff Report On Cat Licensing

Project Description/Background:

Governmental entities throughout the country are tackling the issue of whether or not to enact ordinances to license felines in their respective jurisdictions. Licensing proponents and antagonists alike can site numerous reasons to justify their respective positions. Riverside County is now considering the advisability of licensing felines and has requested the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Committee to sort through the fray. The scope of the Blue Ribbon Committee is to consider the pros and cons and present its findings to the Board.

On April 29, 2003, the Board of Supervisors enjoined a Blue Ribbon Committee to determine the advisability of cat licensing in Riverside County.

Blue Ribbon Committee – Composition:

The Blue Ribbon Committee was composed of community leaders, animal rights' advocates, including representation from the public and private business sectors of Riverside County. The Department of Animal Services provided staff representation.

Committee Members:

Anne Washington	District 1
Gena Osborne	District 1
Dr. Bob Dolphin	District 2
Sheila Erlich	District 2
Pat Merritt	District 2
Dr. Dewey Ballinger	District 3
Roberta Simon	District 3
Kathlene Birney	District 4
Barbara Flanagan	District 4
Donna Knox	District 5
Garry Grant	District 5

Staff Representation:

Janis McLaughlin – Director
Adam Colebrook, Operations Chief
Helen Hyder – Administrative Services Officer

Paige Hamtil – Executive Assistant I
Debbie Aguilar, Acting Executive Assistant I

Recommendations:

By an over-whelming majority, the Blue Ribbon Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors make the following findings and adopt a proposed cat-licensing ordinance:

1. There is a direct correlation between an increase in the overall number of animals that are spayed or neutered and a decrease in the number of animals that are turned into animal control services as unwanted.
2. The Proposed Cat Licensing Ordinance will replicate the current Dog Licensing Ordinance in order to ease administration, and to promote fairness of pet licensing fees.
3. A substantially higher fee for un-spayed or un-neutered cats motivate owners to alter their cats, effecting a reduction in feline reproduction, over-population, and the often end-result of euthanasia.
4. An aggressive campaign to educate and encourage the public to microchip their cats, in conjunction with the Proposed Cat Licensing Ordinance, will increase the rate of re-uniting cats with their owners, resulting in a reduction in the rate of euthanasia carried out on unclaimed cats.

It is not required that a veterinarian performs or oversees micro-chip implantation. The feasibility of on-site chip implantation by Riverside County Animal Services will augment the viability of, and facilitate the implementation of the campaign to encourage micro-chipping.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is in concurrence with the findings of the Blue Ribbon Committee.