

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JOEY HEJNOWICZ, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST, CITY
MANAGER'S OFFICE
JOHN SKEEL, DIRECTOR,
SONOMA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REVISED ANIMAL SERVICES FEES

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Manager's Office and Sonoma County Animal Services that the Council, by resolution, approve and adopt revised animal services fees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sonoma County Animal Services (SCAS) is proposing several fee increases to help recover some of the costs of services delivered to residents in the jurisdictions served.

BACKGROUND

Sonoma County Animal Services provides sheltering and field services to areas within their jurisdiction, including unincorporated areas of the County, the City of Santa Rosa, and the Town of Windsor. Animal Services is also responsible for rabies control for the entire County. The SCAS service area is comprised of approximately 1,575 square miles with nearly 500,000 residents and includes an animal shelter that serves nearly 3,300 animals annually. SCAS is proposing fee revisions for animal impounds, vaccinations, licenses, and boarding fees.

Animals are impounded at the animal shelter for a number reasons. Strays whose owners cannot be determined by animal control staff in the field by an identification tag or microchip are brought to the shelter for safe-keeping. Animal control officers responding to law enforcement requests for assistance may impound animals in the possession of owners being taken into custody. Members of the public often capture and transport strays to the animal shelter. Owners may surrender their animals when they are no longer able to care for their pets, or the death of an owner may force the animal into the care of the shelter. Animals that have bitten may be impounded at the shelter and quarantined to determine if the animal has rabies.

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Costs of impoundment may include, but are not limited to, intake administration, veterinary examination and treatment, vaccinations, flea treatment, and preparation of a clean, warm kennel to house the animal. Costs of board include feeding, kennel cleaning, and ongoing veterinary care as needed.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

July 10, 2018 – Resolution No. RES-2018-117, approving and adopting the Sonoma County Animal Service Revised Fees

July 11, 2017 – Resolution No. RES-2017-134, approving and adopting the Sonoma County Animal Services Revised Fees

September 15, 2015 – Resolution No. 28690, adopting revised fees and approving time-limited amnesty for dog license fee and penalties.

ANALYSIS

The proposed SCAS fees recover increased costs associated with services delivery, including costs charged to SCAS by general government and those associated with salary and benefits. Revised fees are requested to recover the reasonable cost to provide animal services which is generally a 4.5 percent increase since fees were last revised effective July 1, 2018.

The SCAS is proposing 3.7 to 5.0 percent increases to the Animal Services fees. Percentage increases are as close as possible to 4.5 percent, while focusing on Animal Services objectives and customer service priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fee increases resulting from animal impound and boarding fees, license fees and other health/safety related charges are estimated to increase revenue for FY 2019-20 Animal Services by \$37,624 for which the City of Santa Rosa will receive credit consistent with its County of Sonoma animal services contract.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

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NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution/Exhibit A – List of Revised Fees

CONTACT

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