

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**98-206**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**  
MAY 18, 1998

**SYNOPSIS —**

**SUBJECT:**  
DISPOSITION OF  
UNREDEEMED  
ANIMALS

The Animal Rescue League (ARL) has made a request to recover animals which have been adopted from them and consequently abandoned, at a reduced rate than is allowed by current ordinance. They have also requested to claim other unredeemed animals which the Animal Control Unit would normally euthanize. Representatives from the Police Department, City Legal Department, Animal Rescue League, and the City Manager’s Office have met to develop ordinance language that would allow this request.

**TYPE:**  
RESOLUTION  
*ORDINANCE*  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
MICHAEL MATTHES  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT TO  
THE CITY  
MANAGER

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

Revenue and savings total \$6 per dog, \$4 per cat recovered by the ARL. If the ARL were to recover 100 dogs, the City would receive \$500 and save \$100 in euthanization costs.

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND –**

Because of the volume of unredeemed animals, the Police Department Animal Control Unit does not have the space to hold them for very many days. By allowing the ARL to claim unredeemed animals at a reduced rate, they would be able to adopt more animals to the community, saving the City euthanization costs. The ARL already provides cremation services to the City for no charge.

Ordinance 7-33 (dogs) and 7-43.12 (cats) defines the procedure managing unredeemed animals. It allows the City’s Chief Humane Officer to euthanize, adopt, or sell for research, those

animals the officer deems appropriate. It does not allow for recovery of the animals in the way requested by the ARL. The Legal Department has suggested a need for a change in Chapter 7 of the Municipal Code to provide for a reduced rate that will enable the ARL to recover more animals.

Attached is a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Police Department and the ARL.

Attachment