

MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2023

RE: DOG LICENSING – REPORT SUPPORTING NEW MUNICIPAL FEE

=====

Title 11, Chapter 7, Article 6 of the Arizona Revised Statutes relate to Animal Control in Counties and provide that all dogs must be vaccinated against rabies and licensed. ARS §11-1018 provides that a city may adopt its own dog licensing program provided that the ordinance is equal to or more stringent than state law. If a municipality does not adopt its own program, then the County program of licensing and vaccination applies.

Currently both the County of Yuma and the City of Yuma have adopted the following basic fees:

	1 year	2 year	3 year
Fixed Pets:	\$15	\$26	\$37
Pets Not Fixed:	\$30	\$55	\$75

Somerton does not offer a multi-year license and charges \$25.00 for altered/fixed dogs and \$50.00 for unaltered/not fixed dogs.

Pursuant to state law, a license cannot be issued unless the applicant provides a current certificate of rabies vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian. Licenses may not last longer than a vaccination. Since rabies vaccinations can be effective for up to three years, a three year dog license is available by Yuma County, the City of Yuma, and the City of Somerton.

The City of San Luis has its own animal control program. It is proposed that the City adopt a program of issuing dog licenses to raise money to help offset the costs of enforcement of the animal control ordinances of the city. It is proposed that the City adopt fees similar to those currently in force in our city limits as imposed by the County of Yuma. A penalty fee is charged for those who are found to be late on obtaining a license similar to the penalties mandated by state law. It is estimated that the sums raised will not exceed the costs of animal ordinance enforcement as currently budgeted.