

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Community Health, Clinics, and Animal Services

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Mark Starr, D.V.M., M.P.V.M., Director of Community Health, Clinics, & Animal Services

DATE: July 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Placer County Health and Human Services Fee Changes for Animal Services

ACTION REQUESTED:

Request the Board to take the following actions:

- a. Conduct a public hearing to consider adjustments in fees,
- b. Adopt a Resolution establishing the fees for Animal Services,
- c. Adopt an Ordinance to amend Section 130 of Article 2.116 of Chapter 2 of the Placer County Code (Section 2.116.130), Fees for Domestic Animal Control relating to Health & Human Services Animal Services Fees.

BACKGROUND:

Fees for Placer County Animal Services (PCAS) are currently found in the County Code Section 2.116.130. This Board action will remove the specific amounts of such fees from the County Code, and then direct that such fees be kept current via resolution, with the newest fee amounts to be effective August 6, 2009.

In 1996, the Board of Supervisors adjusted fees for animal services achieving 100 percent cost recovery and directed staff to increase fees every July based on the State of California Department of Industrial Relations Consumer Price Index-California, for All Urban Consumers (CPI). While staff have consistently implemented the direction provided in 1996, it has been determined that the annual CPI adjustments have not kept pace with the actual costs of the services.

Utilizing methodology established by the Placer County Auditor's Office, the Community Health, Clinics, and Animal Services Division of Health and Human Services has conducted thorough labor and cost studies to determine the appropriate levels of adjustment. These studies document that fees need to be adjusted if the Division is to achieve the 100 percent cost recovery associated with the direction provided in 1996. The Division has met with individuals from non-profit animal welfare groups and commercial animal breeders to solicit their input related to these proposed adjustments.

Animal Adoption Fees

Current adoption fees are calculated by charging separately for each service needed for an individual animal which PCAS provides prior to adoption, such as micro-chipping, vaccinating, spaying and neutering, leukemia or heartworm testing, preventive medications, collar, cat carrier or dog leash, and caring for cats and dogs prior to adoption. To simplify the adoption process and improve efficiency, PCAS recommends charging a flat rate of \$88 per cat and \$107 per dog. Comparable fees for cats and dogs charged by other animal shelters are:

Agency	Cat Fees	Dog Fees
El Dorado County	\$75	\$90
Sacramento County	\$81	\$121 - \$147
Placer SPCA	\$50 - \$95	\$125 - \$175
Placer County Proposed	\$88	\$107

Animal Redemption and License Fees

The proposed fees are noted below with comparisons to other counties. Fee revisions are necessary to cover increasing operating costs.

Redemption Level	Placer Current	Placer Proposed	Sacramento County	El Dorado County	Nevada County
Altered – Penalty, 1 st Impound	\$43	\$53	\$40	\$35	\$50
Altered – Penalty, 2 nd Impound	\$90	\$106	\$80	\$50	\$100
Altered – Penalty, 3 rd Impound	\$130	\$159	\$160	\$100	\$150
Unaltered – Penalty, 1 st Impound	\$86	\$88	\$40	\$35	\$50
Unaltered – Penalty, 2 nd Impound	\$151	\$156	\$80	\$50	\$100
Unaltered – Penalty, 3 rd Impound	\$253	\$259	\$160	\$100	\$150

Dog License Renewal Rates	Placer Current	Placer Proposed	Sacramento County	El Dorado County	Nevada County
Altered – 1 Year	\$11	\$18	\$15	\$15	\$10
Altered – 2 Years	\$19	\$36	\$30	N/A	\$18
Altered – 3 Years	\$28	\$54	\$45	\$35	\$25
Unaltered - 1 Year	\$23	\$36	\$150	\$35	\$25
Unaltered – 2 Years	\$42	\$72	\$300	N/A	\$50
Unaltered – 3 Years	\$60	\$108	\$450	\$90	\$75

Other Service Fees

PCAS' fees for other services, including Animal Control Officer (ACO) calls, are included in the fee resolution and supported by the PCAS cost study. PCAS recommends an increase for the ACO hourly rate from the current fee of \$48 to \$91 during business hours and from \$60 to \$104 for after-hours, weekend, and holiday calls to fully recover the cost of this service. Hourly rates are charged when an ACO is requested to respond to an emergency in a city which does not contract with the County for ACO services, such as the cities of Roseville and Auburn, as well as for certain services available to individuals such as at-home dog quarantine. Increases in fees for kennel permits are also being recommended to cover the full cost of the on-site inspections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total estimated annualized adjustments in fees summarized above will result in 100 percent cost recovery for services rendered to the public and elimination of the divisional dependency on the current \$75,000 County General Fund subsidizing these services.

The fees will continue to be automatically adjusted on the first day of July at the same rate as the State of California Department of Industrial Relations Consumer Price Index-California, for All Urban Consumers.

The fee study and proposed fee schedule are on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

Attachments:

Proposed Ordinance

Proposed Resolution

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resolution No: _____

A Resolution adopting fees for certain services provided by the Health and Human Services Department, Animal Services.

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____ by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Department allocates staff time and other costs for providing various services to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board has previously determined that the costs associated with such services is to be supported, in part, by consumers of those services; and

WHEREAS, the Board has authorized the charging of these fees by ordinance, published in Placer County Code 2.116.130 Domestic Animal Control Fees, to ensure cost recovery consistent with the Board's direction and authorized the Health and Human Services Department to annually update the fee schedule based upon the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI); and hereby authorizes the Director of Health and Human Services or his/her designee to waive fees in full or in part in cases of client financial hardship or protection of public health.

WHEREAS, State law requires that where a local entity imposes a new fee or increases an existing fee, then it must prepare a study documenting that the amount of the fee does not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the services; and

WHEREAS, a fee study to document the estimated costs to substantiate the proposed increases has been prepared and filed with the Clerk of the Board and all notices as required by state law have been given and a public hearing has been held;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Placer County adopts the Health and Human Services Animal Services Fee Schedule as set out in the attached Exhibit A.

ANIMAL SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE

Placer County Animal Services
Proposed Fee Schedule
Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Description	Proposed Fee
Redemption fees - dogs, cats, fowl, other small animals or livestock	
Altered - Penalty for first impound	\$53.00
Altered - Penalty for second impound	\$106.00
Altered - Penalty for third impound	\$159.00
Unaltered - Penalty for first impound (F&A 30804.7)	\$88.00
Unaltered - Penalty for second impound (F&A 30804.7)	\$156.00
Unaltered - Penalty for third impound (F&A 30804.7)	\$259.00
Quarantine Fee at owners' residence (per visit)	\$91.00
Disposal Fee for dead animals disposed of at the shelter which weigh < 100lbs	\$18.00
Board Fee - Dog, cat, or other small animal (per day)	\$20.00
Board Fee - Livestock (per day)	\$26.00
Board Fee - Extra fees may be charged for specialized care at the discretion of Animal Svcs.	Cost + 25%
Annual License Fees	
Dog Altered - 1 year (F&A 30804)	\$18.00
Dog Altered - 2 years (F&A 30804)	\$36.00
Dog Altered - 3 years (F&A 30804)	\$54.00
Dog Unaltered - 1 year	\$36.00
Dog Unaltered - 2 years	\$72.00
Dog Unaltered - 3 years	\$108.00
Cat Altered - Voluntary (F&A 30804.5)	\$5.00
Cat Unaltered - Voluntary	\$10.00
Vicious or dangerous animal - Application fee	\$200.00
Vicious or dangerous animal - Annual permit / license fee	\$110.00
Replacement of lost license tag	\$6.00
Reimbursement fee to Veterinarians/SPCA who sell licenses (per license)	\$3.00
Senior Discount	N/A
Kennel Permit/License	
Annual License and Inspection - 5 to 10 Dogs (2 Tags)	\$160.00
Annual License and Inspection - 11 to 15 Dogs (4 Tags)	\$175.00
Annual License and Inspection - 16 or more Dogs (6 Tags)	\$190.00
Each additional Dog License Tag	\$1.00
Re-Inspection Fee	\$91.00

Description	Proposed Fee
Penalty for failure to procure a license within 30 days/failure to renew license	
Altered	\$10.00
Unaltered	\$10.00
Penalty for failure to renew vicious or dangerous animal license/permit	\$110.00
Penalty for failure to renew kennel license	\$10.00
Field Services Fees	
Animal Control Officer (per hour)	\$91.00
Owner request - pick-up at residence	\$91.00
Animal Control Officer - After normal working hours (per hour)	\$104.00
Service trailer (per hour)	\$29.00
Other Fees	
Owner release at Shelter	\$44.00
Euthanasia request	\$49.00
Rabies Testing - Fluorescent Rabies Antibody test w/decapitation	\$154.00
Cat carrier containers (per carrier)	Cost + 25%
Leashes (per leash)	Cost + 25%
Ordering, purchasing, handling, or other fees	Cost + 25%
Microchip	\$25.00
FELV/FIV	\$20.00
Heartworm Test	\$20.00
Vaccine - DA2PP	\$8.00
Vaccine - FVRCP	\$8.00
Vaccine - Bordatella	\$8.00
Vaccine - Rabies	\$11.00
Adoption Fees	
Adoption - Cat (flat rate that includes spay/neuter & rabies vaccination, etc.)	\$88.00
Adoption - Dog (flat rate that includes spay/neuter & rabies vaccination, etc.)	\$107.00
Mini livestock or Other (rabbit, chicken, etc.)	\$15.00
Small livestock (goat, sheep, etc. - hold 14 bus. days)	\$40.00
Rats, mice, other rodents (hold 5 days)	\$4.00
Pig	\$40.00
Potbelly Pig	\$40.00
Iguana	\$50.00
Turtle	\$14.00
Python/Boa	\$74.00
Cockatiel/Parakeet	\$20.00
Amazon Parrot	\$74.00
Large livestock (horse, cattle - hold 14 bus. days)	Sealed bid or Auction Rate
Ostrich/Rhea/Emu	Sealed bid or Auction Rate

* Placer County Code gives authority to the Division Director or his/her designees the right to reduce or waive fees due to participants' financial hardship.

Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

**An Amendment to Section 2.116.130 of the
Placer County Code Regarding Domestic
Animal Control Fees.**

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

The following Ordinance was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____ by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN as follows:

Section 1: That Section 130 of Article 2.116 of Chapter 2 of the Placer County Code (Section 2.116.130), Fees for domestic animal control is hereby amended as follows:

2.116.130 Fees for domestic animal control services.

The Placer County health and human services, domestic animal ~~control~~ **services** division, shall charge and collect the following fees for services performed, excepting those fees waived by the director of health and human services, or his/her designee, due to participant's financial hardship.

~~These fees shall be automatically adjusted annually on the first day of July-~~ **The fees shall be reflected in a resolution of the Board of Supervisors and shall be subject to annual adjustment each July 1,** at the same rate as the state of California Department of Industrial Relations Consumer Price Index-California, for All Urban Consumers. The adjustment shall be calculated on the twelve (12) month period from April 1st through March 31st of each year. Adjusted fees shall be rounded to the nearest dollar, taking into account compounded percentage adjustments over multiple years.

Dog license fees shall be issued for one-half of the required fee if a certificate is presented from a licensed veterinarian that the dog has been spayed or neutered. California Food and Agriculture Code § 30804.5.

Ordinance No. _____

Date Adopted: _____

Owners of impounded unspayed or unneutered dogs shall be fined thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for the first occurrence, fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the second occurrence and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the third or subsequent occurrence. Animal control officers may write citations with a civil penalty in the amount corresponding to the violation. These fines are not in lieu of any fees that may be collected pursuant to this Section listed below. California Food and Agriculture Code 30804.7.

A.	Impound Fees (Section 6-20-020)	-
-	1. Food and Ordinary Care:	-
-	- a. Dog, cat, or other small animal (per day)	\$9.00
-	- b. Livestock (per day)	15.00
-	2. Redemption Fees for Dog, Cat, Fowl, Other Small Animal or Livestock	-
-	- a. Penalty for first impound within 12-month period	30.00
-	- b. Penalty for second impound within 24-month period	64.00
-	- c. Penalty for third impound within 24-month period	88.00
-	- d. Owner requests county pick-up at residence	22.00
-	- e. Owner releases at shelter (for animals over 4 months old)	18.00 per animal
B.	Quarantine fee, at owner's residence (Section 6-16-020)	30.00
C.	Disposal fee for dead animals of less than 100 pounds (Disposal of dead animals 100 pounds or over is referred to a rendering service)	10.00
D.	Annual License Fee, (Section 6-12-010)	-
-	1. Dog over 4 months	15.00
-	2. Spayed or neutered dog	7.00
-	3. Two-year license	24.00
-	4. Two-year license, spayed or neutered	12.00
-	5. Penalty for failure to renew	11.00
-	6. Penalty for failure to procure license within 30 days	11.00
-	7. Replacement of lost tag	2.00
-	8. Reimbursement fee to veterinarians for sale of licenses, per license	1.50
-	9. Cat license fee, at owner's request	6.00
-	10. Vicious or Dangerous Animal License	-
-	- a. Application fee	122.00
-	- b. Annual permit fee	61.00
-	11. Penalty for failure to renew vicious or dangerous animal permit	61.00
E.	Kennel License (Section 6-12-040)	-
-	- Annual License and Inspection Fee:	-
-	- 5-10 dogs (2 tags)	50.00
-	- 11-15 dogs (4 tags)	70.00
-	- 16 or more dogs (6 tags)	100.00
-	- Each additional dog license tag	1.00
F.	Field Service Fees	-
-	1. Animal control officer, including vehicle (per hour)	32.00
-	2. Animal control officer, including vehicle, weekdays after 5:00 p.m., weekends, and holidays (per hour)	40.00
G.	Cat carrier containers, per container	6.00
H.	Leashes, per leash	2.00
I.	Ordering, purchasing, handling, or other fees	Actual cost plus 25%
J.	Animal Adoption:	-
-	1. Dog or cat	15.00
-	2. Mini-livestock or other (rabbit, chicken, etc.)	1.00
-	3. Small livestock (goat, sheep, etc.)	Market rate; see

Ordinance No. _____

Date Adopted: _____

		supplemental schedule
4.	Large livestock (horse, cattle)	Sealed bid or auction
5.	Exotic animal	Market rate - see supplemental schedule
K.	Euthanasia	\$8.00

(Ord. 5149-B § 1, 2002; prior code § 2.1207)

Section 2: The Resolution reflecting the current fee schedule shall be on file with the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services, Community Health, Clinics, and Animal Services Division.

Section 3: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its passage. The Clerk is directed to publish this ordinance, or a summary thereof, within fifteen (15) days in accordance with Government Code Section 25124.