

2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
73	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Pass C.B. 118539 increasing certain pet licenses fees at the Seattle Animal Shelter by approximately 9.5%

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: No

Councilmembers: Budget Committee

Staff Analyst: Tony Kilduff

Council Bill or Resolution: C.B. 118539

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Budget Action description:

This green sheet recommends passage of C.B. 118539, which increases certain pet license fees at the Seattle Animal Shelter (Shelter) by approximately 9.5% effective January 1, 2016.

Background

Pet license fees have not been adjusted for several years so part of the increase reflects an adjustment for inflation. However, the increase reflects the need to fund on-site veterinary services at the Shelter. Funds generated from the increase in fees will be used in 2016 to pay \$116,000 (about 85%) of the cost of a pilot program to provide on-site veterinarian services on a full-time basis. The Help the Animals Fund will contribute the remaining 15% (about \$20,000) of the cost of the new service.

The new service, which will be obtained through a service contract or by hiring term-limited temporary employees, will allow immediate exams and related triage for incoming animals. Animals will receive more timely care by a veterinarian on site, and the majority of animals that arrive in distress will not have to suffer

<i>Tab</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Option</i>	<i>Version</i>
73	1	A	1

further discomfort or stress caused by a lengthy wait for a medical assessment and being transported back and forth to area veterinarians.

Only those animals requiring extensive surgery or complex diagnostics will be referred to an outside clinic. Additionally, the Shelter veterinarian will be able to administer rabies vaccinations as well as sedation and pain-relieving drugs to provide comfort to sick, injured or dying animals. Such medications and rabies vaccinations cannot be provided in-house at the present time as they must be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

The Shelter will assess the program during its pilot phase and will propose funding adjustments in the 2017 budget process to optimize the program.

Specific license changes include:

- Cat license increase from \$20 to \$22 for altered cats and from \$30 to \$33 for unaltered cats;
- Dog license increase from \$27 to \$30 for altered dogs, and from \$47 to \$51 for unaltered dogs.