



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: December 9, 2008
Placement: Set Hearings
Estimated Tme: 30 Minutes on 1/13/09
5 Minutes on 1/20/09
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director
Staff: Jan E. Glick, Animal Services Director
Contact Info: 681-5284
SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending Animal Services Fee Schedule

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set hearings to consider recommendations regarding Ordinance Amending Animal Services Fee Schedule, as follows:

- a) Set hearing on January 13, 2009 (first reading) to consider the introduction of Ordinance Amending the Animal Services Fee Schedule to:
Adopt Ordinance Amending the Animal Services Fee Schedule effective February 20, 2009.
- b) Set hearing on January 20, 2009 (second reading) to consider the adoption of Ordinance Amending the Animal Services Fee Schedule.
- c) Approve Notice of Exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) Guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Public Health Department is requesting two hearings to consider the introduction and adoption of amendments to consumer fees charged for services provided by Animal Services pursuant to Santa Barbara County Ordinance Section 7-2. The fees were last updated March 1, 2006, based on a Cost of Living Adjustment to the existing cost based resolution. In the two plus years since the last fee adjustment, the cost to provide these services has increased due to changes in operating costs including

salaries, benefits (including retirement), animal food, supplies, medication, and utilities. Thus, the attached ordinance will bring revenues closer in line with the increased cost of providing services.

Background:

The Public Health Department’s Animal Services consumer fee resolution was approved by your Board in July of 2002 following a comprehensive cost/fee study. Although the methodology included all costs, the approved fee resolution in some cases, did not. Adoptions and licensing fees were recommended at below cost in order to remain with industry and county averages and to place and license as many animals as possible. The fee schedule was updated most recently by the Board of Supervisors effective March 1, 2006 with a Cost of Living Adjustment. Consumer fees are estimated to recover approximately 25% of the total Animal Services costs. The remaining 75% of costs are funded by a combination of city contracts (35%), previously approved designations (7%), and General Fund Contribution for the unincorporated area and mandates (33%).

Current Request:

The ordinance (previously a resolution) before your Board represents a Cost of Living Adjustment to the existing fee schedule. There are approximately 100 consumer fees for services such as: impounds, boarding, adoption, euthanasia, and licensing pursuant to Government Code Section 25802, 38792, Food & Agricultural Code 308004, 31251, 31401, and Health & Safety Code Section 121690. Additionally, this ordinance establishes 23 new fees for examinations and treatments, adoptions to rescue organizations, voluntary spaying and neutering of owned dogs and cats, and other miscellaneous minor fees. Attachment B details the current fee and proposed fee for all categories.

Existing Fees

For the existing fees, the individual impact to each category is relatively minor. Approximately 66% of the existing fees are increasing less than \$10.

- 6 fees would remain the same
- 31 fees would increase between \$1.00 -\$4.00
- 27 fees would increase between \$5.00 -\$9.00
- 21 fees would increase between \$10.00 -\$19.00
- 6 fees would increase between \$20.00 -\$29.00
- 6 fees would increase between \$30.00 -\$60.00
- 3 fees have been deleted

New Fees

Animal Services has implemented weekly rabies clinics at the Santa Maria Animal Center to promote rabies control and licensing of dogs as required by law. Some animals present with flea infestations or other minor conditions which can be treated at the same time. The fee schedule includes four new fees for examinations and minor treatment.

Examination	20.00
Examination with Treatment – Cat	32.00
Examination with Treatment – Dog, small	35.00
Examination with Treatment – Dog, large.....	40.00

The Food and Agricultural Code 31108 (b) and 31752 (b) allows for stray dogs and cats to be adopted to non profit rescue organizations prior to euthanasia if the amount does not exceed the standard adoption fee. There are four new proposed fees pursuant to this code.

Dogs adopted to 501 (c) 3 organization.....	15.00
Cats adopted to 501 (c) 3 organization	10.00
Dogs adopted to 501 (c) 3 organization and altered at County expense.....	55.00
Cats adopted to 501 (c) 3 organization and altered at County expense	35.00

The County has an in house spay and neuter clinic at the Santa Maria Animal Center. The clinic is utilized primarily for spaying and neutering of stray and abandoned shelter animals prior to adoption. Establishment of a fee schedule for owned animals and availability of these services will promote voluntary spay and neuter of owned animals. There are 12 new fees for voluntary spay and neuter services for owned dogs and cats.

Cat, male	35.00
Cat, female	50.00
Cat, pregnant female	60.00
Dog, male under 50 lbs	55.00
Dog, male 50-75 lbs.	70.00
Dog, male 76-100 lbs.	85.00
Dog, male over 100 lbs.	100.00
Dog, female under 50 lbs	60.00
Dog, female 50-75 lbs.....	75.00
Dog, female 76-100 lbs.....	90.00
Dog, female over 100 lbs	105.00
Dog, pregnant or in-heat, add	15.00

Animal Services Program revenue sources are complicated. In addition to revenues obtained through consumer fees, Animal Services contracts with seven cities, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the Chumash Indian Tribe. In July 2002, a per capita methodology was approved by the board, which implemented revenue sharing with the cities for services provided. The per capita fee amount is based on the cost of services less any consumer generated revenue received. Therefore, it is in the best interest to the County and our partnering cities to update consumer fees with cost of living adjustments.

On March 7, 2008, letters were sent to the six full service cities notifying them of the forthcoming FY 2008-2009 contract amendments. Included in the letter was the plan for Animal Services to go to the Board of Supervisors recommending a consumer fee increase and requesting their support. Each letter detailed the per capita rate with and without the proposed fee increases for their population base. Since then, all cities have amended their contracts with the benefit of the proposed consumer fee increase, and by doing so, concur with the recommendation.

The County enjoys the benefit of volunteer services and organized non profit organizations that have formed to support the three community animal shelters. County Animal Services staff meets monthly with the various stakeholders and has reviewed the proposed fee increases with our partnering organizations. These groups are in concurrence with the proposed increases.

State Determined Fees

The State of California determines the fee for certain categories of fees charged by municipal animal shelters pursuant to Food & Agricultural Code 30804.5 (a), which are currently set at:

<u>Fee Category</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Unaltered impound penalty, 1 st offense =	\$35
Unaltered impound penalty, 2 nd offense =	\$50
Unaltered impound penalty, 3 rd offense =	\$100

The fourth fee is pursuant to Health & Safety Code 121690 (f) that states “No charge in excess of the actual cost shall be made for any one vaccination at a clinic.” The 2004 Rabies Compendium established the actual cost of a rabies vaccination to be \$6.

<u>Fee Category</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Rabies vaccination	= \$6

On January 24, 2006 the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of the Public Health Department to automatically change any of the State determined fees to a new fee, in accordance with future changes to the above state established fees. These fees have not been raised by the State since authorization was granted and the 2004 Rabies Compendium.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The proposed fees are not included in the FY 08-09 budget. The adopted budget included fees at current levels.

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: Adopting the Animal Services fee ordinance will amend the fees to reflect more accurately the cost of providing services. The fee schedule has not been updated since March, 2006.

The annual amount of increased revenue is estimated at \$168,700. However, since the fees are requested to be effective February 20, 2009, the approximate four month estimate of increased revenue for the remainder of FY 2008-2009 is \$56,200. Pending approval of the recommendations, Animal Services will return to your Board with a Budget Revision Request (BRR) increasing the revenue budget by \$56,200 for the remainder of FY 2008-2009. The BRR will increase fee revenue and decrease City contract revenue (\$40,467) and unrealized SB90 claim revenue (\$15,733).

The \$40,467 reduction in City Contract revenue represents the difference between what was budgeted and what was signed via contract for the six full service cities. It also includes the loss of the City of Carpinteria contract, which opted to cancel their contract and provide their own services.

SB90 Claim revenue was budgeted at \$125,407. A prior claim for FY 2006-2007 of \$87,831 was received and deposited. The State has not included payments in their signed budget and the difference of \$37,576 will not be received. The fee increase will help mitigate this loss by \$15,733.

A comparison of six other County Animal Services agencies' fees in four similar categories was performed. Santa Barbara County Animal Services' proposed fees are in line with other agencies. Attachment C provides detail of the comparisons.

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
0	0

Special Instructions:

1. Request the Clerk of the Board to publish notice of this hearing, per the attached Notice (Attachment A), in the Santa Barbara News Press five and ten days prior to the hearing, in accordance with Government Code §6062a.
2. Request the Planning and Development Department to post the Notices of Exemption for the ordinance in the County Planning and Development Department at least six days prior to consideration of the activity by the Board of Supervisors to comply with the County CEQA guidelines.
3. Return two fully executed copies of the ordinance along with a copy of the minute order to the Public Health Department Contracts Unit, 300 N. San Antonio Road, Bldg. 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, Attn: Dawn McGrew (805) 681-5205.

Attachments:

1. Attachment A, Notice of Public Hearing
2. Attachment B, Summary of Current and Proposed Fees
3. Attachment C, Comparison Counties
4. Attachment D, Ordinance Amending Fees for Animal Services
5. CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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Stacy Covarrubias, PHD Cost Analyst