

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2024

PREPARED BY: Richard D. Cannone, AICP, Director of Development Services

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION UPDATING THE FEES FOR DOG LICENSES

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, UPDATING THE FEES FOR DOG LICENSES."

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

At the March 28, 2024, City Council Study Session, staff provided an overview of the Animal Services Contract with Riverside County Department of Animal Services (RCDAS). One key consideration discussed was increasing the fee for dog licensing. Palm Desert Municipal Code (PDMC) Section 6.08.040 establishes that if a fee is not adopted, *it should be the same amount for similar dog licensing in the unincorporated areas of Riverside County*. The current fee, established in 1998, has not been updated since then and includes the following:

License type	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
<b>Altered Dog</b>	\$8	\$15	\$19
<b>Unaltered Dog</b>	\$50	\$100	\$150
<b>Altered Dog, Senior Citizen 60+</b>	\$6	\$7	\$8

RCDAS issues dog licenses and collects fees on behalf of the City, and retains a processing fee of \$11.92 per license for this fiscal year. Any remainder is credited back to the City on the monthly invoice. City staff recommends increasing dog licensing fees to cover the \$11.92 processing fee retained by RCDAS. Please refer to the table below for the proposed fees.

License Type	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Altered Dog</b>			
<i>Palm Desert</i>	\$15	\$20	\$22
<i>Unc. Riverside County</i>	\$25	\$50	\$75
<b>Unaltered Dog</b>			
<i>Palm Desert</i>	\$120	\$240	\$360
<i>Unc. Riverside County</i>	\$120	\$240	\$360
<b>Altered Dog, Senior Citizen 60+</b>			
<i>Palm Desert</i>	\$12	\$13	\$14
<i>Unc. Riverside County</i>	\$12	\$24	\$36

<sup>(1)</sup> A three-year license is only available for dogs that have attained the age of 12 months or older and have been vaccinated. In any event no license period may extend beyond the remaining period of validity for the current rabies vaccination. (Gov't. Code, § 38792(b).)

City of Palm Desert  
 Dog License Fee

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For comparison, the current dog licensing fees for unincorporated areas of Riverside County are provided. With the exception of Unaltered Dogs and the one-year license for Altered Dogs owned by Senior Citizens aged 60 and over (where the fees align with unincorporated Riverside County rates), our proposed fees will remain at least 40% lower than the RCDAS fees. Additionally, as provided at the March 28, 2024 Study Session the proposed licensing fees are one of the lowest among the Coachella Vally municipalities that contract with RCDAS, as shown below. With the exception of Rancho Mirage (1998 RCDAS fees), Palm Desert will have the lowest license rates for multi-year licenses.

License Type	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
<b>Altered Dog</b>			
Palm Desert	\$15	\$20	\$22
<i>Cathedral City</i>	\$25	\$50	\$75
<i>Coachella</i>	\$17	\$34	\$49
<i>Indian Wells</i>	\$21	\$38	\$53
<i>Indio</i>	\$17	\$26	\$36
<i>La Quinta</i>	\$17	\$34	\$49
<i>Rancho Mirage</i>	\$8	\$15	\$19
<b>Unaltered Dog</b>			
Palm Desert	\$120	\$240	\$360
<i>Cathedral City</i>	\$120	\$240	\$360
<i>Coachella</i>	\$100	\$200	\$300
<i>Indian Wells</i>	\$104	\$204	\$304
<i>Indio</i>	\$100	\$175	\$225
<i>La Quinta</i>	\$100	\$200	\$300
<i>Rancho Mirage</i>	\$50	\$100	\$150
<b>Altered Dog, Senior Citizen 60+</b>			
Palm Desert	\$12	\$13	\$14
<i>Cathedral City</i>	\$12	\$24	\$36
<i>Coachella</i>	\$12	\$24	\$36
<i>Indian Wells</i>	\$16	\$28	\$40
<i>Indio</i>	\$10	\$15	\$20
<i>La Quinta (55+)</i>	\$12	\$24	\$36
<i>Rancho Mirage</i>	\$6	\$7	\$8

**Legal Review:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s office.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The proposed increase in fees will help further reduce the monthly charges of the Animal Services Contract with RCDAS. For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the average monthly credit the City received was approximately \$950.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft Resolution