

## AGENDA



Thursday, July 23, 2009

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 42**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance amending Title 3 of the City Code relating to animal regulation to repeal pet registration requirements.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** David Lurie, Director, 972-5010; Dorinda Pulliam, Assistant Director for Animal Services, 972-6088; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

**Prior Council Action:** Council approved Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget, September 8, 2008.

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**BACKGROUND**

The proposed amendments to Title 3 of the Austin City Code sections eliminate the city's pet registration requirements based on Ordinance 20080908-006 Authorizing Fees, Fines, and Other Charges to be Set or Charged by the City for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 which deleted the two Animal License fees for Pet Registration (both intact animal and for spayed or neutered animal). Staff is recommending a clean-up of Title 3 as a result of the Council's approval to delete the fees effective October 1, 2008.

The original proposal to eliminate the pet registration fee was because the cost of operating and maintaining the program including data entry of tags, purchase and delivery of tags, and the reduction in pet registrations with the introduction of the lifetime registration in 2006 exceeded the revenues collected. Additionally, pet registration is not an effective pet recovery program--very few dogs and cats entering Town Lake Animal Center (TLAC) have collars or tags of any kind; microchips are a better tool for reuniting lost pets with their owners. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2006, 100 percent of animals leaving TLAC are required to have a microchip implanted prior to leaving. Since Fiscal Year 2006, the City has been funding provision of free microchips to the public.

Elimination of the pet registration fee requires amendment of city ordinance to remove the requirement for registration of dogs and cats. The attached ordinance deletes all of the paragraphs of Article 2 ("Registration of a Dog or Cat") of Chapter 3-4 ("Regulation of Dogs and Cats") and all other references to registration of dogs and cats.