



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: February 07, 2012
2-07-12; 1st Read 20 min
2-14-12; 2nd Read/Adopt
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board Of Supervisors
FROM: Select_From Takashi M. Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer,
Public Health Department, 681-5102
Contact Info: Jan E. Glick, MS
Animal Services Director, 681-5284
SUBJECT: Animal Services Ordinance for Fee Schedule Revisions

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: NA

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations regarding an Ordinance Amending the Animal Services Fee Schedule:

- A) Receive a presentation regarding Animal Services Consumer Fees.
- B) Consider the introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance to revise the Animal Services Fee Schedule on February 7, 2012.
- C) Set a Hearing for February 14, 2012 to consider the following recommendations regarding the Ordinance for Animal Services Consumer Fees:
 - i. Authorize the Chair to Adopt (Second Reading) the Animal Services Ordinance to revise fees.
 - ii. Approve Notice of Exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) Guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to consider the introduction and adoption of an Ordinance amending the consumer fees for services provided by Animal Services pursuant to Santa Barbara County Ordinance Section 7-2. In the time since the last fee adjustments were made, the cost of providing these services has increased due to changes in operating costs which include salaries, benefits (including retirement),

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

animal food, supplies, medication, and utilities. The attached Ordinance will bring revenues closer in line with the increased cost of providing services.

Background:

In July of 2002, the Public Health Department’s Animal Services consumer fee resolution was approved by your Board following a comprehensive cost/fee study. Although the methodology included all costs, the approved fee resolution, in some cases, did not. Pet adoptions and licensing fees were recommended at below cost in order to remain consistent with industry and county averages and to encourage the adoption and licensing of as many animals as possible.

The last comprehensive Animal Services consumer fee update was adopted January 27, 2009, effective March 1, 2009 based on a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

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 (34%), previously approved designations (20%), and General Fund Contribution for the unincorporated area and mandates (21%).

Current Request:

The Ordinance before your Board represents a Cost of Living Adjustment to the existing fee schedule. There are approximately 130 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.

On January 23, 2012, letters were sent to the partnering service cities to notify them of the plan for Animal Services to go to the Board of Supervisors recommending a consumer fee adjustment and requesting their support. Each letter explained how the proposed fee increases offset ongoing contract fees for animal control services.

The County enjoys the benefit of volunteers and non profit organizations who have come together in support of the three community animal shelters. County Animal Services staff meet regularly with the various stakeholders and the proposed fee increases have been reviewed with our partnering organizations. These groups are in concurrence with the proposed changes.

Existing Fees

For the existing fees, the individual impact in each category is relatively minor. Approximately 66% of the existing fees are increasing by no more than \$9.00.

- 8 fees would remain the same
- 37 fees would increase between \$1.00 - \$4.00
- 33 fees would increase between \$5.00 - \$9.00
- 28 fees would increase between \$10.00 - \$19.00
- 9 fees would increase between \$20.00 - \$29.00
- 2 fees would increase by \$40.00
- 1 fee would decrease by \$10.00
- 5 fees have been deleted

New Fees

Animal Services provides weekly public clinics at the Santa Maria Animal Center to promote responsible pet ownership and to provide spay and neutering services for lower income individuals at a

reduced cost. Some animals present with flea infestations or other minor conditions which can be treated at the same time. The fee schedule includes 11 new fees for Flea/Tick, Tape Worm, and Round Worm treatment of dogs and cats.

Description	Flea/Tick Treatment	Tape Worm Treatment
Cats & Extra Small Dogs	\$ 9.00	\$11.00
Small Dogs	\$10.00	\$13.00
Medium Dogs	\$11.00	\$16.00
Large Dogs	\$14.00	\$21.00
Extra Large Dogs	\$17.00	\$24.00

Description	Round Worm Treatment
Any size cat or dog	\$11.00

The Fee Schedule also includes one new fee to cover the cost of photocopying.

State Determined Fees

The State of California determines the fee for certain categories that are charged by municipal animal shelters pursuant to Food & Agricultural Code 30804.5 (a) and pursuant to Health & Safety Code 121690 (f) for rabies vaccinations. These fees are currently set at:

Fee Category	Fee
Unaltered impound penalty, 1 st offense	\$ 35.00
Unaltered impound penalty, 2 nd offense	\$ 50.00
Unaltered impound penalty, 3 rd offense	\$100.00
Rabies vaccinations	\$ 6.00

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The proposed fees are not included in the FY 2011-12 budget. The adopted budget included fees at current levels. There are no projected staffing or facility impacts.

Fiscal Analysis:

Adopting the Animal Services ordinance will amend current fees to reflect more accurately the cost of providing services. The amount of increased revenue for FY 2012-13 is estimated to be \$182,000. The requested fee adjustments would become effective March 19, 2012 so the approximate 3 months of increased revenue for the remainder of FY 2011-12 would be approximately \$45,500. The projected revenue increase of \$182,000 over a 12 month period will partially offset one-time funding being used to cover General Fund reductions and other escalating costs such as retirement, utilities and other charges.

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

Special Instructions:

1. 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.
2. Please provide one adopted ordinance and a copy of the minute order. When ready for pick-up, please contact PHDCU@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

1. CEQA Notice of Exemption
2. Ordinance Amending Fees for Animal Services
3. Attachment A, Comparison Counties
4. PowerPoint Presentation on Animal Services

Authored by:

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