

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Revision to Animal Services Fee Resolution

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety **DIVISION:** Animal Services

AUTHORIZED BY: [Signature] **CONTACT:** Mike Wittmer **EXT.** 5202

Agenda Date <u>1/25/05</u> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Session <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 1:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Acceptance and authorize Chairman to execute the revisions to the Animal Services Fee Resolution. (Mike Wittmer)

BACKGROUND:

The Seminole County Code, Chapter 20, Animals and Fowl, authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to establish fees to carry out the duties of the Animal Services Division. Animal Services proposes increasing the annual fee for certificates of registration for dangerous dogs, adopting a fee for the microchip identification program, limiting the number of sterilization rebates, and eliminating the late fee for the use of a nuisance animal trap.

Certificate of Registration for Dangerous Dog

In accordance with the Florida Statutes, Chapter 767.12(2)(c), the County may impose an annual fee for certificates of registration for a dangerous dog. Certificates are renewed annually upon sufficient evidence the owner is abiding by the terms to keep a dog that has been declared dangerous. The current fee, in the amount of \$50, was adopted in 1993. Staff recommends increasing the fee to \$200, and specifying it is an

Reviewed by:	
Co Atty:	<u>[Signature]</u>
DFS:	_____
Other:	_____
DCM:	<u>[Signature]</u>
CM:	<u>[Signature]</u>
File No.	<u>CPSAS01</u>

annual fee. The dangerous dog registration fees assessed by surrounding counties are as follows: Brevard, \$500; Lake, \$500; Osceola, \$1,000; Volusia, \$50.; and Orange, \$25 (currently considering increasing their fee to \$300. - \$500.)

At their April 20, 2004 meeting, the Animal Control Board recommended increasing the annual fee to \$200. (minutes attached) The proposed fee is based on the average cost associated with staff's annual on-site home visit.

Microchip Identification Program

The microchip identification program provides permanent identification to facilitate reuniting lost pets with their owners. Successful pet/owner reunions reduce euthanasia rates. Staff recommends assessing a \$5 fee to purchase and inject a microchip implant. This amount offsets the County's cost to purchase the microchip implant. Staff further recommends establishing guidelines for the program as follows: require the purchase of a microchip implant for adopted dogs and cats, and offer a microchip implant for impounded dogs and cats at the time the owner redeems the dog or cat. This program can be done in-house with no additional staffing.

At their April 20, 2004 meeting, the Animal Control Board recommended the \$5 fee; that adopted dogs and cats receive an implant; and recommended offering the implant for redeemed dogs and cats.

Sterilization Rebate Program

The sterilization rebate program provides an incentive to Seminole County residents to spay or neuter their pets by offering a \$25.00 rebate to help offset the spay/neuter expense. The program intent is to assist individual residents who spay/neuter their personal pets.

If the program's intent is to assist individual residents, staff recommends limiting the number of rebates to ten (10) per fiscal year, per household. Our current experience shows that on an average, 69% of the rebates are provided to eight (8) individuals.

Nuisance Animal Trap Program

Residents can borrow, at no charge, humane traps to capture nuisance dogs and cats. In accordance with the fee resolution, a \$5 a day late fee is assessed when traps are not returned on time. Residents regularly object that the fee is unfair and punitive. The objections have merit. The residents' assistance confining nuisance animals is a benefit to the Animal Services road operations.

Staff recommends eliminating the fee.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

DATE: January 6, 2005

DEPT./DIVISION: PS/Animal Services

CONTACT PERSON: Mike Wittmer

EXTENSION: 5202

DESCRIBE PROJECT/PROPOSAL: Revise Animal Services fee resolution to increase the fee to register a dangerous dog; to specify the dangerous dog registration fee is an annual fee; to establish a fee and guidelines for the microchip identification program; to include language that adult, adopted dogs and cats are transported for sterilization purposes prior to release; to limit participation in the sterilization rebate program; and to eliminate the late fee on borrowed nuisance animal traps.

DESCRIBE THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT/ PROPOSAL UPON THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY: The increased dangerous dog registration fee will result in revenue proportionate to Animal Services workload to monitor dangerous dogs. The microchip identification program fee will offset the cost to purchase microchip implants. Limiting the number of sterilization rebates will result in decreased expenditures of general fund revenue. Eliminating the nuisance animal trap late fee will result in a negligible loss of general fund revenue.

DESCRIBE THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT/ PROPOSAL UPON THE PROPERTY OWNERS/TAX PAYERS/CITIZENS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED: The increased dangerous dog registration fee will financially impact only those residents who own legally declared dangerous dogs. The microchip identification program fee will financially impact any person who adopts a dog or cat from Animal Services. The microchip identification program will be an optional expense for persons who redeem their impounded dogs and cats. Limited participation in the rebate program will impact a few residents who use the program to enhance their private animal rescue activities. Eliminating the nuisance animal trap late fee will impact only those residents to whom the fee applies.

IDENTIFY ANY POTENTIAL INDIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE WHICH MIGHT OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL: None

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AT THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2005**

WHEREAS, Chapter 20, Animals and Fowl, Seminole County Code, regulates and establishes controls for animals in the unincorporated areas of Seminole County and within municipalities desiring to come under said Code provisions; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 20, Animals and Fowl, Seminole County Code, authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to establish fees by Resolution for licensing, impoundment, and such other fees as necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Animal Services Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has determined that establishment of certain fees are necessary and desirable; and

WHEREAS, the unhealthy increase in unwanted puppies, kittens, strays, and feral dogs and cats can only be adequately and appropriately controlled with the cooperation of the general public; and

WHEREAS, all dogs and cats which are adopted from Seminole County Animal Services must be sterilized as a condition of adoption; and

WHEREAS, Seminole County Animal Services shall provide a ~~Certificate for Sterilization upon adoption and maintain a program for sterilization an~~ Adoption Sterilization Program with one or more veterinarians located within Seminole County; and

WHEREAS, a rebate on the costs of sterilizing animals not adopted through Seminole County Animal Services will provide an incentive to animal owners to sterilize their pets; and

WHEREAS, Animal Services provides nuisance animal traps to Seminole County residents at no charge; and

WHEREAS, a microchip identification program provides permanent identification to facilitate reuniting lost pets with their owners, thus reducing euthanasia rates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, hereby establishes the following fees for the Seminole County Animal Services Program:

A. License Fees

1. Annual License Fee for a sterilized dog or cat.....	6.00
2. Annual License Fee for an unsterilized dog or cat.....	11.00
3. Rabies Vaccination fee.....	10.00
4. Annual Commercial Kennel License fee.....	125.00
5. Late fee for failure to renew annual Commercial Kennel License fee	
First month.....	25.00
Additional late fee, second month.....	50.00
Additional late fee, third and each succeeding month	
.....	75.00
6. Replacement license tag for lost or damaged tag.....	2.00
7. Certificate of Registration for Dangerous Dog	
<u>Annual Fee</u> ... 50.00.....	<u>200.00</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pet licensing program shall be administered by the Seminole County Animal Services Division.

Rebate Program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Seminole County maintains a rebate program for all dogs and cats not adopted through the Seminole County Animal

Services Division. Seminole County residents, owning a currently inoculated and validly licensed animal not adopted from Seminole County Animal Services may apply, within thirty (30) days of the animal sterilization, for a \$25.00 rebate to assist in offsetting the costs of such sterilization. The Animal Control Official shall approve all requests for the \$25.00 rebate upon presentation of required information. There shall be one (1) sterilization rebate per dog or cat, with a maximum of ten (10) rebates per household per fiscal year.

Sterilization Program

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Seminole County residents will receive a Certificate for Sterilization for all dogs and cats adopted from Seminole County Animal Services. The Certificate for Sterilization shall be presented to one of the participating veterinarians at the time of sterilization. The time frames for sterilization are as follows:~~

~~-if the dog or cat adopted was a mature adult, sterilization must be done within thirty (30) days of adoption;~~

~~-if the animal adopted was a puppy or kitten, sterilization must be done within thirty (30) days of sexual maturity of the animal as determined by the Animal Services Division~~

B. Redemption Fees:

- 1. Redemption of a dog, cat, or other like-size animals:
 - impoundment fee, each animal, first offense..... 25.00
 - for each additional offense an additional fee of 25.00
 - for example:
 - second offense 50.00
 - third offense 75.00
 - fourth offense 100.00
 - and continuing on as offenses dictate
 - additional board, per day 5.00
 - microchip identification implant..... 5.00

2. Redemption of livestock*
(horse, cow, swine, and like-size animal)

If picked up and impounded during normal working hours:
- impoundment fee, each animal 75.00
- additional board, per day 10.00

If picked up and impounded outside normal working hours:
- impoundment fee, each animal 100.00
- additional board, per day 10.00

* It is the owner's responsibility to provide safe and adequate transportation for redemption of livestock. Under no circumstances will Animal Services personnel provide transportation for redeemed livestock.

C. Adoption Fees:

- 1. Dog:
 - adoption fee, male or female..... 5.00
 - sterilization certificate, male..... 50.00
 - sterilization certificate, female..... 60.00

- 2. Cat:
 - adoption fee , male or female..... 5.00
 - sterilization certificate, male..... 30.00
 - sterilization certificate, female..... 40.00

- 3. Livestock:
 - weighing under 350 pounds 35.00
 - weighing 350 pounds or more 125.00

- 4. Small animals/livestock (i.e. rabbit, gerbils, etc.) 5.00

- 5. Microchip identification implant..... 5.00

D. Disposal Fees:

- 1. Euthanasia/Disposal:
 - private domestic 10.00
 - commercial 30.00

~~E. Animal Nuisance Traps:~~

~~_____ No fee is charged to Seminole County residents for the use of animal nuisance traps. However, a late fee in the amount of \$5.00 per day, excluding Sundays and holidays, will be assessed to the user for each day past the date specified in the Animal Nuisance Trap agreement signed by the user.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all fees collected be deposited in the General Fund to help offset the operations of the Animal Services Division.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution Number 2001-R-71, and all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith by establishing fees inconsistent with those established herein are hereby repealed. All fees established herein shall go into effect immediately.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MARY ANNE MORSE,
Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners of
Seminole County, Florida

BY: _____
Chairman

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD**

**April 20, 2004
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debra Garrambone-McMenemy, Chairman
Chris LaSage
Kathleen Prince
Dr. Steve Wiseman, Vice Chairman
Bill Shaffer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. DeHaven Batchelor

OTHERS: Mike Wittmer, Animal Services Division Manager
Elaine RiCharde, Clerk to the Board

The following is a non-verbatim transcript of the meeting of the Seminole County Animal Control Board held April 20, 2004, at 7:00 PM at the Animal Services Shelter Conference Room.

Roll Call was taken by the Clerk to the Board.¹ There being a quorum present, Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy called for old business, the first item being revenue. She introduced Mr. Chris Richey from Pet Data, Inc., a company that provides outsourcing services for pet license programs. Mr. Richey made a presentation, then fielded questions from the Board. Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy said the Board of County Commissioners will be concerned about putting license revenue at risk. Mr. Richey stated incentives to reach historical revenue levels can be part of a contract. He further said the process would be to start with a draft contract, then negotiate each point. There was consensus among the Board members that Mr. Richey make a proposal that would preserve current revenue.

Mr. Wittmer asked to postpone discussion on the spay/neuter clinic, as the Facilities Maintenance Division has not completed the cost work up to add a room for use as a clinic.

Mr. Wittmer reviewed the adoption fee survey. He recommended a flat adoption fee if a spay/neuter clinic becomes a reality. Mr. Wittmer reviewed the spread sheet listing customer refunds.

¹ The District 2 appointment was vacant at this time.

Mr. Wittmer next spoke about a citizen's request to amend the Code to include the provision of shade. He is working with the citizen, and, hopefully, will have something for the Board to consider at their next meeting.

Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy called for new business. Dr. Wiseman spoke about a new microchip on the market that cannot be read by universal scanners. Mr. Wittmer has only heard about this scanner, and will have information to share at the next meeting.

Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy called for reports. Mr. Wittmer reviewed the transport statistics, which are averaging 8 animals per week. He reminded the Board that young puppies and kittens are not transported for sterilization.

Mr. Wittmer reviewed the results of the Pet Adopt-a-Thon held March 27th. Ms. Prince recommended that next year the event should be held earlier in the month when the weather is cooler.

Mr. Wittmer spoke about the status of "Zeus", the dangerous dog owned by Dennis J. and Lorraine Milton. In accordance with the Board's direction at the public hearing held December 18, 2003, staff forwarded information on the violation to the Winter Springs Police Department. Misdemeanor charges were filed against Ms. Milton, which resulted in fines and court costs. The appeal of the Board's decision is still pending.

Mr. Wittmer advised staff is recommending two revisions to the fee resolution for the Board's consideration. The first revision is an increase in the dangerous dog annual fee from \$50 to \$200. The second revision adds the cost to purchase a microchip to the fee resolution. Motion by Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy to increase the dangerous dog annual fee to \$200. Second by Dr. Wiseman. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Ms. LaSage to assess a \$5 fee to purchase a microchip. Second by Ms. Prince. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Wittmer said the fee resolution revision should be on the May 11th BCC agenda.

Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy asked for information on the license fees assessed by surrounding counties.

Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy called for public commentary. There was none.

Mr. Wittmer announced the second annual Tag Day event will be held on May 23rd. During this event, County residents can receive free rabies vaccinations and pet licenses for up to five pets.

There was discussion about increasing the pet license fees, which requires a revision to the fee resolution. It was agreed this could be addressed with the proposal to outsource the pet license program.

Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy called for a motion to approve the March 28, 2004, minutes. Motion by Ms. LaSage. Second by Chairman Garrambone-McMenemy. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board selected June 3, 2004, as their next meeting date.

Motion by Ms. Prince to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Second by Ms. LaSage. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Richard

Clerk to the Board