

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: February 9, 2021
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
Cc: Luis Pedroza, Interim City Manager
FROM: Kraig Fullen, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Douglas Animal Shelter Operations – Spay/Neuter Deposit

The following information is being provided regarding a necessary increase to the spay/neuter deposit as part of operations at the Douglas Animal Shelter.

DISCUSSION:

The Douglas Animal Shelter is a shelter by name and animal control by function. We provide service to Douglas, the surrounding area and also contract shelter services to Cochise County. There are three (3) fulltime City positions allocated to shelter operations. All three positions are classified as Animal Control Officer (ACO), with two ACO's sharing the duties and responsibilities of responding to calls for service and the third ACO managing the shelter.

The two main priorities of the shelter are pet reclamation and adoption. In the case of adoption, the animal is required to be spayed or neutered before release in accordance with state statute (ARS §11-1022). The law allows for a deposit to be made by way of agreement if there is no veterinary facility capable of performing the sterilization within a twenty (20) mile radius; as is our case. The deposit is refunded upon proof by the adopting owner that the animal has been sterilized, otherwise it is forfeited and deposited into the General Fund.

The shelter has charged a deposit of \$25 since assuming shelter operations in 2007. However, the state statute calls for the deposit to be "an amount sufficient to ensure that the dog or cat will be sterilized". This is the same language that was adopted into Title 6 of the Douglas Municipal Code pertaining to Animals. The statute further specifies that the amount "be comparable to the lowest fee charged by veterinarians in the county". At present our deposit amount does not meet either statutory requirement.

Therefore, effective February 1, 2021, the City will be updating the amount required for the spay/neuter deposit from \$25 to \$200. Notice of the increase will be shared via our various social media accounts and print media.

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION:

This report is for information only.