



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**    **Agenda Number:**  
**AGENDA LETTER**

**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:** August 29, 2017  
**Placement:** 8/29/2017 Set Hearing  
9/19/2017 First Reading  
(Departmental)  
10/3/2017 Second  
Reading (Administrative)  
**Estimated Time:** 9/19/2017 30 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, Director  
Director(s) Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Jan E. Glick, MS, Director of Animal Services (934-6953)  
**SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to County Code Chapter 7 Article III – Licenses and Tags - Required**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

On August 29, 2017, set a public hearing on the Departmental Agenda of September 19, 2017 to consider recommendations regarding a proposed amendment to “Chapter 7 – Animals and Fowl” of the Santa Barbara County Code.

On September 19, 2017:

- a) Receive and file a presentation regarding proposed amendment to Chapter 7 – Animals and Fowl, Article III. – Licenses and Tags –Required ;
- b) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance amending County Code Chapter 7 – Animals and Fowl, Article III. – Licenses and Tags –Required (Attachment A);
- c) Read the title of the Ordinance into the record and waive full reading of the Ordinance; and
- d) Continue to the Administrative Agenda of October 3, 2017 to consider recommendations.

On October 3, 2017:

- a) Approve the adoption (Second Reading) of the Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III. – Licenses and tags -Required, of the Santa Barbara County Code with an effective date of November 3, 2017.
- b) Determine that adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III. – Licenses and Tags - Required, of the Santa Barbara County Code is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant impact on the environment, and direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption (Attachment C).

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the Agenda to adopt an Ordinance to amend Chapter 7- Article III. – Licenses and Tags - Required, of the Santa Barbara County Code (Attachment A). Animal Services, as the Administrative Authority, is proposing changes to add a new Section 7-18 – 7. Certificate of Anti-rabies Vaccination.

**Background:**

California State law (Health & Safety Code §121690) mandates licensing and rabies vaccination for dogs in all counties declared as ‘Rabies Areas’, which includes the entire state. The purpose of state-mandated dog licensing is prevention of rabies through rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccinations can only be administered by a licensed veterinarian or their approved delegate. Dog licensing is considered a means of easily determining an animal’s vaccination status, as well as an aid to reuniting lost dogs with their owners. With the proposed amendment, dog owners will be required to provide a rabies certificate to the County in order to get a dog license. Local ordinances may, and many do, require veterinarians to report rabies vaccination records to ensure compliance with license laws. Currently, Santa Barbara County does not mandate veterinarians to report rabies vaccination records to Animal Services. The counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Sonoma, San Diego, Riverside, Kern and Marin are examples of counties that currently require veterinarians to report rabies vaccinations.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services is recommending an amendment to Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 7- Article III. – Licenses and tags -Required, to amend Section 7-18 – 3 that will require owners to present a rabies certificate to the County prior to being issued a dog license and to add a new Section 7-18 – 7. Certificate of Anti-rabies Vaccination.

Section 7-18 – 7. Certificate of Anti-rabies Vaccination would require veterinarians to submit a copy of a rabies vaccination certificate whenever the vaccine is administered to a dog. This requirement would increase public health and safety by allowing Animal Services to know the rabies vaccination status of dogs within its jurisdiction and ensure that dog owners are in compliance with County Code Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7-18, License & Tags Required. This requirement will help increase dog licensing compliance by letting the County know a dog has been vaccinated but may not have gotten the required dog license.

Increasing dog licensing compliance in Santa Barbara County will benefit our community in the following ways:

- Protect health and safety of the public by ensuring that dogs are vaccinated against rabies, a fatal disease that can be transmitted to humans.

- Provide identification to assist with reuniting lost pets with their owners, thereby reducing the number of stray animals coming into our shelters and reducing the length of stay for impounded animals.
- Protect pet owners and their animals by tracking dangerous and aggressive dogs and habitual offenders of animal laws.
- Reduce the number of surplus and homeless animals by requiring owners of unaltered animals to obtain a veterinary certificate and purchase an Unaltered Dog License. In many cases, owners will elect to have their pet sterilized in order to avoid the differential fee for the unaltered animal license.
- Provide necessary revenues to Santa Barbara County Animal Services to help continue funding for the rescue, shelter, medical and behavior rehabilitation, and placement of the County's unwanted, abandoned, and mistreated animals.
- Provide important information on pet population in cities and potentially affect how government resources are allocated to fund animal-related programs, such as spay/neuter subsidy and vaccination clinics.

An amendment to County Code Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7-18 is required to provide for vaccination certificate requirements. The proposed amendment to County Code Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7-18 by adding Section 7-18 - 7 Certificate of Anti-rabies Vaccination is provided as Attachment A.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Approving and adopting the Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III. – Licenses and Tags -Required, of the Santa Barbara County code would require veterinarians to submit, to Animal Services, a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate whenever a vaccine is administered to a dog. This amendment would bring more dog owners into compliance with California State law (Health & Safety Code §121690) requiring every dog owner to vaccinate their dog against rabies and secure a dog license. It is anticipated that mandating veterinarians to submit a copy of a rabies vaccination certificate would tap into the unlicensed dog population and would create a mechanism for Animal Services to issue a dog license as required by California State law. The result would be an increase in the number of dogs vaccinated and licensed within the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara County.

There are approximately 25,800 licensed dogs within the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara County Animal Services. It is estimated that this is approximately 40% of the dog population which leaves an estimated 60% unlicensed. A 5% increase in one year altered licenses sold, at \$25.00 each, could increase revenue by approximately \$32,250. This is a conservative example to quantify the positive impact the proposed amendment could have on licensing and protecting the health and safety of the public.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

**Special Instructions:**

1. Request the Clerk of the Board fulfill noticing requirements and publish a legal notice at least 10 days prior to the hearing on September 19, 2017 pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code. The notice should appear in a local newspaper of general circulation. In accordance with Section 25124 of the Government Code, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board voting for and against it in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Santa Barbara within fifteen (15) days after its adoption.
2. Please provide one original adopted ordinance and a copy of the minute order. When ready for pick-up, please contact [PHDCU@sbcpd.org](mailto:PHDCU@sbcpd.org).

**Attachments:**

- A. Proposed Amendment to Chapter 7, Article III. – Licenses and Tags -Required – Amended
- B. Proposed Amendment to Chapter 7, Article III. – Licenses and Tags -Required – Clean Version
- C. Notice of CEQA Exemption
- D. Public Notice
- E. Presentation

**Authored by:**

Jan E. Glick, MS, Director of Animal Services, 934-6953.