



Important Numbers
City Hall/Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department
(530) 841-2383

Police Department
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials
Tom Amaral
Mayor

Jim Griffin
Mayor Pro Tempore

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

David Simmen
Councilmember

Jason Darrow
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Michael Pavlik
City Treasurer

Inside this issue:

Animal Control

Animal Control

Licensing Rate Increase

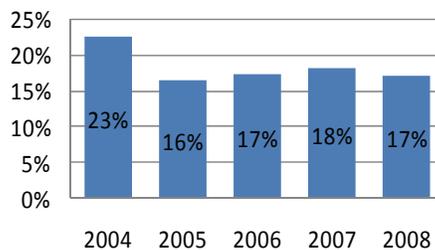


The services provided by the Yreka Police Department's Animal Control Division offer numerous benefits to residents. Most importantly, Animal Control maintains community safety by ensuring that stray and potentially dangerous dogs are removed from public places. They assist dog owners in locating stray pets and are tasked with removing dead animals from public areas. Animal Control also sees to dogs' needs while they are housed at the animal shelter and works to find new homes for dogs that are adoptable. Over the past two years there have been 1,275 calls from the community for

Animal Control services. Approximately 80% of these calls were dog-related, 10% were cat-related, and 10% were in regards to all other animals. Due to the combination of public and private benefits that Animal Control provides, costs of the program are divided between user fees (licensing and shelter fees) and City general funds. Although the Animal Control Officer has other duties such as parking enforcement, municipal code enforcement, and facilitation of crime prevention programs, 90% of their time is spent on providing Animal Control services.

Rising costs (wages, fuel, and supplies) have forced the City to reconsider how the Animal Control program is funded. Animal Control revenue, such as licensing and shelter fees, currently generates an average of 17.5% of its annual costs, leaving the remaining 82.5% of expenses to be paid from the General Fund (Figure 1). This distribution places too much of the burden of Animal Control on the public and too little on private dog owners. To establish a more equitable division of costs, the fees for Animal Control services need to be increased.

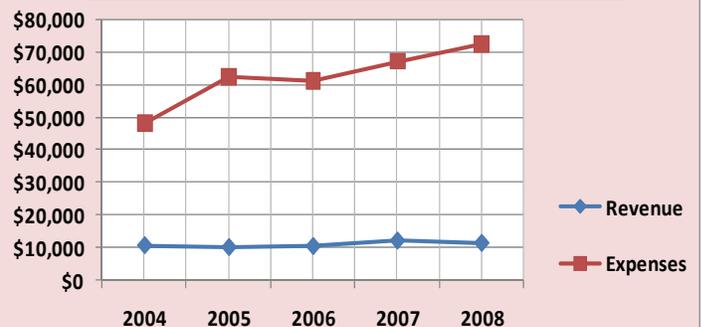
Percentage of Expenses Covered by Current Fees (Figure 1)



The last fee increase for Animal Control services was in 1983. Over 25 years, the costs of running the Animal Control Division have increased, but revenues such as licensing fees and shelter fees have not (Figure 2). The Animal Control Division currently generates an average of \$11,000 a year, but the costs are over \$70,000 a year, with next year's budgeted costs exceeding \$80,000.

(continued on page 2)

Animal Control - Revenue vs. Expenses (Figure 2)



Animal Control (continued from page 1)

The primary source of revenue for the Animal Control Division is the license fee. Annually, these license fees generate an average of \$9,600. In comparison to the licensing fees in surrounding cities, the City of Yreka has the lowest license fee. If the City were to double its current licensing fees, the rates would only be higher than the City of Weed; remaining lower overall than Redding, Mt. Shasta, and Siskiyou County (**Figure 3**).

To create a more even distribution of program costs between dog owners and community members, the goal is to have 50% of Animal Control costs recouped from program fees. To reach this goal, the current fees would need to be increased substantially to \$48.52 for unaltered dogs and \$24.26 for altered dogs. Due to the large fee increase needed to achieve this, a phased-in rate increase schedule has been created. Increasing the rates over four years will allow the rates to rise in smaller, more manageable increments (**Figure 4**). These rates will provide a significantly greater incentive to have dogs spayed and neutered as the price gap would widen between the two licenses. This is a model that is used consistently in Animal Control departments. Siskiyou County currently has a \$20.00 price difference between the licenses for a spayed or neutered dog versus an unaltered dog.

Regular Rates	Siskiyou County	Mt Shasta	Redding	Weed	Yreka
Altered	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Unaltered	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$22.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Senior Rates	Siskiyou County	Mt Shasta	Redding	Weed	Yreka
Altered	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Unaltered	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$10.00

Proposed Dog License Rates (Figure 4)	Altered	Unaltered
Current: 2007/2008	\$5.00	\$10.00
Year One: 2008/2009	\$10.00	\$20.00
Year Two: 2009/2010	\$15.00	\$30.00
Year Three: 2010/2011	\$20.00	\$40.00
Year Four: 2011/2012	\$25.00	\$50.00

This proposed rate structure is designed to accommodate low-income and fixed-income parties with the gradual increases. To assist dog owners who are on low or fixed income, the City is considering establishment of a Community Service Fee Waiver. This waiver would be granted to fixed-income parties who had performed 3 hours of community service for a spayed or neutered dog and 6 hours for an unaltered dog. This policy would continue to encourage dog owners of all income levels to have their dogs spayed or neutered and make having a pet more affordable, if on a fixed income, as the licensing fees increase.

Animal Control is an important service that is beneficial to the entire community. These fee increases will ensure appropriate funding for the future of the Animal Control services in Yreka.

Licensing - What do my license fees pay for?
The money from license fees helps support the services provided to the community by Animal Control, such as:

- Pick-up of & owner notification (if known) of any injured animal, with limited medical support as needed.
- Pick-up of stray dogs. Strays can be dangerous; license fees help keep strays off the streets.
- Licensing allows the City to keep track of current rabies vaccinations – thereby helping protect the public from this potentially deadly disease.
- Identification & owner notification of licensed lost dogs.
- Removal of dead animals from city roadways.
- Adoption of lovable, unclaimed or unwanted pets.
- Shelter, care & medical attention for dogs.
- Investigation of animal cruelty/neglect, with court or legal follow-up as appropriate.
- Quarantine of animals that have bitten a person and application of the Potentially Dangerous or Vicious Dog sections of the ordinances, as appropriate.
- Humane euthanasia of unwanted, injured, terminally ill or elderly pets.
- Barking dog nuisance complaint investigations.



REMINDER: The Utility Bill increase will go into effect on October 1st, 2008. The new rates will be reflected on your November 1 bill.