

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

851



**FROM:** Community Health Agency, Department of Animal Services

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
November 9, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 630.10 amending Ordinance No. 630.9 regarding animal services fees

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve the introduction of Ordinance No. 630.10 amending Ordinance No. 630.9 relating to Animal Services fees for dogs and cats and set it for a public hearing;
- 2) Authorize the Clerk of the Board to place an advertisement for the public hearing in the appropriate local publications;
- 3) Upon the close of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors adopt Ordinance 630.10.

**BACKGROUND:** On February 3, 1987, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 630 establishing fee schedules for dogs and cats for the Department of Animal Services. In accordance with Board of Supervisors policy number B-4, County departments may evaluate existing rates for (Continued)

RM:pmh

*Robert Miller*  
Robert Miller, Director for Animal Services  
*Roger M. Hamtil*  
Roger M. Hamtil, Division Director

|                       |                               |        |                         |       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>FINANCIAL DATA</b> | Current F.Y. Total Cost:      | \$ N/A | In Current Year Budget: | Yes   |
|                       | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ 0   | Budget Adjustment:      | No    |
|                       | Annual Net County Cost:       | \$ 0   | For Fiscal Year:        | 07/08 |

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

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE

BY: *Debra Cournoyer*  
Debra Cournoyer

**County Executive Office Signature**

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED  
 ROBERT E. BYRD, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER  
 BY: *h. h. a.* 11/9/07  
 MICHAEL G. ALEXANDER  
 FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
 BY: *Tiffany N. North* 11/8/07  
 TIFFANY N. NORTH, COUNTY COUNSEL

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

## **BACKGROUND:**

services on an annual basis, and make recommendations for changes. The Department of Animal Services ("Department") last updated rates on April 15, 2003, Agenda Item 3.4. The Department has reviewed the impact of the cost of providing services relative to the current rate structure and is proposing changes to certain services provided by the Department of Animal Services.

The proposed rates are based on actual cost data, projected increases for the upcoming fiscal year and comparison with six (6) Southern California counties. The major impact of the fee changes that the Department is proposing stem from the addition of an after-hours charge for emergency services, changes to the daily boarding fee during impoundment, and changing the dog and cat adoption fee to a flat rate.

Within the past four (4) years, the number of after-hours emergency calls has increased from an average of 31.42 calls per month to an average of 81 calls per month, more than 2 ½ times the call volume. This trend quantifies the rise in animal bites and stray dangerous animals that endanger the health of the community during evenings, weekends and holidays when residents are most likely to be outside. The majority of these incidents are the result of unaltered animals escaping their confines and running loose which frequently adds to the pet overpopulation problem. By charging a fee to take care of these emergent issues after hours, it is the Department's goal that the message of spaying and neutering will become commonplace and, thus, drastically reduce the number of unwanted animals, the number of stray animals that run at large and the number of animal bites that occur.

A small number of the recommended fees reflect a slight loss to the County (see Exhibit B); however, the Department is making this recommendation based upon the integral part low-cost services play in accomplishing the mission of reducing the pet over-population and protecting the health and welfare of the citizens and animals of Riverside County. A vast number of the citizens rely on these low-cost services every day and would not be getting their pets vaccinated and altered if this option didn't exist. Consequently, the alternative of not offering low-cost services would prove to be of much greater cost in the long run.

Currently, the cost to adopt an animal from the County is a combination of the adoption fee, rabies vaccination, optional microchip, optional deworming medication and the cost to alter the animal, if needed. Based on these variables, the average cost is \$80.00. By implementing a flat rate fee for these services, and including mandatory microchipping and deworming, the Department can offer a reduced cost of \$75.00 for cats and \$95.00 for dogs without subsidization. Further, the reduced rates will enable residents that might not otherwise be able to adopt an animal the opportunity to do so. Additionally, the mandatory microchip will provide the best opportunity for animals to be returned to their owners.

Therefore, we are requesting that the Board of Supervisors introduce and set for public hearing Ordinance No. 630.10 and at the conclusion of the public hearing, adopt Ordinance 630.10.

## **FINANCIAL DATA**

These proposed fees have been reviewed and approved by the County Auditor/Controller. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the fee adjustments will result in revenue to the Department of approximately \$723,600 annually. No budget adjustment is requested at this time.



1 performed before the animal leaves the facility, the impound fee of \$40.00  
2 shall be waived.

3 (2) For the second impoundment within a twelve (12) month period,  
4 \$60.00 plus a \$12.00 boarding fee for each day of impoundment. If the  
5 animal is unaltered and the owner provides proof of spaying or neutering  
6 within sixty (60) days of payment of the above fees, the \$60.00 impound fee  
7 shall be refunded; or if the animal is impounded in a facility where  
8 spay/neuter surgeries are performed, and the owner pays for and has the  
9 surgery performed before the animal leaves the facility, the fee of \$60.00  
10 shall be waived.

11 (3) For the third or subsequent impoundment within a twelve (12) month  
12 period, \$100.00 plus a \$12.00 boarding fee for each day of impoundment. If  
13 the animal is unaltered and the owner provides proof of spaying or neutering  
14 within sixty (60) days of payment of the above fees, the \$100.00 impound fee  
15 shall be refunded; or if the animal is impounded in a facility where  
16 spay/neuter surgeries are performed, and the owner pays for and has the  
17 surgery performed before the animal leaves the facility, the impound fee of  
18 \$100.00 shall be waived.

19 (4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Ordinance, where a  
20 sterile dog or sterile cat belonging to a person sixty (60) years of age or older  
21 is impounded and the owner produces a certificate, signed by a veterinarian  
22 that such animal is permanently unable to reproduce, the base impoundment  
23 fee for such animal shall be fifty percent (50%) of the applicable  
24 impoundment fee specified in this Ordinance plus \$12.00 for each day of  
25 impoundment.

26 b. The fee for destruction and disposal of any dog, cat, or small animal in  
27 accordance with any provision of this Ordinance, shall be \$25.00.  
28

1 c. Any dog, four (4) months of age or older, which has been impounded shall  
2 not be released from impoundment unless it is licensed in accordance with the  
3 provisions of this Ordinance.

4 d. Any officer acting under the provisions of this Ordinance and impounding a  
5 licensed dog pursuant to Section 8, Subsections (a) or (d) of this Ordinance or a  
6 licensed cat, shall give written notice by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the last  
7 known address of the owner, of the impounding of such dog or cat. If such dog or cat  
8 is not redeemed within ten (10) days from the date of the mailing of such notice, the  
9 officer having custody of the dog or cat shall dispose of it in accordance with the  
10 provisions of Section 11, Subsection (g) of this Ordinance, or shall destroy such dog  
11 or cat.

12 e. Upon impounding an unlicensed dog pursuant to Section 8, Subsections (a)  
13 or (d) of this Ordinance or an unlicensed cat, the officer shall give notice to the  
14 owner, if the owner and his whereabouts are known, of the impounding of such dog  
15 or cat. If such dog or cat has not been redeemed within five (5) days of the giving of  
16 such notice, the officer shall dispose of such dog or cat in accordance with the  
17 provisions of Section 11, Subsection (g) of this Ordinance, or shall destroy such dog  
18 or cat. For the purpose of this Subsection (e), the notice specified herein shall be  
19 given in the manner determined by the officer as expedient under the circumstances.

20 f. The officer having custody of any impounded dog, cat, or other animal may,  
21 by humane methods, summarily destroy such dog, cat, or other animal if:

22 1. the animal is suffering from any incurable, dangerous or contagious  
23 disease, providing a veterinarian shall certify, in writing, that such animal  
24 is so suffering; or, in the officer's best judgment it would be inhumane  
25 and cause needless suffering to prolong the life of the animal in order to  
26 see a veterinarian or,

27 2. it is an unlicensed vicious dog, cat, or other animal.

28 g. Any officer having in his custody any unredeemed, impounded dog or cat  
may release such dog or cat to any adult individual upon payment by that individual

1 of the impound fees and charges specified in Section 11, Subsection (a) of this  
2 Ordinance and the spay/neuter deposit fee specified in Section 12, Subsection (a) of  
3 this Ordinance, or to a nonprofit corporation formed under the provisions of the  
4 California Corporations Code commencing with Section 10400 for the prevention of  
5 cruelty to animals or to a nonprofit organization formed under the laws of the State  
6 of California for the prevention of cruelty to animals, for such sale or placement as  
7 such nonprofit corporation or nonprofit organization may choose. Releases of dogs  
8 or cats to such nonprofit corporations or nonprofit organizations pursuant to this  
9 Section 11, Subsection (g) shall not be subject to the payment of the impound fees  
10 and charges specified in Section 11, Subsection (a) of this Ordinance, but shall be  
11 subject to the spay/neuter deposit specified in Section 12, Subsection (a) of this  
12 Ordinance.

13 h. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove an impounded animal from an  
14 animal control center without the permission of the officer in charge thereof.

15 i. Animal Control Officers choosing to return an impounded animal to the  
16 owner, in the field, may collect a field return impound fee of \$30.00.

17 j. Animal Control Officers picking up owned animals at the request of the  
18 owner, shall collect a fee of \$30.00 from the owner.

19 k. Animal Control Officers investigating and authorizing a home quarantine  
20 shall collect a fee of \$50.00 from the owner or custodian of the animal.

21 l. Animal Control Officers providing assistance with trap service, for owned  
22 feral animals or nuisance wildlife that are not considered a public health risk, shall  
23 collect a service fee of \$20.00 for the first five (5) days and \$2.00 per day for each  
24 additional day after the fifth day. A fee of \$90.00 shall be charged for traps which  
25 are lost or destroyed.

26 m. Owners of animals impounded for quarantine at a County facility shall be  
27 charged a quarantine fee of \$5.00 per day in addition to the regular daily boarding  
28 fee.

1 n. The hourly rate for the recovery of administrative cost associated with the  
2 recoupment of enforcement costs, as provided in Section 21 shall be \$53.00.

3 o. The fee for a micro-chip identification device shall be included in the cost of  
4 adoption, when adopting an animal from a County animal shelter and \$15.00 per  
5 animal for all others.

6 p. For the taking up of animals after normal business hours - \$90.00 per hour.  
7 This after hours' fee is in addition to any other applicable fees set forth in this  
8 ordinance.

9 q. The fee for adopting any unredeemed, impounded dog or cat is a flat-rate fee  
10 that includes vaccinations and deworming, micro-chipping, spay or neutering (if  
11 required) and adoption charges. The adoption fee shall be \$75.00 for any cat and  
12 \$95.00 for any dog. For senior citizens sixty (60) years of age or older, the adoption  
13 fee shall be \$45.00 for any cat and \$65.00 for any dog. The flat-rate adoption fee  
14 may be waived at the discretion of the Health Officer or his designee, to eliminate  
15 the euthanasia of adoptable dogs and cats. Twenty-five (25) percent of the flat-rate  
16 adoption fee may be waived if the animal is adopted by the foster care provider  
17 currently providing care for the animal.”

18 Section 5. Subsection c. of Section 16. of Ordinance No. 630.9 is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 “c. A violation of this Section shall be punishable as follows:

21 (i) For a first violation, the owner shall be subject to a \$100.00 fine. This  
22 fine may be waived and the citation dismissed if within thirty (30)  
23 days after receiving the citation the party has had the mother animal  
24 spayed and has provided proof of the spaying to County Animal  
25 Control.

26 (ii) For a second violation, the owner shall be subject to a \$200.00 fine.

27 (iii) For any subsequent violation, the owner shall be subject to a \$400.00  
28 fine.”

Section 6. Section 18. of Ordinance No. 630.9 is deleted in its entirety.



**EXHIBIT A**

**Riverside County Community Health Agency  
Department of Animal Services**

**Ordinance 630 - Dogs and Cats**

| <b>Description</b>  | <b>Current Rate</b>                    | <b>Proposed Rate</b>                   | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b> |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|
| Altered dog license - 1 year  | \$8.00                                 | \$8.00                                 | no change                  |
| Unaltered dog license - 1 year  | \$50.00                                | \$50.00                                | no change                  |
| Altered dog license - 2 year  | \$15.00                                | \$15.00                                | no change                  |
| Unaltered dog license - 2 year  | \$100.00                               | \$100.00                               | no change                  |
| Altered dog license - 3 year  | \$19.00                                | \$19.00                                | no change                  |
| Unaltered dog license - 3 year  | \$150.00                               | \$150.00                               | no change                  |
| Altered dog license - 1 year (senior citizen)                           | \$6.00                                 | \$6.00                                 | no change                  |
| Altered dog license - 2 year (senior citizen)                           | \$7.00                                 | \$7.00                                 | no change                  |
| Altered dog license - 3 year (senior citizen)                           | \$8.00                                 | \$8.00                                 | no change                  |
| Dangerous animal registration - 1 year                                  | \$50.00                                | \$100.00                               | \$50                       |
| Dog license late fee  | \$20.00                                | \$20.00                                | no change                  |
| Dog license late fee (senior citizen)                                   | \$15.00                                | \$15.00                                | no change                  |
| Transfer of ownership fee - dog   | \$6.00                                 | \$6.00                                 | no change                  |
| New resident dog license late fee                                       | \$20.00                                | \$20.00                                | no change                  |
| Dog license replacement tag   | \$6.00                                 | \$6.00                                 | no change                  |
| Class 1 Kennel license - 5-10 dogs [1 year, unaltered]                  | \$280.00                               | \$280.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 1 Kennel license - 5-10 dogs [2 year, unaltered]                  | \$300.00                               | \$300.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 1 Kennel license - 5-10 dogs [1 year, altered]                    | \$180.00                               | \$180.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 1 Kennel license - 5-10 dogs [2 year, altered]                    | \$200.00                               | \$200.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 1 Kennel license (dog) - late fee                                 | 50%                                    | 50%                                    | no change                  |
| Class 2 Kennel license - 11+ dogs [1 year, unaltered]                   | \$400.00                               | \$400.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Kennel license - 11+ dogs [2 year, unaltered]                   | \$650.00                               | \$650.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Kennel license - 11+ dogs [1 year, altered]                     | \$250.00                               | \$250.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Kennel license - 11+ dogs [2 year, altered]                     | \$400.00                               | \$400.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Cattery license (dog) - late fee                                | 50%                                    | 50%                                    | no change                  |
| Class 2 Cattery license - 10+ cats [1 year, unaltered]                  | \$280.00                               | \$280.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Cattery license - 10+ cats [2 year, unaltered]                  | \$400.00                               | \$400.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Cattery license - 10+ cats [1 year, altered]                    | \$180.00                               | \$180.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Cattery license - 10+ cats [2 year, altered]                    | \$200.00                               | \$200.00                               | no change                  |
| Class 2 Cattery license - late fee                                      | 50%                                    | 50%                                    | no change                  |
| Violation of Mandatory licensing of kennels & catteries - 1st violation | \$100.00                               | \$100.00                               | no change                  |
| Violation of Mandatory licensing of kennels & catteries - 2nd violation | \$200.00                               | \$200.00                               | no change                  |
| Violation of Mandatory licensing of kennels & catteries - 3rd violation | \$1000.00 or 6 months in jail, or both | \$1000.00 or 6 months in jail, or both | no change                  |
| Animal rescue permit (up to 6 dogs)                                     | \$25.00                                | \$25.00                                | no change                  |
| Animal rescue permit - late fee   | \$15.00                                | \$15.00                                | no change                  |
| Impound fee - 1st offense within 1 year                                 | \$30.00                                | \$40.00                                | \$10                       |
| Daily boarding fee during impoundment                                   | \$7.00                                 | \$12.00                                | \$5                        |

| Description   | Current Rate                                       | Proposed Rate                                      | Increase/(Decrease)          |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Impound fee - 2nd offense within 1 year   | \$50.00  | \$60.00  | \$10                         |
| After-Hours Charge  |  | \$90/hour  | \$90                         |
| Daily boarding fee during impoundment   | \$7.00   | \$12.00  | \$5                          |
| Impound fee - 3rd+ offense within 1 year  | \$75.00  | \$100.00   | \$25                         |
| After-Hours Charge  |  | \$90/hour  | \$90                         |
| Daily boarding fee during impoundment   | \$7.00   | \$12.00  | \$5                          |
| Impound fee - altered/unable to produce dog owned by senior citizen   | 50%  | 50%  | no change                    |
| Daily boarding fee during impoundment   | \$7.00   | \$12.00  | \$5                          |
| Euthanasia request - dog or cat and disposal  |  |  |                              |
| Owner Requested Euthanasia and Disposal at shelter  |  |  |                              |
| Dog   | \$10.00  | \$25.00  | \$15                         |
| Cat   | \$10.00  | \$25.00  | \$15                         |
| Small Animal  |  | \$25.00  | \$25                         |
| Impound fee - animal returned to owner by field officer   | \$20.00  | \$30.00  | \$10                         |
| Owner turn-in fee (animal picked up by field officer)   | \$20.00  | \$30.00  | \$10                         |
| Home quarantine fee   | \$20.00  | \$50.00  | \$30                         |
| Trap service - first 5 days   | \$20.00  | \$20.00  | no change                    |
| Trap service - each day after initial 5 days  | \$2.00   | \$2.00   | no change                    |
| Lost or destroyed traps   | \$35.00  | \$90.00  | \$55                         |
| Quarantined animals - housed at a county shelter  | \$5 per day + boarding fees                        | \$5 per day + boarding fees                        | no change                    |
| Recoupment of enforcement costs - hourly rate   | \$53.00  | \$53.00  | no change                    |
| Microchip - implanted at time of adoption   | \$10.00  | included in cost of adoption                       | included in cost of adoption |
| Microchip - implanted at any time other than adoption   | \$15.00  | \$15.00  | no change                    |
| Adoption fee - cats   | \$20.00  | \$75.00  | \$55                         |
| Adoption fee - dogs   | \$20.00  | \$95.00  | \$75                         |
| Senior citizen (*or disabled person) adoption fee - cats  | \$20.00  | \$45.00  | \$25                         |
| Senior citizen (*or disabled person) adoption fee - dogs  | \$20.00  | \$65.00  | \$45                         |
| Spay/neuter deposit - cat   | \$30.00  | \$30.00  | no change                    |
| Spay/neuter deposit - dog   | \$40.00  | \$40.00  | no change                    |
| Violation of Placement requirements - 1st violation   | \$50.00  | \$100.00   | \$50                         |
| Violation of Placement requirements - 2nd violation   | \$100.00   | \$200.00   | \$100                        |
| Violation of Placement requirements - 3rd+ violation  | \$200.00   | \$400.00   | \$200                        |
| Violation of Ordinance- 1st offense within one year   | \$50.00  | \$50.00  | no change                    |
| Violation of Ordinance - 2nd offense within one year  | \$100.00   | \$100.00   | no change                    |
| Violation of Ordinance - 3rd+ within one year   | \$250.00   | \$250.00   | no change                    |
| Administrative fee - clearing violation within 10 days  | \$20.00  | \$60.00  | \$40.00                      |
| Violation of home quarantine, failure to produce animal for quarantine or interfering with rabies investigation - charge per day of violation | \$100-\$1000 or up to 1 year imprisonment, or both | \$100-\$1000 or up to 1 year imprisonment, or both | no change                    |
| Administrative fee - clearing home quarantine violation within 10 days  | \$50.00  | \$50.00  | no change                    |

## EXHIBIT B

### Fee Variance Comparison

| Description  | Actual Cost | Recommended Fee | Variance |
|--|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| Dangerous Animal Registration – 1 year*                  | \$412.34    | \$400.00        | -\$12.34 |
| Euthanasia Request - <b>small</b> dog or cat & disposal  | \$25.52     | \$25.00         | -\$0.52  |
| Impound fee - animal returned to owner by Field Ofcr     | \$31.22     | \$30.00         | -\$1.22  |
| Owner turn-in fee (animal picked up by Field Ofcr)       | \$29.90     | \$30.00         | \$0.10   |
| Home quarantine fee                                      | \$52.04     | \$50.00         | -\$2.04  |
| Lost or destroyed traps                                  | \$91.00     | \$90.00         | -\$1.00  |
| Senior Citizen (*or disabled person) adoption fee - cats | \$65.87     | \$45.00         | -\$20.87 |
| Senior Citizen (*or disabled person) adoption fee - dogs | \$65.87     | \$65.00         | -\$0.87  |
| Violation of Placement requirements - 1st violation      | \$124.90    | \$100.00        | -\$24.90 |
| Violation of Placement requirements - 2nd violation      | \$0.00      | \$200.00        | \$200.00 |
| Violation of Placement requirements - 3rd violation      | \$0.00      | \$400.00        | \$400.00 |

\* Dangerous Animal Registration is a four year requirement of \$100.00 per year.