

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-\_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, RESCINDING THE CITY'S PET REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND ESTABLISHING A NEW SPAY/NEUTER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH ANIMAL SAMARITANS

WHEREAS, in September 2010, the City Council of the City of Palm Desert established a Pet Reimbursement Program to assist residents with pet adoption fees through the Riverside County Department of Animal Services; and

WHEREAS, in July 2014, the City Council expanded the program to include reimbursements for vaccinations, spaying, neutering, and microchipping; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the City has provided reimbursements to residents for eligible pet services to promote responsible pet ownership and reduce shelter populations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to streamline administrative processes and provide residents with more consistent, accessible, and affordable spay/neuter services; and

WHEREAS, Animal Samaritans, a nonprofit organization established in 1978, operates the Coachella Valley's first low-cost spay/neuter clinic and continues to offer the most affordable and reliable sterilization services in the region; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to partner with Animal Samaritans to provide 100% cost coverage for spay/neuter procedures and microchipping for Palm Desert residents; and

WHEREAS, Palm Desert residents residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City are automatically eligible for participation in this program, consistent with Title 6 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code governing household pet limits; and

WHEREAS, Animal Samaritans will invoice the City monthly for reimbursement of covered services, ensuring transparency, fiscal oversight, and administrative efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the new partnership will fully replace the prior reimbursement system and ensure City funds are applied directly to effective pet sterilization and microchipping services that support animal welfare and reduce overpopulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing Recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The existing Pet Reimbursement Policy, as established by Resolution No. 2024-\_\_\_\_\_ and prior amendments, is hereby rescinded effective December 11, 2025.

SECTION 3. The City of Palm Desert hereby establishes the Animal Samaritans Spay/Neuter Partnership Program, as outlined in Exhibit "A", effective the same date.

SECTION 4. The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to execute any necessary agreements or memoranda of understanding with Animal Samaritans and to administer the program, including voucher issuance, financial tracking, and reimbursement processing.

SECTION 5. IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

ADOPTED ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAN C. HARNIK  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY J. MEJIA  
CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2025-\_\_ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Desert on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on \_\_\_\_\_.

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ANTHONY J. MEJIA  
CITY CLERK

## EXHIBIT "A"

**Spay/Neuter Partnership Program Guidelines****Program Overview**

The City of Palm Desert, in partnership with Animal Samaritans, provides 100% cost coverage for spay or neuter procedures and microchipping for Palm Desert residents. Covered services include labor, surgical medications, surgical supplies, take-home pain medication, post-surgical pain relief injections, and take-home e-collars.

Based on an average of all sterilization procedures performed (including male cat neuter, small, medium, and large dog neuter; and female cat and dog spay procedures), the current average cost for altering a pet is \$215.00, plus \$5.00 for microchipping, for a total covered average of \$220.00.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Palm Desert residents do not need to register for this program. Residency within the City's jurisdictional boundaries automatically qualifies applicants for participation. This policy ensures residents have direct and uninterrupted access to services under the City's partnership with Animal Samaritans.

- Applicants must provide proof of residency (valid ID, utility bill, lease, or property tax bill).
- Dog owners must show proof of a valid dog license.
- The City will cover spay/neuter and microchipping services for up to four (4) pets per residential address, consistent with the allowable number of household pets under Title 6 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code.
- Vouchers must be redeemed within 60 days of issuance and presented at the time of service.

**Program Details**

The City covers 100% of the cost of all eligible spay/neuter procedures and microchipping performed at Animal Samaritans.

Vouchers will be embossed or crimp-sealed by the City to deter counterfeiting. Pet owners will not pay any remaining balance for covered services unless they elect optional procedures not included in the sterilization or microchipping package.

Animal Samaritans will invoice the City monthly for reimbursement of services rendered.

Additional financial aid options through Animal Samaritans remain available for non-covered services.

**Program Administration**

The City Manager's Office shall oversee voucher issuance, program tracking, and monthly reconciliation and payment processing with Animal Samaritans.