

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Animal Services

BOARD AGENDA # *B-11

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE March 24, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Set a Public Hearing on April 28, 2009 at 9:15 AM to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance To Amend Section 7.32.110 Voluntary Surrender and to Adopt 2009 Fee Schedule in Accordance with Chapter 7.50 Animal Services Fee

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Set a Public Hearing on April 28, 2009 at 9:15 AM to introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 7.32.110 Voluntary Surrender and to adopt 2009 Fee Schedule in Accordance with Chapter 7.50 Animal Services Fees.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Animal Services is requesting adding a new fee of \$203 that will be charged to the owner of any animal that is surrendered if the owner's primary residence is not located within a jurisdiction served by the Department of Animal Services. There is also a request for a new cat fee for the Stanislaus County Alternative to Euthanasia (SCATE) program of \$50 for a Low Income Voucher for a male cat and \$63 for a Low Income Voucher for a female Cat. The Standard Voucher would be \$72 for a male cat and \$113 for a female cat. The remaining fees collected by the department will remain unchanged. These new fees will generate approximately \$13,950 in annual revenue. Continued on Page 2

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-172

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Grover
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No. ORD-55-J-4

Approval to Set a Public Hearing on April 28, 2009 at 9:15 AM to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance To Amend Section 7.32.110 Voluntary Surrender and to Adopt 2009 Fee Schedule in Accordance with Chapter 7.50 Animal Services Fee

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FISCAL IMPACT: (Continued)

The additional revenue will be included in the Animal Services 2009-2010 Proposed Budget. If approved, these fees will be effective 30 days after the adoption of the ordinance.

The cost recovery formula for animal surrendered integrates the costs to administer the activity by staff. Elements taken into consideration when calculating the cost of surrendered animals are:

- A. Average number of days that an impounded animal is held before adoption.
- B. Average time for various staff members to perform intake, which includes vaccination, adoption, daily care such as cleaning and feeding and spay/neuter surgery if needed.

The total cost is \$29 a day x 7 days = total cost of \$203 per animal.

Customers whose primary residence is not located within a jurisdiction served by the Department of Animal Services will be encouraged to surrender their animals to their respective city. If they chose to leave the animal with the Department of Animal Services, they will be charged the \$203 fee.

New SCATE fees were adopted by the Board of Supervisors July 15, 2008 for both cats and dogs. Upon reviewing the data on numbers of vouchers sold the Department determined there was a significant difference in the number of vouchers sold for cats and for dogs. Animal Services is now requesting to establish a new fee to identify a separate fee for the low income and standard vouchers for cats, and further defining it as male and female cats. The requested low-income fee is \$63 for female cats and \$50 for male cats. The requested standard voucher for female cats \$113 and \$72 for male cats. The Department anticipates that by lowering the fee the sale of cat vouchers will increase, resulting in an overall revenue increase in the Animal Services Trust-Donation budget by \$13,950.

The Stanislaus County Alternative To Euthanasia (SCATE) is designed to assist the animal owner to purchase a voucher at a reduced cost to spay or neuter their dog or cat. Under the existing fee structure for dogs the county developed a formula in July 2008 that customers pay a total of 25% of the surgery costs for a low income voucher and 75% of the surgery costs for a standard voucher. The SCATE voucher for dogs has remained constant since the new fees were implemented. The time period of August 15, 2008 through February 15, 2009, a total of 803 vouchers were sold. In comparison to August 15, 2006 through February 15, 2007, a total of 832 dog SCATE vouchers were sold. Under the new fee structure the dog SCATE voucher would remain the same.

At the time the new SCATE vouchers fees were adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the fee was for both cats and dogs. The sale of vouchers for cats has decreased 85% since the implementation of the new fees on August 15, 2008. The time period of August 15, 2008 through February 15, 2009 only 51 cat SCATE vouchers were sold. In comparison to August 15, 2006 through February 15, 2007, a total of 330 cat SCATE vouchers were sold. The cat SCATE voucher is adjusted to reflect the same formula so owners would pay 25% of the surgery costs for low income and 75% of the surgery costs for a standard voucher. The County funds the cost difference between the voucher fees and the actual surgery costs charged.

DISCUSSION:

Fee for surrendered animal not within the jurisdiction served by Animal Services

Stanislaus County is continuing to work with partnering cities toward forming a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to create a partnership for the purpose of administering animal shelter services. One goal proposed by the County for the JPA is to create a new level of partnership that would equitably allocate costs to partner cities based upon their percent of animal intake into the shelter.

Under the new JPA model services are only provided to a jurisdiction that pays for the service. The intent of the model is that customers whose primary residence is not located within a jurisdiction served by the Department of Animal Services will be encouraged to surrender their animals to their respective city. Implementation of these fees insures that the Department will recoup the cost of these surrendered animals.

A survey of the eight comparison counties has been completed and reveals that most counties refuse to accept these animals from other jurisdictions, define these unclaimed animals as lost revenue. It is noted that two counties included in the survey are conducting a study to consider charging a fee in the near future. The comparison county survey results are attached as Addendum A.

Stanislaus Alternative to Euthanasia (SCATE) Fees

The SCATE program was first implemented in December 2001 with a standard fee for both cats and dogs. To date the fee increases are as follows:

Date	Fee
December 2001	\$30
March 2002	\$40
July 2004	\$50
August 2008	Low Income \$72, Standard \$140

Animal Services and the Northern San Joaquin Veterinary Medical Association negotiated a fee structure for the fees private veterinarians could bill to Animal Services for providing spays and neuters pursuant to the SCATE vouchers. This new fee structure became effective July 1, 2007.

In July 2008 Animal Services created a two-tier SCATE voucher fee schedule that was for both dogs and cats. A standard voucher fee of \$140 and a low-income fee of \$72.00 for those predetermined to be low income. Low income being defined as:

- Medi-Cal Card (Benefits Identification Card)
- Food Stamp EBT Card
- Pacific Gas & Electric CARE utility bill

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- Telephone bill with low-income designation

Currently the sole eligibility to purchase a standard voucher is being a resident of Stanislaus County along with the animal living in Stanislaus County.

Since the fee increase in August 2008, dog SCATE vouchers continue to sell at a steady rate. Revenue from the increase in price of the voucher has continued to support the cost of the program. There has been no decrease in the demand for SCATE vouchers for dogs for the time period of August 15, 2008 through February 15, 2009.

There has however been a significant decline in the sale of SCATE vouchers for cats. Since the inception of the new fee schedule the sale of SCATE vouchers has decreased 85% for cats.

Animal Services recommends maintaining the existing two-tier fee structure for the SCATE voucher for dog fees at \$72 for low income and \$140 for standard.

An amended SCATE voucher fee for cats is recommended as follows:

Amended Fee for Cat SCATE voucher	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Low Income SCATE voucher 1. Male Cat 2. Female Cat	1. \$72 2. \$72	1. \$50 2. \$63
Standard Income SCATE voucher 1. Male Cat 2. Female Cat	1. \$140 2. \$140	1. \$72 2. \$113

The low-income price of \$50 and \$63 reflects what a low-income pet owner would be paying for 25% of the surgery costs. The standard fee of \$72 and \$113 reflects what a pet owner would be paying for 75% of the surgery costs. The new fees are still an incentive to participate in the SCATE program, as these rates are still lower than what the citizen would have to pay if they did not use the SCATE program. The average cost to use private sector without a SCATE voucher in Stanislaus County for a small male cat is \$79 and a large male cat is \$85. An average cost for a small female cat is \$135 and a large female cat is \$136. In addition to the spay/neuter an animal also receives in the fee of the voucher a microchip, vaccination, and a license.

Animal Services sponsors one low cost vaccination and license clinic per month. These clinics are held at twelve different locations through the communities in the county. The Department will continue to offer up to 200 vouchers a month at the clinics. This is the total amount budgeted to be

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sold for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The balance of any unsold vouchers will be sold over the counter at the shelter.

A survey of the eight comparison counties has been completed and reveals that most counties have a two-tier fee for male and female cats. The average cost of a female cat to be spayed is \$43.33 and the average cost for a male cat to be neutered is \$30.00. This fee is based on the cost for the spay/neuter surgery only. The fee does not include the cost of the microchip, vaccination or a license. As seen in Addendum B.

POLICY ISSUES:

Approval of this agenda item adopting a new fee and the 2009 Fee Schedule will address the Board of Supervisors' priority of Efficient delivery of public services by ensuring that the Department of Animal Services is appropriately charging fees to maintain the current level of services to the public.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

Animal Services City Billing Fees Survey
Data as of March 10, 2009
Addendum A

County	Over the counter out of jurisdiction Intake	Out of jurisdiction fees to cities for stray animals surrendered without an owner	Animals taken in out of jurisdiction that are surrendered without an owner	Charges county receives from other jurisdiction for animals received out of jurisdiction
Fresno	Refused	Lost Revenue	Transport to jurisdiction shelter	n/a
Kern	Refused	Currently lost revenue. Performed study currently considering \$88.28 per animal	Transport to jurisdiction shelter	\$54.28-Ridgecrest
Monterey	Refused	Lost Revenue	Transport to jurisdiction shelter-meet half way	n/a
Sacramento	Refused	Currently lost revenue. Performed study currently considering \$171.50 per animal	Transport to jurisdiction shelter	n/a
San Joaquin	Accept animals within county, refuse out of county	The fee is the prorated share of budget using number of intake animals.	Transport to jurisdiction shelter	n/a
Solano	Refused	The fee is the prorated share of budget using number of intake animals.	Lost Revenue	n/a
Sonoma	accept owner surrender for \$60.00 (standard \$30.00) Strays taken in depending on situation	Lost Revenue	Transport to jurisdiction shelter	n/a
Ventura	Refused	Lost Revenue	Transport to jurisdiction shelter	n/a
Stanislaus	Refused	Lost Revenue	Lost Revenue	n/a

**Animal Services Spay/Neuter Fees Survey
Data as of March 11, 2009**

Addendum B

County	Name of Program	Cats		Dogs	
		Female	Male	Female	Male
Fresno	Referral to Non Profit - CC/SPCA				
Kern	Referral to Non Profit - H.O.P.E.				
Monterey	AC Clinic	\$75.00	\$40.00	\$95.00	\$87.00
Sacramento	S.N.I.P-Low Income Only	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
	Mobile S/N Commuter	\$35.00	\$20.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
San Joaquin	Referral to Non Profit - Stockton Animal Shelter Friends				
Solano	Vouchers	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$55.00-\$75.00	\$30.00-\$40.00
Sonoma	Vet. Services	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$60.00-\$90.00	\$60.00-\$90.00
Ventura	Vouchers	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Average		\$43.33	\$30.00	\$57.50 to \$65.84	\$52.00 to \$58.67
Stanislaus	S.C.A.T.E. Cost for spay/neuter only. Does not include the price of microchip, vaccination or license.	Low income \$34 Standard \$102	Low income \$34 Standard \$102	Low income \$34 Standard \$102	Low income \$34 Standard \$102
Difference \$		\$9.33 to (\$58.67)	(\$4.00) to (\$72.00)	\$23.50 to (\$36.16)	\$18.00 to (\$43.33)
Difference %		27% to -57%	-11% to -71%	69% to -35%	52% to -42%

ORDINANCE NO. C.S. _____

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO FEES AND FINES CHARGED BY
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 7.32.110 of Chapter 7.32 of Title 7 is hereby amended in the Stanislaus County Code to read as follows:

“7.32.110 Voluntary Surrender.

Any animal which is voluntarily surrendered to or deposited with the animal control center or the animal control officer by the owner shall immediately thereafter become the property of the county for the purposes of Sections 7.32.140 and 7.32.150.

A fee shall be paid by the owner of any animal that is voluntarily surrendered to or deposited with the animal control shelter, if that owner's primary residence is not located within a jurisdiction served by the Department of Animal Services.”

Section 2. Fees collected by the Department of Animal Services are adopted and amended as set forth in the Stanislaus County Department of Animal Services 2009 Fee Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and is available for public inspection and copying in that office in accordance with the California Public Records Act.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from and after the date of its passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it shall be published once, with the names of the members voting for and against the

same, in the Modesto Bee, a newspaper published in the County of Stanislaus, State of California.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, the _____ day of _____, 2009, by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors: _____

NOES: Supervisors: _____

ABSENT: Supervisors: _____

Jim DeMartini, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California

ATTEST:

Christine Ferraro Tallman
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California

By _____
Elizabeth A. King, Assistant Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN P. DOERING, County Counsel

By Deirdre McGrath
Deirdre McGrath
Deputy County Counsel

**Stanislaus County Department Of
Animal Services**

2009 Fee Schedule

LICENSES

Dog:	Annual dog license—Unaltered	\$150.00
	Two year license—Unaltered	\$250.00
	Three year license—Unaltered	\$350.00
	Annual dog license—Reduced fee, unaltered	\$28.00
	Annual dog license—Altered	\$12.00
Cat:	Voluntary cat annual license	\$12.00
Dog or Cat:	Delinquent penalties	\$12.00
Senior citizens over 65 year of age receive a 50% discount		
Kennel:	Hobby kennel	\$100.00
	Breeder/boarding/security	\$150.00
	Others per section 7.24.010	\$50.00
Litter Permit:	Litter license permit fee	\$100.00 per litter
Litter Permit:	Penalty	\$500.00

RECLAIMED AND IMPOUND FEES

Dog and cat:	1 st impound	\$45.00
	2 nd impound in 12 month period	\$65.00
	3 rd impound in 12 month period	\$100.00
Small livestock		\$45.00
Large livestock	1 st impound	\$75.00
	2 nd impound in 12 month period	\$100.00
	3 rd impound in 12 month period	\$100.00

SPAY AND NEUTER FINES (Food & Ag Code 31751.7 and 30804.7)

Dog and cat:	1 st impound	\$35.00
	2 nd impound	\$50.00
	3 rd impound	\$100.00

DAILY CARE AND FEED

Board and care of all animals: \$15.00

VETERINARY CARE

Level One Fee: \$35.00
Basic examination only, no treatment of any kind

Level Two Fee: \$60.00
Examination and minor treatments, e.g., basic wound care, antibiotic injection, subcutaneous fluids, and bath

Level Three Fee: \$135.00
Examination and extensive treatment, e.g., care requiring sedation, subcutaneous fluids, multiple injections, etc.

Level Four Fee: \$220.00
Examination and extensive treatment, e.g., care requiring general anesthesia and minor surgery, injections, fluids, multi-day care

Level Five Fee: \$370.00
Includes exam and life saving treatment, e.g., resuscitation, Anesthesia and extensive wound care/surgery, injections, fluids, multi-day care

Outside veterinary care (e.g., after hours emergency clinic) Actual cost

VACCINATIONS AND TREATMENTS

Rabies: \$6.00

Distemper/ParvoHPP \$10.00
e.g., DHPP (distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvo)

Feline Upper Respiratory \$10.00
e.g., FVR-CP (feline rhinotracheitis-calici-panleukopenia)

Bordatella vaccination \$10.00

Deworming \$10.00

Frontline flea treatment \$8.00

DISPOSAL FEE

Per small animal: \$10.00
(large livestock not accepted)

FIELD SERVICE CHARGES

Pick up or trip charges for small animals: \$45.00

Pick up or trip charges for large livestock: \$75.00

QUARANTINE FEE

Fee: \$50.00

MICROCHIP FEE

Fee: \$20.00

CAT TRAP FEE

Rental deposit: \$65.00

Per day rental fee: \$2.00

ADOPTION FEE AND DEPOSITS

Dog: \$90.00
Includes rabies, DHPP, microchip, spay/neuter

Cat: \$45.00
Includes FVR-CP, rabies, microchip, spay/neuter and
FeLV test (feline leukemia virus)

OWNER SURRENDER FEE

Fee: \$30.00
Fee for customers who live outside a partnering city: \$204.45

STANISLAUS COUNTY ALTERNATIVE TO EUTHANASIA

Dog:
SCATE low income voucher: \$72.00
SCATE standard voucher: \$140.00

Cat:

SCATE low income voucher

1. Male Cat	\$50.00
2. Female Cat	\$63.00

SCATE standard voucher

1. Male Cat	\$72.00
2. Female Cat	\$113.00

ANIMAL COURT FEES

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FINE AMOUNT
Section 7.04.040	Interfere or resist with Animal services officer	\$320.00
Section 7.16.030(1)	Leash violation	\$160.00
Section 7.16.030(2)	Trespass	\$160.00
Section 7.16.030(3)	Animal noise	\$160.00
Section 7.16.030(4)	Public nuisance	\$160.00
Section 7.20.010	License required	
	No license with proof	\$15.00
	No license without proof	\$251.00
Section 7.20.020	No license tag on dog	\$251.00
Section 7.24.010	Kennel license required	\$251.00
Section 7.36.050	No vaccination	\$251.00
Section 7.44.010	Abandonment	\$160.00
Section 7.44.020	Dead animal removal	\$160.00
Section 7.08.020	Potentially dangerous/vicious dog	\$500.00
Section 7.12.030A	Animal Court hearing Deposit	Amount of violations being charged
Section 7.12.030C	Appeal fee to Board of Supervisors	\$144.00

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 28, 2009, at 9:15 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors will meet in the Basement Chambers, 1010 10th St., Modesto, CA, to consider:

- A. Approval to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance to Establish New Fees and Amend Existing Fees for Building Permits (for further information, contact Dennis Wister, Chief Building Official, Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development at (209) 525-6557 or at 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA)
- B. Approval to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance to Establish New Fees and Amend Existing Fees for Planning Services (for further information, Kirk Ford, Director of the Planning and Community Development Department at (209) 525-6330 or at 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA)
- C. Approval to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Existing Juvenile Hall Daily Fee and Juvenile Justice Daily Support Fee for the Stanislaus County Probation Department (for further information, contact Karen Curci, Probation Department Administrative Services Manager, at (209) 525-4556 or at 2215 Blue Gum Ave Modesto, CA.
- D. Approval to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Stanislaus County Code Section 7.32.110 Voluntary Surrender and to Adopt the 2009 Fee Schedule in accordance with Stanislaus County Code Chapter 7.50 Animal Services Fees (for further information, contact Annette Patton, Deputy Director of the Stanislaus County Department of Animal Services at (209) 342-1787 or at 2846 Finch Road, Modesto, CA.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE IS GIVEN that the proposed Ordinances and Fee Schedules will be available for review on April 17, 2009, in the Clerk of the Board Office, 1010 10th Street, Suite 6700, Modesto, CA.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the said time and place, interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Material submitted to the Board for consideration (i.e. photos, petitions, etc.) will be retained by the County. If a challenge to one or more of the above items is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATED: March 24, 2009

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Stanislaus,
State of California.

BY:


Elizabeth A. King, Assistant Clerk

**DECLARATION OF PUBLICATION
(C.C.P. S2015.5)**

**COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident Of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of Eighteen years, and not a party to or interested In the above entitle matter. I am a printer and Principal clerk of the publisher of **THE MODESTO BEE**, printed in the City of **MODESTO** , County of **STANISLAUS** , State of California, daily, for which said newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of **STANISLAUS** , State of California, Under the date of **February 25, 1951, Action No. 46453**; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each issue there of on the following dates, to wit:

Apr 17, 2009, Apr 23, 2009

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
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Pub Dates April 17, 23, 2009

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury That the foregoing is true and correct and that This declaration was executed at

MODESTO, California on

April 23rd, 2009

(Signature)

