

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-372  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1996 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE TO AMEND ANIMAL LICENSE REGULATIONS	RESOLUTION ◆ ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DONNA BOETEL-BAKER CITY CLERK

**SYNOPSIS —**

On the September 3, 1996, Council agenda is a roll call amending/updating the dog license provisions and regulations regarding vicious dogs, and to increase license fees for altered cats from \$5 to \$10, effective January 1, 1997.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Increase in cat license fees would generate approximately \$11,000 annually. This relatively small amount would help offset City costs associated with personnel, administration, and supplies.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval of First Reading of the Ordinance.

**BACKGROUND —**

*Vicious Dogs—*

In order to ensure that the public is adequately protected in the event of an attack by a vicious dog, the City's ordinance requires that the dog owner, in addition to confinement requirements, carry in force \$100,000 of personal liability insurance. This can be in the form of a homeowners policy. However, because an insurance company can deny a claim if the applicant for the homeowners insurance did not truthfully divulge that he/she owns a vicious dog, it is important that the City make the changes indicated in this proposed amendment. A letter from the insurance agent assures the City that the dog owner has revealed the fact that he/she owns a dog that has been declared vicious either because of its breed or its behavior, and that the insurance in force covers the actions of that dog.

*Other Dog License Amendments—*

The amendments proposed are updating the Municipal Code to comply with recent State Code changes. Two significant changes are the change in licensing age of the dog from four to six months; and changing the rabies vaccination requirement to show it has not expired, as opposed to showing it does not expire within six months from issue date of dog license. This will make the dog license process much more *customer friendly*.

*Cat License Fees—*

Council's direction, prior to implementation of a cat license ordinance, was to treat dog and cat licensing in the same manner. However, due to late start-up in March, 1995, we kept the altered cat fee at \$5 for the first year of

implementation. Having the fees at the same rate as dogs will allow utilization of a standardized animal license tag in the future as opposed to a cat tag and a dog tag. License forms could also be combined.

The license fee change becomes effective with the beginning of license year 1997 (1-1-97), and is presented now in conjunction with the other amendments for the anticipated five-year code update.