



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR

July 10, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Kate O'Connor, Animal Services Manager

Subject: Small Animal Adoption Fee Increases

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution increasing adoption fees for rabbits, poultry, small rodents, birds and exotic animals, and rescinding Resolution No. 62,538-N.S

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The increase in the small animal adoption fee will help pay for the spay/neuter, special diets, bedding and fresh vegetables that these animal need each day. In FY 2006, 32 small animals were adopted from the shelter resulting in \$160 in total revenue. With the proposed fee increases, the revenue will increase to approximately \$650/yr to be paid into the General Fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The current adoption fee for a small animal is \$5. Many species of small animals are cared for at the shelter including rabbits, chinchillas, snakes, poultry, rats and mice. The small animal adoption fee does not cover the expenses incurred in caring for them.

Average cost of caring for an animal other than dog or cat

Staff time- cleaning/feeding	\$4/day
Staff time-impound/adoption	\$10
Food and Bedding	\$1/day
Spay/Neuter	\$100
Average length of stay	3 weeks

Thus, the average cost of each small animal is \$115, and \$215 for rabbits that need to be altered. Last year 32 small animals were adopted, yielding adoption fee revenue of \$160. However, the total average costs for taking care of these small animals during their stay was approximately \$4,000. Assuming the same number of small animals is adopted in the coming year, the total fees will amount to approximately \$650.

Current Small Animal Adoption Fees

Small Animal \$5

Proposed Small Animal Adoption Fees

Rabbits/Poultry/Birds/Exotics \$25
Rodents \$10

BACKGROUND

There are many different types of small animals that are cared for at the shelter. Each one has its own set of animal husbandry supplies that must be provided by the shelter and they often spend a long time in the shelter's care. Special bedding and food must be supplied and often cages and heat lamps need to be purchased. Exotic animals such as reptiles and birds require very specialized handling, feeding and housing if they are to remain healthy.

The cost of spay/neuter for a rabbit is approximately \$100. This is paid for with money collected in donations.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The fee currently charged for the adoption of small and/or exotic animals does not cover the expenses incurred for caring for them at the shelter, especially considering that not all small animals are adopted but may be rescued at no cost to the rescuing agency. The increased fee will at least begin to recoup the actual costs of caring for these animals. Full cost recovery, however, would result in a fee that is so high that it would discourage adoption.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Kate O'Connor, Animal Services Manager - 981 6600

Attachment:

- 1: Resolution
- 2. Public Hearing notice

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

APPROVING A FEE INCREASE FOR ADOPTIONS OF RABBITS, POULTRY, SMALL RODENTS, BIRDS AND EXOTIC ANIMALS, AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 62,538-N.S.

WHEREAS, the Shelter handles approximately 50 small animals each year; and

WHEREAS, these animals require specialized husbandry supplies; and

WHEREAS, the current fees do not adequately cover the expenses incurred in caring for them.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that effective July 1, 2007, the adoption fees for small animals are hereby increased as follows:

Adoption

Rabbits	\$25
Poultry	\$25
Birds	\$25
Exotics	\$25
Rodents	\$10

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2134 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY**

SMALL ANIMAL ADOPTION FEE INCREASES

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.

The Department of City Manager's Office-Animal Care Service is proposing to increase the small animal adoption. This fee increase will help pay for the spay/neuter, special diets, bedding and fresh vegetables that these animals need each day. In FY 2006, 32 small animals were adopted from the shelter (\$160). With fee increases the revenue will increase to approximately \$650/yr to be paid into the general fund.

<u>Current Small Animal Adoption Fees</u>		<u>Proposed Small Animal Adoption Fees</u>	
<u>Small Animal</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>Rabbits/Poultry/Birds/Exotics</u>	<u>\$25</u>
		<u>Rodents</u>	<u>\$10</u>

For further information, please contact Kate O'Connor at 510-981-6601.

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet. Comments received no later than Monday, July 2, 2007 will be included in Council agenda packets. Comments received thereafter will be submitted to Council as supplemental communications at the meeting. For further information, call Pamyla Means, City Clerk, 981-6900. FAX: (510) 981-6901. TDD: (510) 981-6903.

Pamyla Means, MMC, City Clerk

Government Code Section 66016

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