

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
www.CityofSacramento.org



**CONSENT**  
**May 11, 2010**

**Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council**

**Title: Pass for Publication: Ordinance Amending Sacramento City Code Section  
9.44.190 Relating to Animal Redemption Fees**

**Location/Council District: Citywide**

**Recommendation:** 1) Review an **Ordinance** amending City Code Section 9.44.190 relating to animal redemption fees; and 2) pass for publication the Ordinance title as required by Sacramento City Charter section 32(c), to be adopted on May 18, 2010.

**Contact:** Penny Cistaro, Animal Care Services Manager, 808-7433

**Presenters:** None

**Department:** General Services

**Organization No:** 13001121

### **Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** Current City Code (Section 9.44.190.B) creates a specific relationship between first, second and third redemption fees for animals impounded. This structure limits the City's ability to create a redemption fee that scales fees to reflect the cost of service for handling a given animal.

**Policy Considerations:** The recommendation is consistent with City Council priorities and policies related to compliance with the City's Codes, cost recovery, and the City's goal to enhance and preserve the neighborhoods by providing enforcement of animal related laws.

### **Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** CEQA does not apply because adoption of the proposed ordinance pertains to administrative activities that will not have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)), and that do not constitute a "project" for purposes of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2)).

**Sustainability Considerations: None**

**Committee/Commission Action:** On March 30, 2010 the Animal Care Services Citizens Advisory Committee was notified that City staff would be pursuing a change in ordinance language to allow greater flexibility in establishing redemption fees. The Committee was also provided with the proposed new fee schedule shown in Attachment 1 to this report. The specific ordinance language and a review of the proposed new redemption fees were reviewed with the Committee on April 27, 2010 for their discussion and action.

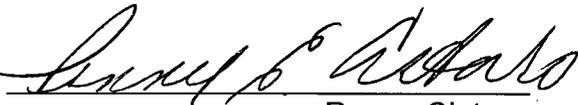
This item was also heard by the Law and Legislation Committee on May 4, 2010 and is now being forwarded to City Council for approval.

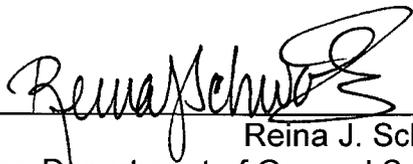
**Rationale for Recommendation:** Currently, City Code Section 9.44.190.B states that redemption fees shall be twice the first impound fee for the second impound and three times the first impound fee for the third impound. This existing language does not allow the City to implement a redemption fee schedule that scales fees to reflect the cost of service for handling a given animal. For example, a dog that is impounded that has been altered and is already licensed is less costly to process than one that is unaltered and unlicensed. Additionally the current fee schedule does not offer an incentive for an owner to alter their animal or maintain its license. In order to provide greater flexibility (and potentially greater cost recovery), Section 9.44.190.B is recommended to be deleted. Redemption fees will be set by City Council resolution, pursuant to existing code (9.44.180).

The proposed new fee schedule (Attachment 1) will be recommended to City Council as part of the Citywide Fee & Charges report that will be heard in conjunction with Budget Hearings in May or June of this year. Current fees are \$30 - \$120 for redemptions. No action is requested on the fees at this time. Amending this ordinance language allows for the flexibility needed to change the fee schedule.

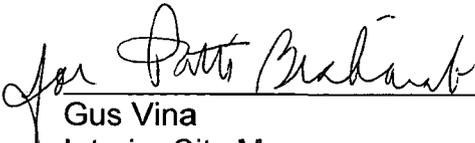
**Financial Considerations:** This report does not result in any financial impact to the City.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** No goods or services are being purchased as a result of this report.

Respectfully Submitted by:   
Penny Cistaro  
Animal Care Services Manager

Approved by:   
Reina J. Schwartz  
Director, Department of General Services

Recommendation Approved:

  
Gus Vina  
Interim City Manager

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**DRAFT FEE SCHEDULE**

**REDEMPTION FEES**

<b>DOGS</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
Altered wearing current license	40	40	40	40
Altered not licensed / not wearing current license	60	80	100	120
Unaltered wearing current license	60	80	100	120
Unaltered not licensed / not wearing current license	80	100	120	140

<b>CATS</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
Altered wearing current license	40	40	40	40
Altered not licensed / not wearing current license	60	80	100	120
Unaltered wearing current license	60	80	100	120
Unaltered not licensed / not wearing current license	80	100	120	140

<b>Biting or Intimidating Dogs</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
Altered wearing current license	80	120	160	300
Altered not licensed / not wearing current license	120	160	200	340
Unaltered wearing current license	120	160	200	340
Unaltered not licensed / not wearing current license	160	200	240	380
Confiscation Fee	200			

<b>Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous Dogs</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>
Potentially Dangerous	200	400
Dangerous	400	not redeemable
Confiscation Fee	300	
Yearly Permit PDD	200	plus proof of insurance
Yearly Permit DD	300	plus proof of insurance

**Board Fees**

All impounded and confiscated animals shall incur boarding fees of \$12.00 per day or any portion thereof.

**REDLINE VERSION**

**ORDINANCE NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Date Adopted

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SACRAMENTO CITY CODE SECTION  
9.44.190 RELATING TO ANIMAL REDEMPTION FEES**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:**

**SECTION 1.**

Section 9.44.190 of the Sacramento City Code is amended to read as follows:

**9.44.190 ~~Redemption subsequent to first redemption~~ Required alteration.**

Required Alteration. In order to reduce the likelihood that dogs allowed to be at large shall breed unwanted animals, any dog impounded for being at large which previously has been redeemed from the ~~animal control~~ Animal Care Services center after impoundment for being at large shall be spayed or neutered at the redeeming owner's expense prior to a second or subsequent redemption. The ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services Manager may waive this requirement when there are extenuating circumstances that justify waiver.

In the event the ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services Manager determines that a dog shall be spayed or neutered at the redeeming owner's expense prior to redemption, the ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services Manager shall notify the owner of this requirement in writing and inform the owner of the owner's right to appeal as provided by this section.

The owner of the animal may, prior to the date specified by the ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services Manager in the written notice, appeal the determination of the ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services Manager by filing a notice of such appeal with the ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services Manager. The city manager shall appoint a hearing officer, who may be an employee of the city.

The hearing shall be informal. The hearing officer shall determine, based on evidence presented, whether the ~~chief animal control officer~~ Animal Care Services

Manager correctly determined that the requirement to spay or neuter applies, and if so, whether there are any extenuating circumstances which justify waiver of the requirement to spay or neuter, or waiver of the requirement that the owner pay for the procedure. The decision of the hearing officer shall be final.

~~B. Redemption Fees. In addition to any payment which may be required pursuant to subsection A of this section, the owner of any animal which has been previously redeemed from the animal control center shall pay a redemption fee of twice the amount of the usual redemption fee for the second redemption of such animal and shall pay a redemption fee three times the amount of the usual redemption fee for the third and any subsequent redemption, in addition to the per diem costs established by resolution of the city council, and other actual costs of impoundment. (Prior code § 6.07.086)~~

**Attachment 3**

**ORDINANCE NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Date Adopted

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**SECTION 1.**

Section 9.44.190 of the Sacramento City Code is amended to read as follows:

**9.44.190 Required alteration.**

Required Alteration. In order to reduce the likelihood that dogs allowed to be at large shall breed unwanted animals, any dog impounded for being at large which previously has been redeemed from the Animal Care Services center after impoundment for being at large shall be spayed or neutered at the redeeming owner's expense prior to a second or subsequent redemption. The Animal Care Services Manager may waive this requirement when there are extenuating circumstances that justify waiver.

In the event the Animal Care Services Manager determines that a dog shall be spayed or neutered at the redeeming owner's expense prior to redemption, the Animal Care Services Manager shall notify the owner of this requirement in writing and inform the owner of the owner's right to appeal as provided by this section.

The owner of the animal may, prior to the date specified by the Animal Care Services Manager in the written notice, appeal the determination of the Animal Care Services Manager by filing a notice of such appeal with the Animal Care Services Manager. The city manager shall appoint a hearing officer, who may be an employee of the city.

The hearing shall be informal. The hearing officer shall determine, based on evidence presented, whether the Animal Care Services Manager correctly determined that the requirement to spay or neuter applies, and if so, whether there are any extenuating circumstances which justify waiver of the requirement to spay or neuter, or waiver of the requirement that the owner pay for the procedure. The decision of the hearing officer shall be final.