

**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
Targe M. Hamtil
Targe M. Hamtil, Division Director

FINANCIAL DATA	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

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

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

Debra Cournoyer
BY: Debra Cournoyer
Debra Cournoyer

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Ashley, seconded by Supervisor Stone and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above ordinance is approved as introduced with waiver of the reading and setting the matter for public hearing on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Ayes: Buster, Stone, Wilson and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: Tavaglione
Date: November 20, 2007
xc: CHA/Animal Svcs., COB(2)

Nancy Romero
Clerk of the Board
BY: *Nancy Romero*
Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 4/15/03, item 3.4. | **District:** All | **Agenda Number:**

9.9

VISUAL PROCEDURES APPROVED
 ROBERT E. BYRD, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
 BY: *[Signature]* 11/9/07
 MICHAEL G. ALEXANDER
 FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
 BY: *[Signature]* 11/8/07
 TIFFANY MCNORRIS, COUNTY CLERK

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

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

Description	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Increase/(Decrease)
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 - small 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.