



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Peter Jensen
Albert Balagso
Jennifer A. Maguire

**SUBJECT: 2008-2009 PROPOSED FEES AND
CHARGES REPORT REPLACEMENT
PAGES AND INFORMATION
REGARDING SENIOR ANIMAL
ADOPTIONS**

DATE: May 16, 2008

Approved

Date 05/16/2008

BACKGROUND

On May 12, 2008, during the Operating Budget Study Session, Councilmember Nora Campos requested that staff provide the rationale for the proposed increase for the adoption fees for senior dogs and cats, as well as information on the adoption rate of those animals. This memorandum is prepared in response to her question.

ANALYSIS

The General Services Department section of the 2008-2009 Fees and Charges Report (pages 40 through 53) inadvertently did not include fee revisions that are recommended to be implemented in 2008-2009. The adjustments would include an increase of \$10 for *all* dog adoptions and a \$5 increase for *all* cat adoptions. These technical adjustments would not change the 88.7% cost recovery levels, consistent with the 2008-2009 Proposed Operating Budget. The following adoption fees are proposed to be revised and the replacement pages are attached:

Adoption fee for kittens	from \$95 to \$100
Adoption fee for puppies	from \$125 to \$135
Adoption fee for senior cats	from \$30 to \$35
Adoption fee for senior dogs	from \$55 to \$65
Standard adoption – cats	from \$75 to \$80
Standard adoption – dogs	from \$105 to \$115

Adoption fees for cats and dogs that would be applicable to senior citizens are not proposed for any changes. Overall, these proposed fee revisions are anticipated to bring an additional \$21,500 in revenue to the General Fund.

Senior dogs and cats are defined as animals that are more than six years old. There is not a high demand by the public to adopt these older pets. Overwhelmingly, the public seeks puppies, kittens, and to a much lesser degree, young adult animals (1-3 years old). It has been the strategy

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SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Proposed Fees and Charges Report Replacement Pages and Information Regarding Senior Animal Adoptions.

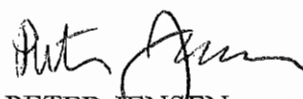
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ANALYSIS (CONT'D.)

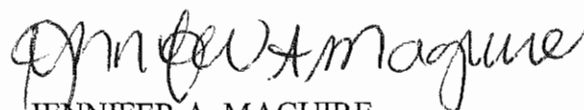
of Animal Care and Services to offer a significant discount to entice the public to consider adopting a senior dog or cat. The gap between a standard adoption and a senior animal adoption is \$45 (60% discount) for cats and \$50 for dogs (48% discount). For the 2008-2009 proposed fee revisions, the difference would remain the same.

Senior animals present a particularly difficult challenge for animal shelters. On average, a senior animal will remain in the shelter for 2-3 times the length of stay for a younger animal. Space is often at a premium in a shelter as busy as the San José Animal Care Center. The Center will handle approximately 17,000 domestic animals a year. The longer an animal occupies a specific cage space, the fewer opportunities there are for other animals to have a chance to be adopted. Determining the age of an animal can be difficult; however, of those animals whose age can be accurately identified, senior animals comprise a very small portion of the animal population. In 2006-2007 senior dogs were 4% of the total incoming population of which 40 senior dogs were adopted and senior cats were less than 1% of the total incoming population of which 20 senior cats were adopted. More than half of the total incoming senior dogs, and about a third of senior cats, were eventually sent to area rescue groups who can provide a lower stress environment than a busy animal shelter. The revenue derived from senior animal adoptions is about 1% (\$2,800) of the entire adoption program which brings in approximately \$240,000 each year. The proposed fee change for senior animals would increase the revenue to the senior category by \$500.

The most important factor in adopting a senior animal is age. An older animal is likely to have more veterinary costs in the near future and will have a shorter life with the adopting family. It is not anticipated that the fee change for senior animals will be a disincentive to the adoption of senior animals at the San José Animal Care Center. The adoption fee for a senior animal is intentionally set low (with or without the recommended change) to attract consideration. Even the price of the standard adoption fees are quite good when considering the market values of a spay/neuter surgery, all shots, flea and tick treatment, microchip implant, and the first year license, all procedures that animals go through prior to adoption at the shelter. Area veterinarians charge hundreds of dollars for these services.


PETER JENSEN
Director of General Services


ALBERT BALAGSO
Director of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services


JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE
Acting Budget Director

Attachments

**2008-2009 FEES AND CHARGES REPORT
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FEE CHANGES**

Department - Fee	Date Of Last Revision	2007-2008 Adopted Fees	2008-2009 Proposed Fees
<u>Fire</u>			
Fire Safety Non-Renewable Permits			
- Additional Permit Requiring a Plan Review and/or Inspection	2007-2008	\$196 each (in addition to highest permit fee)	\$216 each (in addition to highest permit fee)
- Permits Requiring BOTH a Plan Review AND an Inspection	2007-2008	\$499	\$549
- Permits Requiring Either a Plan Review OR an Inspection	2007-2008	\$348	\$383
- Permits Requiring No Plan Review or Inspection	2007-2008	\$196	\$216
Hourly Rate			
- Development Activity	2007-2008	\$97 per half hour or portion thereof	\$101 per half hour or portion thereof
- Non-Development Activity	2007-2008	\$75 per half hour or portion thereof	\$82.50 per half hour or portion thereof
Late Charges			
- Late Charges	Pre-2000-2001	25% of unpaid invoice if more than 60 days in arrears	10% of unpaid invoice if not paid by due date, additional 10% of outstanding balance if 30 days past due
- Late Charges	Pre-2000-2001	25% of unpaid invoice if more than 60 days in arrears	10% of unpaid invoice if not paid by due date, additional 10% of outstanding balance if 30 days past due
Miscellaneous Fees			
- Document Research Service Fee	2007-2008	\$72 per hour (clerical) with minimum of \$36; \$112 per hour (Permit Specialist) with minimum of \$56, depending on staff level required	\$75 per hour (clerical) with minimum of \$37.50; \$116 per hour (Permit Specialist) with minimum of \$58, depending on staff level required
<u>General Services</u>			
Animal Control Services			
- Adoption fee (standard) - cats	2003-2004	\$75	\$80
- Adoption fee (standard) - dogs	2003-2004	\$105	\$115
- Adoption fee for kittens	2006-2007	\$95	\$100
- Adoption fee for puppies	2006-2007	\$125	\$135
- Adoption fee for senior cats (animal over 6 years)	2003-2004	\$30	\$35
- Adoption fee for senior dogs (animal over 6 years)	2003-2004	\$55	\$65

2008-2009 FEES AND CHARGES REPORT SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FEE CHANGES

Department - Fee	Date Of Last Revision	2007-2008 Adopted Fees	2008-2009 Proposed Fees
<u>General Services</u>			
Animal Control Services			
- Cat license fee - late fee imposed for application received within 30 days after issuance of administrative citation for failing to license after expiration when the citation is not appealed. Note: Approved by the City Council October 2, 2007			\$45
- Dog license fee - late fee imposed for application received within 30 days after issuance of administrative citation for failing to license after expiration when the citation is not appealed. Note: Approved by the City Council October 2, 2007			\$45
Indoor Meetings/Events (Non-Profit & Government)			
- % of Gross Admission Receipts	2006-2007	5%	No Charge
- Rotunda (per event)	2006-2007	\$800	Delete Fee
- Rotunda Mezzanine (per event)	2006-2007	\$325	Delete Fee
- Rotunda Mezzanine (per hour) weekends			\$150
Indoor Meetings/Events (Other Users)			
- Rotunda (per event)	2006-2007	\$1,500	Delete Fee
- Rotunda (per hour)	2006-2007	\$300	\$375
- Rotunda Mezzanine (per event)	2006-2007	\$650	Delete Fee
- Rotunda Mezzanine (per hour) weekends			\$175
Other Fees and Charges			
- Stage (4' x 8' sections/ up to 24' x 32')	2006-2007	\$16 per section	\$25 per section
Outdoor Meetings/Events			
- % of Gross Admission Receipts (Non-Profit)	2006-2007	5%	0%
- % of Gross Admission Receipts (Other Users)	2006-2007	10%	10% or rent cost, whichever is higher
- Outdoor Major Event - Bamboo Courtyard	2006-2007	\$500 per day	\$110 per hour
- Outdoor Major Event - Multiple Day	2006-2007	\$250 per each additional day	Delete Fee
- Outdoor Major Event - Plaza	2006-2007	\$500 per day	\$125 per hour
<u>Housing</u>			
Rental Dispute Mediation			

DEPARTMENTAL FEES AND CHARGES

GENERAL SERVICES

Service	2007-2008 Adopted Fee	2007-2008 % Cost Recovery	2008-2009 Proposed Fee	2008-2009 Estimated Cost	2008-2009 Estimated Revenue		2008-2009 % Cost Recovery	
					Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
ANIMAL CARE AND SERVICES - CATEGORY I								
ANIMAL CARE AND SERVICES - CATEGORY II								
Note: Previously displayed under Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services								
1. Animal Control Services								
1 Adoption fee (standard) - cats	\$75		\$80					
2 Adoption fee (standard) - chickens and ducks	\$20		No Change					
3 Adoption fee (standard) - dogs	\$105		\$115					
4 Adoption fee (standard) - guinea pigs	\$10		No Change					
5 Adoption fee (standard) - hamsters, rats and mice	\$5		No Change					
6 Adoption fee (standard) - rabbits	\$20		No Change					
7 Adoption fee for cats - second adoption	\$50		No Change					
8 Adoption fee for cats - senior citizen with an animal over 3 years	\$25		No Change					
9 Adoption fee for dogs - second adoption	\$75		No Change					
10 Adoption fee for dogs - senior citizen with an animal over 3 years	\$40		No Change					
11 Adoption fee for kittens	\$95		\$100					
12 Adoption fee for puppies	\$125		\$135					