



Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Regulatory Services – Environmental Management & Safety

Date: July 20, 2006

To: Council Member Don Samuels, Chair
Public Safety & Regulatory Services Committee
Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 62.10, establishing Minneapolis Animal Care & Control as the enforcement authority for the provisions of Chapters 64 and 66 and eliminating the Department of Health as the enforcement authority.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 62.40, deleting 64.40(c) dealing with a sterilization deposit fee upon the redemption of any lawfully impounded dog or cat over 6 months of age found at large and not previously sterilized.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 64.10, changing the licensing authority from the Department of Licenses and Consumer Services to Minneapolis Animal Care & Control.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 64.10, changing the punishment provision from a \$100.00 fine to an administrative fine.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 64.30, removing the license fee schedule from subsection (a) to subsection (b) and changing the license fee from \$15.00 for spayed or neutered dogs and cats to \$30.00 and changing the license fee from \$30.00 for unspayed or unneutered dogs and cats to \$50.00.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 64.30, establishing a lifetime license for dogs and cats that are spayed or neutered and are microchipped and establishing a license fee of \$200.00 for a lifetime license.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 64.30, eliminating the payment of a \$2.00 administrative expense to veterinary clinics that are contracted with Minneapolis Animal Care & Control to process dog and cat license applications.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Minneapolis Code of Ordinances 64.140, eliminating provision allowing for partial reimbursement of veterinarians for spaying or neutering.

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance.

Previous Directives: NA

Prepared by/Presenters in Committee: Lori Olson, Deputy Director, Environmental Management & Safety, and Tom Doty and Marilyn Fisher, Co-Managers, Animal Care & Control

Approved by: Burt Osborne, Director, Licenses & Environmental Management

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not Applicable

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Date of Approval _____ Not Applicable

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Action requires an appropriation increase to the _____ Capital Budget or _____ Operating Budget.

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase (in 2007 Budget request).

Action requires use of contingency or reserves.

Business Plan: _____ Action is within the plan. _____ Action requires a change to plan.

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals

Comprehensive Plan

Zoning Code

Other

Background/Supporting Information Attached

Spay/Neuter Reimbursement

The proposed amendment would eliminate the reimbursement for spaying or neutering an animal adopted from the shelter. Currently, an individual makes a \$30 sterilization deposit at the time of adoption and is given a list of participating veterinarians. The participating veterinarian program is comprised of two components: 1) the spay/neuter reimbursement and 2) a free initial exam to all animals adopted from the program. Approximately 156 veterinarians participate in this program.

When documentation of sterilization is received by Animal Care & Control, a \$15 reimbursement from the deposit is mailed to the veterinarian from the program's list. If the individual takes the animal to a non-participating veterinarian, the individual receives the \$15 reimbursement. Animal Care & Control retains the remaining \$15 to cover overhead costs. An analysis of the process found that the City spends far more than \$15 on the processing of these deposit refund requests than the amount merits. In addition, the amount does not significantly defray the cost of sterilization.

Professional staff's opinion is that this change will not have an impact on the sterilizations of animals adopted from the program. From our discussions with veterinarians participating in the program, they are not concerned about the reimbursement; rather, they participate for the access to new clients through the free initial exam. We will continue to provide a list of veterinarians who offer free exams to newly adopted animals.

License Fee

Current license fees for dogs/cats are \$15 sterilized and \$30 non-sterilized. The proposed ordinance amendment would increase the fees to \$30 sterilized and \$50 non-sterilized. The most recent license increase occurred in 2002.

Effective January 1, 2007, a \$200 lifetime license will be an option for individuals with sterilized and microchipped dogs/cats who seek the convenience of a one-time application process.

Prior to December 31, 2006, lifetime licenses will be issued in the amount of \$100 to increase awareness and to promote the licensing of dogs and cats.

License revenue is the primary revenue source for the Animal Care & Control program. In 2005, Animal Care & Control licensed 9,707 sterilized dogs and 1,390 non-sterilized dogs, which generated approximately \$200,000 in revenue. The proposed increase should generate approximately \$360,700 in revenue for 2007. In 2005, the Animal Care & Control operating budget was \$1,827,759 million with revenue accounting for \$312,945.

Administrative Fines

The proposed amendment also makes violations of the spay/neuter adoption requirement punishable by an administrative fine of \$200.00 rather than a petty misdemeanor.

