

Attachment 4
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Sonoma County Animal Services Fees
May 14, 2019

Public Health Division - Sonoma County Animal Services Fees

Sonoma County Animal Services (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. Animal Services' 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. The Department is proposing fee revisions for animal impounds, vaccinations, licenses, and boarding fees.

The proposed Animal Services fees recover increased costs associated with services delivery, including costs charged to the Department by general government and those associated with salary and benefits. Fees are imposed for a specific benefit conferred or service provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which do not exceed the reasonable costs to provide the benefit or service. Fees are also imposed for reasonable regulatory costs including enforcement inspections, investigations and audits. Revised fees are requested to recover the reasonable cost to provide these services which is generally a 4.5 percent cost of living increase since Animal Services fees were last revised effective July 1, 2018.

The Department is proposing 3.7 to 5.0 percent increases to the Animal Services fees as described below. Percentage increases are as close as possible to 4.5 percent to recover the reasonable cost to provide these services

Changes to Existing Animal Services Fees:

Animal Impound and Board 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.

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.

Impound - Cat Altered – The fee increase from \$22.00 to \$23.00 will result in \$43.00 in additional revenue and 14.9 percent cost recovery.

Attachment 4
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Sonoma County Animal Services Fees
May 14, 2019

Impound - Cat Unaltered – The fee increase from \$27.00 to \$28.00 will result in \$6.00 in additional revenue and 18.2 percent cost recovery.

Impound - Dog First Impound - Licensed – The fee increase from \$65.00 to \$68.00 will result in \$480.00 in additional revenue and 44.2 percent cost recovery.

Impound - Dog First Impound – Not Licensed – The fee increase from \$81.00 to \$85.00 will result in \$1,244.00 in additional revenue and 55.2 percent cost recovery.

Impound - Dog Second Impound - Licensed – The fee increase from \$136.00 to \$142.00 will result in \$294.00 in additional revenue and 92.2 percent cost recovery.

Impound - Large Livestock – The fee increase from \$59.00 to \$62.00 will result in \$6.00 in additional revenue and 40.3 percent cost recovery.

Impound - Small Livestock – The fee increase from \$27.00 to \$28.00 will result in \$6.00 in additional revenue and 18.2 percent cost recovery.

Impound – Rabies Quarantine – The fee increase from \$99.00 to \$103.00 will result in \$144.00 in additional revenue and 66.9 percent cost recovery.

Board Per Day - Dog – The fee increase from \$22.00 to \$23.00 will result in \$319.00 in additional revenue and 59.8 percent cost recovery.

Board Per Day - Cat – The fee increase from \$22.00 to \$23.00 will result in \$33.00 in additional revenue and 59.8 percent cost recovery.

Board Per Day - Livestock – The fee increase from \$22.00 to \$23.00 will result in \$7.00 in additional revenue and 59.8 percent cost recovery.

Board Per Day - Rabies Quarantine – The fee increase from \$27.00 to \$28.00 will result in \$34.00 in additional revenue and 72.8 percent cost recovery.

Dog License Fees

California Health and Safety Code Section 121690 states that every dog owner, after the dog reaches the age of four months, shall have it vaccinated for rabies and shall secure a license for the dog as provided by ordinance of the responsible city or county. Sonoma County Code Chapter 5 requires a dog owner to apply for a dog license within thirty (30) days after the dog is vaccinated for rabies. Dog licensing is an integral component of the Sonoma County Animal Services rabies prevention strategy as licensing data is used to report compliance with state rabies vaccination requirements.

License - Dog Altered – The fee increase from \$26.00 to \$27.00 will result in \$17,548.00 in additional revenue and 68.1 percent cost recovery. The requested increase recovers the 3 percent cost of living increase while maintaining a cost structure consistent with comparable counties.

License - Dog Altered - Senior Citizen – The fee increase from \$13.00 to \$13.50 will result in \$2,499.00 in additional revenue and 34.0 percent cost recovery. The requested increase

Attachment 4
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Sonoma County Animal Services Fees
May 14, 2019

recovers the 3 percent of the cost of living increase while maintaining the 50 percent senior citizen discount structure.

License - Dog Unaltered – The fee increase from \$100.00 to \$104.00 will result in \$10,888.00 in additional revenue and 60.1 percent cost recovery. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

License – Late License Penalty – The fee increase from \$40.00 to \$42.00 will result in \$2,122.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel/Pet Shop License Fees

Kennel License - Commercial Kennel – The fee increase from \$201.00 to \$210.00 will result in \$279.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel License - Hobby Kennel – The fee increase from \$201.00 to \$210.00 will result in \$9.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel License - Pet Fancier Cat Altered – The fee increase from \$21.00 to \$22.00 will result in \$1.00 additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel License - Pet Fancier Cat Unaltered – The fee increase from \$41.00 to \$43.00 will result in no additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel License - Pet Fancier Dog Altered – The fee increase from \$41.00 to \$43.00 will result in \$34.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel License - Pet Fancier Dog Unaltered – The fee increase from \$83.00 to \$87.00 will result in \$100.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Kennel License - Pet Shop – The fee increase from \$201.00 to \$210.00 will result in \$9.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Other Fees

Animal Rendering Service – The fee increase from \$71.00 to \$74.00 will result in \$630.00 in additional revenue and 95.5 percent cost recovery.

Vicious Dog Registration – The fee increase from \$355.00 to \$371.00 will result in \$368.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Potentially Dangerous Dog Registration – The fee increase from \$142.00 to \$148.00 will result in \$576.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Attachment 4
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Sonoma County Animal Services Fees
May 14, 2019

Rabies Quarantine - Home – The fee increase from \$70.00 to \$73.00 will result in \$624.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Owner Surrender Fee, Non-Contract City – The fee increase from 114.00 to \$119.00 will result in \$35.00 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Owner Surrender Fee (Dog, Cat, Litters, Livestock, Birds) – The fee increase from \$57.00 to \$60.00 will result in \$678 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Vaccination Bordatella – The fee increase from \$25 to \$26 will result in \$247 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Vaccination DHLPP – The fee increase from \$25 to \$26 will result in \$208 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Vaccination FVRCP – The fee increase from \$25 to \$26 will result in \$31 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Vaccination/Testing FELV/FIV - The fee increase from \$25 to \$26 will result in \$2 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Vaccination/Testing Heartworm - The fee increase from \$25 to \$26 will result in \$10 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

Vaccination/Rabies - The fee increase from \$20 to \$21 will result in \$78 in additional revenue. The requested increase recovers the 4.5 percent cost of living increase.

The overall increase in revenue for FY 19-20 Animal Services is estimated at \$39,592.

Attachment 4
Department of Health Services
Public Health Division - Sonoma County Animal Services Fees
May 14, 2019

Productivity, Efficiency and Customer Service Improvement Plan for Animal Services

- Increase awareness of the requirement to license dogs, and the benefits for both the pet and the owner.
- Incentivize licensing by providing a late license penalty fee waiver applied to both renewals and those who have never licensed their pet.
- Continue working closely with local veterinarians to establish and maintain the pathway for easy monthly upload of rabies vaccination certification.
- Sell licenses at hosted rabies vaccination and licensing events.

Summary of Expected Results

- The number of dog licenses issued will be increased by 10 percent.
- Increased use of license tags will enable field officers to more often identify where stray animals live and return them to their homes without a trip to the shelter, saving impound and boarding fees and keeping the animals safe.

Summary of Results of Prior Year Plan

- Continued to collaborate with veterinary practices to increase State mandated rabies vaccination data reporting by providing an easy way to electronically upload the information.
- Effectively engaged the community through social media providing a wide-reaching platform to communicate quickly when necessary for the health and safety of pets and their owners.
- Increased the focus of social media to increase community awareness of the dog licensing requirement.