



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 7, 2009  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Community Services Division, Police Department  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Increase To Animal Control Fees

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Resolution No. 08-060, Establishing Certain Dog Licensing Fees, Adjusting Animal Control Fees, and Rescinding Resolution Nos. 07-052, 07-085, and 08-013.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Providing animal services to the residents on the South Coast is a costly but necessary endeavor for all agencies that provide public safety. The City of Santa Barbara has continually provided its citizens with top-level service through the Police Department's Animal Control section however; costs continue to rise on an annual basis. Since 1980, Santa Barbara City's Animal Control program has contracted with Santa Barbara County to provide shelter services which include impounding and shelter boarding stray animals, euthanizing animals when necessary, and providing dead animal disposal. On April 28, 2008, the City of Santa Barbara entered a contractual agreement with the County of Santa Barbara for a negotiated incremental increase in animal shelter service fees from \$50,000 annually culminating in annual fees of \$265,000 in FY2011, a 530% increase. The City of Santa Barbara does not provide animal sheltering services and currently, there is no alternative to utilizing Santa Barbara County's Animal Shelter for mandated services.

To keep track with the increased cost of providing services, most agencies on the South Coast have increased fees associated with licensing dogs. Currently, the law provides an incentive for owners who spay or neuter their dog by requiring agencies to charge one-half of the cost per dog license if the animal is altered (spayed or neutered). On March 1, 2009, Santa Barbara County Animal Services increased dog licensing fees from \$39 for a one year license (unaltered dog) to \$50. Ventura County Animal Regulations currently charges \$50 for an unaltered one year license. The proposed fee increase by Santa Barbara City Animal Services is comparable to other local agency's animal fees and reflects the increasing costs of providing Animal Control services to residents and local veterinarians participating in the animal licensing program in the City of Santa Barbara.

Due to the increasing cost of providing animal services, the Police Department recommends the following fees be changed and approved by Council. To allow for a public awareness campaign, the effective date for the fee increases will be June 1, 2009.

**PROPOSED DOG LICENSING FEE ADJUSTMENT:**

	From	To
• One year/regular fee:	\$40.00	\$50.00
• One year/altered fee:	\$20.00	\$25.00
• Six month/regular fee:	\$20.00	\$25.00
• Six month/altered fee:	\$10.00	\$12.00
• Duplicate tag:	\$10.00	\$12.00
• One year senior citizen/regular fee:	\$20.00	\$25.00
• One year senior citizen/altered fee:	\$10.00	\$12.00
• Six month senior citizen/regular fee:	\$10.00	\$12.00
• Six month senior citizen/altered fee:	\$5.00	\$6.00
• Senior citizen duplicate tag:	\$5.00	\$6.00
• All late penalty fees	\$20.00	\$25.00

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Revenues to the City from the dog license fee increase are estimated at \$25,000 per year.

**PREPARED BY:** David Whitham, Administrative Services Lieutenant

**SUBMITTED BY:** Cam Sanchez, Chief of Police

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office