

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Finance and Administrative Services	Selina Chambliss	Lorine Cheung

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to animal fees; adjusting and simplifying pet license fees, adoption fees, and spay and neuter clinic fees; removing guard or attack dog licenses; authorizing the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to adjust animal fees by Director’s Rule; amending Sections 9.25.030, 9.25.050, 9.25.083, 9.25.100, 9.25.110, 9.25.200, 9.26.020, 9.26.050, and 9.26.060 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Sections 9.25.054, 9.26.025, and 9.26.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** This ordinance proposes raising licensing and veterinary fees in the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS). The increase will right-size Seattle Animal Shelter fees for the services it provides.

The Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) is mindful of equity and how SAS fees compare with other organizations in the region like the Regional Animal Services of King County, Seattle Humane Society and the Northwest Spay and Neuter Center. SAS increased license fees in 2019 and veterinary fees in 2018. SAS seeks to increase both fees so they are comparable to other local, affordable options. Additionally, there are a few fees that will decrease in order to be competitive with the region, including discontinuing the guard/attack dog license fee, which has been inactive since 1998. The overall change in fees will increase revenue by approximately \$150,000 in 2025 and 2026.

The Director of FAS has authority to charge fees “as established by Chapter 9.26.” ([SMC 9.25.030.A.11](#)). Changing fees for SAS currently requires approval by Council as the fees are set by the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC Chapter 9.26). FAS is additionally proposing to amend the SMC so that future fees can be set by director’s rule in lieu of amending the SMC with the FAS budget submission. Using director’s rules to establish fees provides SAS with the greatest flexibility to adjust as needed to support costs and is consistent with other fees of these types.

Seattle Animal Shelter Fees would change as follows:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Fees</b>	<b>2025 Proposed Fees</b>
Lic&Perm-Cats Alt	\$26.00	\$ 30.00
Lic&Perm-Dog Alt	\$37.00	\$ 45.00
Lic&Perm-Cats Un-alt	\$79.00	\$ 90.00
Lic&Perm-Dog Un-alt	\$105.00	\$ 125.00

Lic&Perm-Goat	\$21.00	\$25.00
Lic&Perm-Potbelly Pig	\$32.00	\$40.00
Late Renewal Fee	\$30.00	\$ 35.00
Lic&Perm-Lost License	\$5.00	\$6.50
Cat Spay	\$108.00	\$120.00
Cat Neuter	\$102.00	\$115.00
Rabbit Spay/Neuter	\$90.00	\$100.00
Dog Spay (under 50 pounds)	\$156.00	\$160.00
Dog Neuter (under 50 pounds)	\$144.00	\$160.00
Dog Spay (50-80 pounds)	\$174.00	\$180.00
Dog Neuter (50-80 pounds)	\$162.00	\$180.00
Dog Spay/Neuter (over 80 pounds)	\$186.00	\$200.00
Cost of treatment-veterinary care	\$100.00	\$125.00
Vaccination	\$10.00	\$15.00
Adoption – cat	\$75.00	\$30.00
Adoption – kitten	\$125.00	\$100.00
Adoption – two kittens	\$200.00	\$150.00
Adoption – senior/special needs cat	\$35.00	\$15.00
Adoption – dog	\$275.00	\$100.00
Adoption – puppy	\$375.00	\$200.00
Adoption – senior/special needs dog	\$100.00	\$50.00
Adoption – rabbit/ferret	\$40.00	\$20.00
Adoption – chinchillas/sugar gliders	\$65.00	\$30.00

**2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?  Yes  No

**3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?  Yes  No

<b>Expenditure Change (\$);</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Expenditure Change (\$);</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Revenue Change (\$); General Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Revenue Change (\$); Other Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Number of Positions</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total FTE Change</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 est.</b>	<b>2027 est.</b>	<b>2028 est.</b>	<b>2029 est.</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**3.a. Appropriations**

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

**3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements**

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

**Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:**

<b>Fund Name and Number</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>2025 Revenue</b>	<b>2025 Estimated Revenue</b>
General Fund 00100	FAS	Animal Shelter Fees	\$150,000	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

**Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:**

### 3.c. Positions

- This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

### 3.d. Other Impacts

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.**

No.

**If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.**

N/A

**Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.**

The fees for animal sheltering vary across the country. The Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) has compiled information regarding the regional animal sheltering organizations and has adjusted proposed fees accordingly based on that information. Without the adjustments in fees, SAS will be out of step with other regional providers and revenues will lag behind recent increases in inflation.

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.**

N/A

- b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.**

No.

- c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**

- i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

The shelter was thoughtful in the discussion about how and why it would make adjustments to shelter fees. Inflation data for the City of Seattle was used to make proposed increases to certain fees. The shelter closely evaluated impacts to racial equity, vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities and employees of different races if

fees were raised. The proposed fee increases align with other organizations in the Puget Sound, while also prioritizing equity. SAS has a fee waiver process that was generated using the Racial Equity Toolkit. It also has the pet population fund that provides access to vet services for people that meet the state financial requirement of 80% Area Median Income. Lastly, SAS provides a food bank twice a week for pet needs and monthly free pet vaccination clinics that are targeted in disadvantaged neighborhoods. While the shelter took the approach to increase fees related to licensing and veterinary care, it is also decreasing its adoption fees. Decreasing adoptions fees allows the shelter to address barriers of pet ownership for vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities, be more competitive with other animal welfare organizations, and drive more adoptions of animals from the shelter to lower operating costs.

**ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

N/A. A RET was conducted in 2023 evaluating the use of waiving certain fees. While this proposal will increase certain fees, SAS still maintains the ability to waive fees for certain individuals with needs. The 2023 fee waiver RET is attached.

**iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

SAS completed a 40-document plain language review, and we are actively using language line, bringing interpreters to vaccine clinics, and beginning the process of translating our documents to incorporate Tier one languages.

**d. Climate Change Implications**

**i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

N/A

**ii. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

N/A

**e. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

## 5. CHECKLIST

- Is a public hearing required?
- Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?
- If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?
- Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?

## 6. ATTACHMENTS

**Summary Attachments:** Summary Attachment A – RET Analysis of SAS Fee Waiver Policy