



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: May 19, 2015

Title: An Ordinance Amending Pima County Code 6.04.070 Dog vaccinating, licensing and permitting procedure and fees within county limits.

Introduction/Background:

Pima County Code 6.04.070 itemizes dog licensing fees. At its March 19, 2015 meeting, the Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee heard staff's recommendation to increase dog licensing fees by one dollar per year for five years. The Committee, by approved motion, supported that recommendation. The Committee also, in the same motion recommended that the low income unaltered dog licensing fee be eliminated. Staff concurs with this recommendation and has generated the proposed ordinance to change dog licensing fees.

Discussion:

Pima County Code 6.04.070 Dog vaccinating, licensing and permitting procedure and fees within county limits, has not been updated since 2011 when a kennel late fee was established and the postage fee was updated to a Postage/Processing fee. Dog licensing fees have not been increased since June 2009. This ordinance will raise most categories of dog licensing fees for dog owners in unincorporated Pima County by \$1 each July 1st from 2015 through 2019. The impact over time on owners and the County budget is provided on the attached Additional Information and Comment Received Log. At its March 19, 2015 meeting the Animal Care Advisory Committee voted to support this proposal.

While considering staff's one dollar incremental increase proposal, the Animal Care Advisory Committee also made the recommendation to eliminate the one time, \$27 unaltered dog license fee for households below the federal poverty level. The Advisory Committee felt all owners, with the exception of senior/disabled owners, should be subject to the same unaltered dog licensing fee. In recent years the County, its citizens and many animal welfare partners have invested significantly in low cost spay/neuter programs to provide affordable options for such owners as the community moves to significantly reduce pet overpopulation. Elimination of this fee category would default these unaltered dog licenses to the code's current unaltered dog license fee of \$60. Staff concurs with the Committee's recommendation.

The Log also records that, at an April 16, 2015 meeting with city and town senior leadership, County staff received several positive feedback in support of the increase to the licensing fees. The Pima County Board of Health is scheduled to hear the proposal at their April 29, 2015 meeting. The Additional Information and Comment Received Log also identifies completion of the mandated public posting and advertising of the Ordinance and the new fees.

Conclusion:

Dog licensing fees have not increased in the past six years. This nominal increase in dog licensing fees to offset up to \$.25 million in animal care expenses by Fiscal Year 2019 would greatly aide in mitigating State costs being shifted to the County, a sluggish economic recovery and other negative fiscal impacts to the General Fund. Therefore, staff presents an ordinance to raise dog licensing fees by one dollar per year, incrementally for five years from July 1, 2015 through July 1, 2019. The ordinance also includes elimination of the discounted one time, low income, unaltered dog licensing fee. The Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee and cities' and towns' senior staff support this ordinance.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board adopt Ordinance 2015-_____Amending Pima County Code Title 6, Chapter 6.04 Section 6.04.070 to incrementally raise dog licensing fees by one dollar per year beginning July 1 2015 through July 1 2019, and eliminate the low income unaltered dog licensing fee.

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated \$49,000 annually per \$1 increment

Board of Supervisor District:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ All

Department: Health

Telephone: 724-7776

Department Director Signature/Date: _____

[Signature]

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: _____

Jher 4/27/15

County Administrator Signature/Date: _____

C. Dunkelberg 4/27/15

ORDINANCE 2015- _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, RELATING TO ANIMALS; AMENDING PIMA COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 6.04 TO INCREASE DOG LICENSING FEES

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, FINDS THAT:

1. The Board of Supervisors has authority under A.R.S. § 11-1008 to set dog licensing fees.
2. It is in the best interests of the County to eliminate the reduced low-income licensing fee for unaltered dogs in order to encourage all dog owners to spay or neuter their pets.
3. It is in the best interests of the County to increase dog licensing fees to offset cost increases associated with operating the licensing program, sheltering unwanted and homeless pets, and providing animal welfare and rabies control enforcement service to the community.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:

SECTION 1: Section 1 of Ordinance No. 2011-69 and subsections 6.04.070(B) and (H) of the Pima County Code are amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 6.04

ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS

. . . .

6.04.070 - Dog vaccinating, licensing and permitting procedure and fees within county limits.

. . . .

B. The licensing fees for dogs three months of age or over which are kept within the boundaries of the county for at least thirty consecutive days are as follows:

1. Regular, unaltered dog—sixty dollars.

2. Regular, altered dog—fifteen dollars.
3. Dogs declared dangerous or vicious—one hundred dollars.
4. Senior/disabled citizen owner, unaltered dog (limit four discounted dog licenses per household)—seventeen dollars.
5. Senior/disabled citizen owner, altered dog (limit four discounted dog licenses per household)—ten dollars.
6. Dogs ten years of age or older—fifteen dollars.
- ~~7. A dog owner with a household income below the federal poverty level is eligible for a one time twenty seven dollar unaltered dog licensing fee per dog.~~
78. A dog owner with a household income below the federal poverty level is eligible for an eight dollar dog licensing fee per altered dog (limit four discounted dog licenses per household).
89. A guide dog belonging to a blind person who is a resident within Pima County, or a dog certified, in writing, as being trained to the standards of a service animal by a nationally recognized service dog training agency belonging to a resident within Pima County shall be licensed pursuant to this article without payment of a fee.
940. Processing/Postage fee per license, one dollar.

...

H. This fee schedule is effective for the license cycle beginning June 2009. Effective July 1, 2015, fees authorized in subsections (B)(1) through (B)(7) of this section will increase on July 1 of each year by one dollar per year through July 1, 2019.

...

SECTION 2. This Ordinance is effective July 1, 2015 or 30 days after the date of adoption, whichever is sooner.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy County Attorney

JONATHAN PINKNEY-BAIRD _{2 of 2}
Animal Control – Dog Licensing Fees

Additional Information and Comment Received Log
Ordinance to Amend Pima County Code 6.04.070 - Dog vaccinating,
licensing and permitting procedure and fees within county limits

Staff recommends it is in the best interest of the County to increase dog licensing fees by one dollar per year for five years to offset cost increases associated with operating the licensing program, sheltering unwanted and homeless pets and providing animal welfare and rabies control enforcement service to the community.

On March 19, 2015, pursuant to ARS § 11-251.13, staff posted the draft ordinance on the Pima County Website.

On March 19, 2015, staff presented the proposal to the Pima Animal Care Advisory Committee at its regularly scheduled public meeting.

After discussion, the Committee moved and seconded a motion that the Committee will not support an intake fee but will support a licensing fee increase. The motion carried (8-0), with Ms. Schwerin abstaining from the vote.

Additionally the Committee passed a motion to eliminate 6.04.070.7 (discounted low income unaltered dog license). The motion carried (8-1), with Mr. Jacobs opposed.

On April 16, 2015, staff briefed Ms. Martha Durkin, City Manager, City of Tucson; Mr. Benny Young, City Manager, City of South Tucson; Mr. Greg Caton, Town Manager, Town of Oro Valley; Mr. Jamsheed Mehta, Deputy Town Manager, Town of Marana; and Ms. Teri Bankhead, Assistant to the Town Manager, Town of Sahuarita on the proposed ordinance. The representatives supported increasing dog licensing fees. Furthermore, one representative recommended increasing dog licenses by 5% or \$1, whichever is greater. Only the unaltered dog and the vicious/dangerous dog license fees would be affected.

- For a \$60 regular unaltered fee, that would equate to a three dollar per year increase.
- Approximately 2 percent of the 105,000 licenses sold are unaltered dog licenses.
- For a \$100 dangerous or vicious dog license, that would equate to a five dollar increase per year.
- Approximately .02 percent of the 105,000 licenses sold are dangerous/vicious dog license.

On April 22, 2015, staff eliminated superseded effective date language and reordered paragraphs to minimize paragraph numbering changes.

Staff has requested the ordinance be advertised in the Daily Territorial on April 30 and May 1, 2015.

Staff is scheduled to present the ordinance to the Pima County Board of Health at its April 29, 2015 meeting.

The following table provides the annual increase on each category of dog licensing fee.

July 1, 2015 Dog Licensing Fee Increase Proposal						
Fee Type	Current	7/1/2015	7/1/2016	7/1/2017	7/1/2018	7/1/2019
Regular, unaltered dog	\$60	\$61	\$62	\$63	\$64	\$65
Regular, altered dog	\$15	\$16	\$17	\$18	\$19	\$20
Dogs declared dangerous or vicious	\$100	\$101	\$102	\$103	\$104	\$105
*Senior/disabled citizen owner, unaltered dog	\$17	\$18	\$19	\$20	\$21	\$22
*Senior/disabled citizen owner, altered dog	\$10	\$11	\$12	\$13	\$14	\$15
Dogs ten years of age or older	\$15	\$16	\$17	\$18	\$19	\$20
**A dog owner with a household income below the federal poverty level, unaltered dog	\$27	\$61	\$62	\$63	\$64	\$65
*A dog owner with a household income below the federal poverty level, altered dog	\$8	\$9	\$10	\$11	\$12	\$13
A guide/service dog	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Projected Annualized Increase		\$49,000	\$98,000	\$147,000	\$196,000	\$245,000
*Only Four discounted licenses per hold						
**Initial year license only						