



ORDINANCE NO. 28395

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to animal license fees; amending Chapter 17.05 of the
2 Tacoma Municipal Code, relating to license fees for dogs and cats, to
3 increase animal license fees and amend language to provide clarity of
license term, requirements and exemptions.

4 WHEREAS all Tacoma residents who have dogs and/or cats are required to
5 register their pet with the City, and

6 WHEREAS the Finance Department, Tax & License Division, works in
7 coordination with the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society and Tacoma Police
8 Department for animal control and licensing services, and

9
10 WHEREAS the City's animal license fees have not been increased since
11 2002, and

12 WHEREAS the proposed amendment will increase animal license fees as
13 follows: (1) Cat Spayed/Neutered, from \$12 to \$20; (2) Cat Unaltered, from \$55 to
14 \$65; (3) Dog Spayed/Neutered, from \$20 to \$30; (4) Dog Unaltered, from \$55 to
15 \$65; (5) Cat Unaltered – Senior, from \$30 to \$35; and (6) Dog Unaltered – Senior,
16 from \$30 to \$35, and

17
18 WHEREAS the proposed increase will result in additional revenue of
19 approximately \$200,000 for the 2017-2018 Biennium, and

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21 WHEREAS these funds will be used to fund an additional Animal Control
22 Officer, and will allow for expansion of animal control services from the current five
23 days per week to seven days per week, which will strengthen and support a safe
24 City and provide residents with additional access to animal control services when
25 needed, and
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WHEREAS the license fee for senior citizens who own a dog or cat that has been spayed or neutered will remain at the current \$10 and \$5 annual fee, respectively, and

WHEREAS the proposed fees will become effective on January 1, 2017;

Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That Chapter 17.05 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, relating to license fees for dogs and cats, is hereby amended as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

**Chapter 17.05
DOG AND CAT LICENSES**

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Sections:

- 17.05.010 License required.
- 17.05.011 Rabies vaccination required.
- 17.05.012 Puppies and kittens.
- 17.05.020 Purchase of license.
- 17.05.025 Term of license.
- 17.05.030 License records.
- 17.05.040 Annual License fees.
- 17.05.050 Impounding unlicensed or improperly licensed dogs and/or cats.
- 17.05.060 License not transferable.
- 17.05.061 Counterfeit and imitation tags.
- 17.05.070 Penalty – Civil infraction.

17.05.020 Purchase of license.

All dog and cat licenses shall be obtained by paying the required annual license fees, in the amounts and within the time limits as provided in this chapter, to the Finance Department of the City or to an agent authorized by the City. ~~The license shall remain in force for a period of 12 months from the date of issuance, expiring on the last day of the 12th month.~~ The applicant shall be furnished with such license and a permanent metal tag. The tag shall be attached to a collar or harness which shall be worn by the cat or dog at all times; provided, that cats need not display a license identification tag if the cat is licensed and has been implanted with microchip identification and the microchip number is registered with the Finance Department of the City, and such microchip is acceptable to and readable by the animal control officer. ~~Renewal licenses will retain the original expiration period whether renewed prior to, on, or after their respective renewal month.~~ A person under the age eighteen years is not eligible to purchase a pet license.

17.05.025 Term of License.

All licenses issued pursuant to the provisions of this title, except as to those licenses for which a different term is herein specified, shall be effective as of the first day of the month of issuance regardless of the actual date of issue and shall expire one year from the effective date thereof.

17.05.030 License records.

The City shall keep a record of the names and addresses of persons to whom licenses are issued, the number and date of the license, and the amount paid for the same. Every pet owner must notify the Finance Department if the owner moves the animal to a new address or if the owner changes his or her mailing address.

17.05.040 Annual License fees.

The annual license fees for the ownership, keeping, or having control of dogs or cats in the City shall be as follows:

A. Adult Dogs and Cats:

~~altered: \$20.00~~

~~unaltered: \$55.00~~

B. Adult Cats:

~~altered: \$12.00~~

~~unaltered: \$55.00C.~~



Cat Altered	\$20
Cat Unaltered	\$65
Dog Altered	\$30
Dog Unaltered	\$65

CB. Reduced rates for senior citizens, 65 years of age or older, and individuals with a permanent disability:

1. Dogs:

altered: \$10.00

unaltered: \$30.00.

2. Cats:

altered: \$ 5.00

unaltered: \$30.00

Cat Altered	\$5
Cat Unaltered	\$35
Dog Altered	\$10
Dog Unaltered	\$35

Individuals with a permanent disability residing within the city limits of Tacoma qualify for the reduced fee specified in [subsection BC](#) above, provided that the dogs and cats are not used for a commercial purpose. To qualify for this reduced fee, individuals with a permanent disability must provide proof of permanent disability to the Finance Department in the form of a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or documentation showing at least 30 percent permanent disability, a Washington Department of Licensing parking placard issued for permanent disability under RCW ~~46.16.381~~[46.19.010](#), or any other means that the Finance Department deems an appropriate proof of permanent disability.

DC. Temporary Licenses. A one-time temporary license shall be issued ~~at~~for the altered fee for animals that will be altered ~~prior to the animal reaching the age of six months, within 91 days from the issuance of such temporary license.~~ Upon proof of spay or neuter, the license shall become permanent for the remaining one_ year license term as ~~defined outlined~~ in TMC 17.05.0250. ~~Temporary licenses are hereby authorized for previously unlicensed dogs and cats above the age of eight weeks and under the age of six months. The license shall be effective for 91 days after issuance, at which time the animal must be licensed in accordance with subsections A, B, and C above. If the animal is not properly licensed under subsections A, B, and C above, the owner is in violation of Section 17.05.010 and subject to all penalties provided in this chapter.~~

ED. Dogs and cats are exempt from the licensing provisions of this section when they are in the custody of a recognized animal welfare organization. In order to qualify as a recognized organization, proof of charitable organization status must be submitted to the Finance Department of the City by the organization.

FE. In order to receive the fee advantage for altered dogs and cats, an individual ~~may be asked to must~~ provide either proof of alteration from a licensed veterinarian or a written statement from a licensed veterinarian that the spay/neuter procedure would be harmful to the animal.

GF. An adult dog or cat is one that is more than 21 weeks old.

HG. In addition to the infraction penalty set forth in Section 17.05.070, any person who fails to obtain a license 30 days after the license expiration date but before 60 days of the expiration date shall pay a penalty of \$10 per license. Any person who fails to obtain a license after 60 days of the license expiration shall pay a penalty of \$20 per license.



H. No late payment penalty shall be charged on new license applications if:

1. the owner submits proof of purchase or acquisition of the animal within the preceding 30 days;
2. the owner has moved into the City within the preceding 30 days;
3. the animal is currently or has been within the preceding 30 days under the age which requires a license;
4. the owner purchases the license(s) voluntarily, prior to in-person or field contact by animal control personnel; or
5. the owner submits other proof deemed acceptable to the animal control authority as defined in TMC 17.01 that the failure to file the license timely was due to a reasonable cause in the animal control authority's administrative policy.

I. One replacement tag per license term year will be given per animal at no fee, and each additional replacement tag shall be \$5.00 each.

~~K~~. No person having ~~defective-an~~ eyesight disability shall be required to pay any license fee for any ~~dog~~ animal specially trained and principally used for the purpose of leading assisting such person as defined in RCW 49.60.040. However, such person is required to keep his or her dog licensed and must comply with all other provisions of this title.

~~L~~. ~~No person having a handicap shall be required to pay any license fee for any dog specially trained and principally used for the purpose of helping such person. However, such person is required to keep his or her dog licensed and must comply with all other provisions of this title.~~

17.05.070 Penalty – Civil infraction.

Any violation of ~~Section 17.01.010 or 17.05.060 of~~ this chapter is a violation and shall constitute a Class 1 infraction, not to exceed \$250, not including statutory assessments.

Such penalty is in addition to any other remedies or penalties specifically provided by law. For each act herein prohibited of a continuing nature, each day shall be considered a separate offense.