

ORDINANCE NO. 2002 - 07 - 056

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 7.08.020, 7.08.080, AND 7.12.050 TO CHANGE THE FEES CHARGED FOR DOG LICENSES AND ANIMAL IMPOUNDMENT.

WHEREAS, the City wishes to protect the health, welfare, and safety of animals and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City's animal control authority, the Whatcom Humane Society, has experienced increased costs in order to properly care for impounded animals; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to encourage pet owners to place proper identification upon their pets so that pets may be returned to their owners if the pets stray; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to encourage pet owners to voluntarily sterilize their pets in order to reduce the number of stray animals and the need for animal euthanasia; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to make animal sterilization affordable for its pet owners who would otherwise be unable to pay for the surgery,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1: Section 7.08.020 of the Bellingham Municipal Code shall be amended to read as follows:

7.08.020 - License - Fees - Renewal

- A.** The annual license fee for each unsterilized male or female dog over 3 months of age is \$41.00.
- B.** The annual license fee for sterilized dogs is \$11.00.
- C.** All new dog licenses shall be valid for 1 year from date of purchase. Renewal licenses shall be due on the last day of the 12th month following the date of purchase of the previous license.
- D.** Any person failing to obtain or to renew a license within 30 days of the date the license is first required or expired, shall be assessed a late fee of \$10.00.
- E.** Any low-income senior citizen or disabled citizen who is eligible for reduced fees in accordance with regulations established by the Finance Director, may apply for and be issued a discounted license for one dog, said license to be issued upon payment of the annual license fee for the current year, and thereafter renewable at no further cost so long as that particular dog remains the pet of the individual obtaining such license.

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F. One dollar from each license fee paid to the animal control authority shall be placed into an Animal Population Control Fund to subsidize sterilization surgeries for the pets of low-income City residents and for public education programs promoting animal sterilization. The Animal Population Control Fund shall be administered by the animal control authority.

Section 2: Section 7.08.080 of the Bellingham Municipal Code shall be amended to read as follows:

7.08.080 – Impoundment – Fees

A. For every dog impounded pursuant to this chapter, there shall be paid to the animal control authority, by any person desiring to redeem such animal, the total of the following fees before the dog is released from impoundment:

- (1) A fee of \$40.00 for the first impoundment in any 12 month period;
- (2) A fee of \$60.00 for the second impoundment in any 12 month period;
- (3) A fee of \$80.00 for the third impoundment in any 12 month period;
- (4) A fee of \$150.00 for the fourth and any subsequent impoundment in any 12 month period;
- (5) For a dog over three months of age that is unsterilized, the fee shall be increased by an additional \$20.00. Upon the first impoundment in a 12 month period of an unsterilized dog, the owner shall be charged the fee for a sterilized dog if the owner agrees that the dog be sterilized prior to its redemption. For a dog over three months of age that is not wearing a valid license at the time it is impounded, the fee shall be increased by an additional \$20.00. In addition, a current dog license must be obtained before a dog over three months of age is released.

B. In addition to the impoundment fee, the animal control authority may require payment of a reasonable amount per day per dog for costs of boarding. This amount shall be set in accordance with the boarding fee provided in the contract between the City of Bellingham and animal control authority and shall be paid prior to the release of the animal.

C. Fees provided for in this section can be waived or reduced at the discretion of the Director of the animal control authority, if it can be determined that the owner did not otherwise violate the terms of this chapter.

Section 3: Section 7.12.050 of the Bellingham Municipal Code shall be amended to read as follows:

7.12.050 – Impoundment – Fees

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The animal control authority is authorized to charge and collect the following fees for services rendered under this chapter:

(1) Impoundment fee. For every animal other than a dog impounded pursuant to this chapter, there shall be paid to the animal control authority, by any person desiring to redeem such animal, the total of the following fees before the animal is released from impoundment:

- (a) Smaller animals (including cats, birds, rabbits, rodents, and small reptiles):
 - (i) A fee of \$25.00 for the first impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (ii) A fee of \$45.00 for the second impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (iii) A fee of \$65.00 for the third impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (iv) A fee of \$100.00 for the fourth or any subsequent impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (v) For any cat over 3 months of age that is unsterilized at the time of redemption, the fee shall be increased by an additional \$20.00. For any cat over 3 months of age that is impounded without identification, the fee shall be increased by an additional \$20.00.
- (b) Smaller livestock (including goats and sheep):
 - (i) A fee of \$60.00 for the first impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (ii) A fee of \$80.00 for the second impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (iii) A fee of \$100.00 for the third impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (iv) A fee of \$150.00 for the fourth or any subsequent impoundment in any 12 month period.
- (c) Larger livestock (including horses and cattle) and other large animals:
 - (i) A fee of \$75.00 for the first impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (ii) A fee of \$100.00 for the second impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (iii) A fee of \$125.00 for the third impoundment in any 12 month period;
 - (iv) A fee of \$200.00 for the fourth or any subsequent impoundment in any 12 month period.

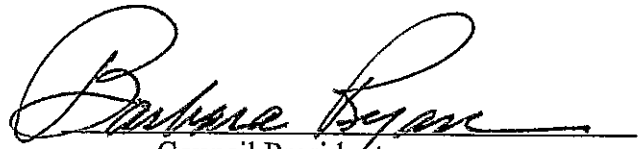
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(2) In addition to the impoundment fee, the animal control authority may require payment of a reasonable amount per day per animal for costs of boarding. This amount shall be set in accordance with the boarding fee schedule provided in the contract between the City of Bellingham and the animal control authority and shall be paid prior to release of the animal.

(3) Costs of advertising and sale of the animal may also be assessed and required to be paid prior to release of the animal.

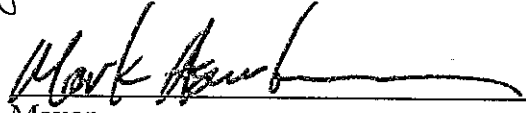
(4) Any necessary additional expenses incurred by the animal control authority to care for the animal may also be assessed. These may include but are not limited to necessary veterinary care and special transportation expenses.

PASSED by Council this 29TH day of JULY, 2002.


Council President

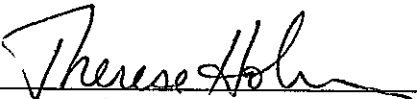
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APPROVED by me this 13th day of August, 2002.




Mayor

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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