



Department of Animal Services

*Erin Gettis, Director
Dr. Kim Youngberg, Deputy Director*

May 30, 2024

City of Palm Desert
Attn: Pedro Rodriguez
73510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Re: Increase to Contract Rates - Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on June 25, 2024

Greetings City Partner,

As we approach the end of Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Riverside County Department of Animal Services, and all County departments, received strategic direction from the County Executive Office and Board of Supervisors (the Board) to increase rates by five percent on all contracts for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. This includes all contracts with our partner Cities where the Department of Animal Services (the Department) provides field, shelter and/or licensing services to the City. The proposed contract rates for the upcoming fiscal year, as shown in the attachment to this letter, will be recommended to the Board on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. If adopted, the new rates will go into effect on August 1, 2024, unless otherwise indicated in a City's service agreement. Starting in August, the billing statement will reflect the increase in contract rates. The first statement will be sent out in September and subsequent statements following thereafter. Please be advised, the Department will be offering one year contract amendments to all of our cities to continue providing services.

The County conducted a rates study and determined that implementing a full cost recovery approach was not the most reasonable option for our City partners. The fees would be substantially higher if the County were to adopt the full cost recovery model instead of the proposed five percent increase. Essentially, there would be a considerable difference between the current amount paid by the City and the amount that the City would pay under the full cost recovery model. County Board Policy No. B-4 requires that County departments recover the actual cost of providing services.

Finally, please be advised that the Department of Animal Services will soon be proposing amendments to Ordinance No. 534 and Ordinance No. 630. These Ordinance Amendments will streamline processes, increase efficiency, and update practices to be in line with what is practiced nationwide. We encourage your City to promptly adopt any revised versions of these County Ordinances once adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

Riverside County
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES
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During this fiscal year (from July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024), the Department of Animal Services has impounded a total of 31,140 live and dead animals. To help decrease the amount of impounds at the shelters, the staff at Animal Services remain dedicated to reuniting pets with their owners and we encourage residents to do the same. Our shelter team works tirelessly to find loving homes for animals promptly which reduces their length of stay. In February 2024, the Department initiated the 5,000 Cat Challenge with the goal of saving the lives of an additional 5,000 cats. This initiative is intended to promote trap-neuter-return and shelter-neuter-return, the health of Riverside County cats and improve the outcomes. Other public provided services that the department offers are mobile spay and neuter clinics, wellness clinics, and adoption events. These efforts also help reduce costs for City partners, improve shelter conditions and lower euthanasia rates.

The County Department of Animal Services appreciates the opportunity to continue the positive partnerships that we have developed with your City. If you have any questions or want to discuss this further, please contact Harold Jones at email: hsjones@rivco.org or 951-903-0996 or Thaise Sermons-Krishnan at email: tskrishn@rivco.org or (951) 358-7545.

Sincerely,

Erin Gettis
Director of Animal Services



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES		
FY 24-25 CONTRACT CITY RATES		
PROPOSED ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (ACO) RATES		
POSITION	CURRENT RATE FY 2023/2024	PROPOSED RATE FY 2024/2025
ACO (Hourly Rate)	\$131.31	\$137.88
ACO (Overtime/Hourly- minimum call out of 2 hours)	\$170.15	\$178.66
PROPOSED DAILY SHELTERING RATE		
SERVICE	CURRENT RATE FY 2023/2024	PROPOSED RATE FY 2024/2025
Daily Sheltering Rate	\$34.10	\$35.81
PROPOSED LICENSE PROCESSING FEES		
SERVICE	CURRENT RATE FY 2023/2024	PROPOSED RATE FY 2024/2025
License Processing Fee	\$11.35	\$11.92
PROPOSED IMPOUND FEES		
LOCATION	CURRENT RATE FY 2023/2024	PROPOSED RATE FY 2024/2025
Blythe	\$6.90	\$7.25
San Jacinto	\$10.44	\$10.96
CVAC	\$10.86	\$11.40
Jurupa Valley	\$12.53	\$13.16
OTHER PROPOSED FEES		
SERVICE	CURRENT RATE FY 2023/2024	PROPOSED RATE FY 2024/2025
Large Animal-Horses	\$20.00	\$21.00
Large Animal-Donkey, Sheep	\$12.00	\$12.60
Deads	\$70.00	\$73.50
Wildlife	\$138.00	\$144.90