



Office of the City Manager

PUBLIC HEARING

May 19, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager, Neighborhood Services

Subject: Animal Care Services Fee Schedule

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution modifying the Animal Care Services fee schedule by changing existing fees and adopting new fees, and rescinding Resolution No. 66,174-N.S.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

In Fiscal Year 2026, the Animal Shelter received \$33,103.38 (as of April 13) from the issuance of dog licenses and other shelter fees. If adopted, modifications to existing fees in the proposed fee schedule are estimated to result in a minimum marginal revenue increase of \$30,502. This amount represents a conservative estimate, as quantifying the expected effects of certain fee changes (for example, increases to the fees associated with vicious or dangerous dogs) on behavioral outcomes among pet owners in Berkeley is extremely difficult. Although it is difficult to calculate the total revenue increase for all proposed fees due to fluctuating animal intakes, if these fees had been in effect for the 2025 calendar year, the shelter would have seen an additional \$27,331 from adoption, owner-surrender, return-to-owner, and licensing fees alone.

Beginning in FY27, all revenues associated with the Animal Shelter will be deposited into the Animal Shelter Fund (Fund 115).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS) is currently responsible for the care of animals coming into its custody at the Dona Spring Animal Shelter for the Cities of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and Piedmont, and provides animal control and field services for the Cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, and Albany as well BACS is an open-door facility which experiences a constant influx of animals that need to receive affordable veterinary care, treatment, and spay/neuter services. The BACS shelter is open to the public seven days a week to receive stray, surrendered and confiscated animals. Additionally, field services are provided seven days week, during which Animal Control Officers impound stray, surrendered and confiscated animals. Many animals arrive at the shelter sick or injured and in need of immediate veterinary care. On-site veterinary services include but

are not limited to: examining and diagnosing shelter animals, treating sick or injured animals, performing spay/neuter surgeries, and performing other routine surgeries.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, BACS, along with many other municipal shelters nationwide, has seen an increase in animals coming through its doors, as economic constraints associated with rising costs of living due to inflation and skyrocketing veterinary expenses have forced many current and would-be pet owners to make difficult decisions. BACS' total intake in 2025 was 2,013 animals, with an annual budget of \$2,467,728.83. This results in an average cost of \$1,225.90 per animal. These costs represent unavoidable, fixed expenses associated with that animal's basic care, including food, spay/neuter expenses, and other basic veterinary care. Like many divisions in the City, however, the BACS non-personnel budget allocation has not kept pace with the rising cost of doing business. For example, the cost of veterinary care has increased by roughly 40% since 2020, representing an unavoidable and growing burden to the BACS operational budget. Inflation has put similar upward pressure on utility costs and other amenities at the shelter, which has strained BACS' budget in significant ways.

Meanwhile, the BACS fee schedule has not been increased since 2013, when Council adopted Resolution No. 66,174-N.S., warranting the modification of existing fees to better align with current market rates with neighboring jurisdictions. Moreover, BACS currently does not charge fees to recover some of the costs associated with basic community services, such as the requested disposal of deceased animals from community members and partner organizations or the administration of basic vaccine schedules for animals at the shelter.

For these reasons, BACS recommends Council rescind the fee schedule from 2013 (Resolution No. 66,174-N.S.) and adopt a resolution to replace it with a modified and modernized fee schedule that better aligns with BACS' current practices and competitive market pricing. Adopting a modern animal services fee schedule is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to provide an efficient and financially-healthy City government.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 66,174-N.S. which established a fee schedule for Berkeley Animal Care Services. Those fees have not been modified since that time, nor does it authorize fees that recover the costs associated with a variety of other services performed by BACS and which are authorized by the California Food and Agricultural Code and the California Health and Safety Code, including the administration of fancier's permits, dead animal disposals, and vaccine-related expenses.

BACS' total intake in 2025 -- the last full year for which data are available -- was 2,013 animals, with an annual budget of \$2,467,728,83. This results in an average cost of

\$1,225.90 per animal. In FY2025, BACS generated \$305,995 in revenues (or \$152 per animal), far short of the costs to provide services to those animals.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The modification of the BACS fee schedule is not anticipated to have any effects on the City's environmental or climate sustainability goals and priorities.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Current fees are not reflective of the expenses associated with the provision of services to the animals in the care of BACS or in the broader community. Moreover, the BACS fee schedule has not been updated since 2013 and is no longer competitive with market pricing or the fees charged for similar services in neighboring jurisdictions.

Staff recommend not only updating the fees, but also establishing new fees that recover costs associated with a variety of services currently provided at no expense to the community, including the safe disposal of deceased animals, the administration of a variety of vaccines and other medications, and staff time associated with a variety of field services including deceased animal pickups and inspection of properties for the release of animals deemed dangerous or vicious.

BACS performed an analysis of the fees collected for similar services in neighboring jurisdictions. The results of those analyses supports the proposed fee schedule modifications and is provided below:

	<u>Current BACS</u>	<u>OAS</u>	<u>SFACC</u>	<u>Contra Costa</u>	<u>Alameda City</u>	<u>Antioch</u>	<u>Solano County</u>	<u>Sonoma County</u>	<u>Comp Shelters</u>	<u>Shelter Average</u>
Adoption										
Dog	\$125.00	\$165.00	\$180.00	\$135.00	\$122.00	\$125.00	\$155.00	\$159.00	7	\$148.71
Dog 6yrs+	\$125.00	\$165.00	\$180.00	\$85.00	\$122.00	\$125.00	\$77.50	\$117.00	7	\$124.50
Cat	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$127.00	\$100.00	\$98.00	\$90.00	\$125.00	\$101.00	7	\$102.29
Cat 6yrs+	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$127.00	\$55.00	\$98.00	\$90.00	\$62.50	\$69.00	7	\$82.36
Puppy	\$125.00	\$165.00	\$403.00	\$155.00	\$153.00	\$125.00	\$155.00	\$212.00	7	\$195.43
Kitten	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$200.00	\$120.00	\$122.00	\$90.00	\$125.00	\$138.00	7	\$124.29
Rabbit	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$35.50	\$25.00	\$61.00	\$16.00	\$25.00	\$53.00	7	\$36.50
Guinea Pig/Hamster/etc	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$25.00	\$16.00	7	\$14.29
Bird	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	-	\$12.00	-	\$25.00	-	4	\$16.75
Licenses										
Altered 1yr	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$32.00	\$25.00	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$17.00	7	\$21.57
Altered 2yr	\$28.00	\$35.00	\$47.00	\$60.00	\$18.00	\$40.00	\$36.00	-	6	\$39.33
Altered 3yr	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$63.00	\$60.00	\$24.00	\$55.00	\$53.00	-	6	\$50.83
Unalt 1yr	\$75.00	\$113.56	\$79.00	\$65.00	\$61.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	7	\$61.22
Unalt 2yr	-	\$198.73	\$150.00	\$180.00	\$73.00	\$80.00	\$76.00	-	6	\$126.29
Unalt 3yr	-	\$255.50	\$221.00	\$180.00	\$86.00	\$110.00	\$113.00	-	6	\$160.92
Sr-own Alt 1 yr	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$16.00	-	\$6.00	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$15.00	6	\$12.42
Sr-own Alt 2 yr	\$0.00	\$28.00	\$23.00	-	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$16.00	-	5	\$19.80
Sr-own Alt 3 yr	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$31.50	-	\$18.00	\$27.50	\$23.00	-	5	\$28.00
Sr-own Unalt 1 yr	\$75.00	\$85.17	\$39.50	-	\$6.00	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	6	\$35.95
Sr-own Unalt 2 yr	-	\$149.04	\$75.00	-	\$12.00	\$40.00	\$76.00	-	5	\$70.41
Sr-own Unalt 3 yr	-	\$191.63	\$110.50	-	\$18.00	\$55.00	\$113.00	-	5	\$97.63
Cat License	\$75.00	-	\$19.00	-	-	-	-	\$12.00	2	\$15.50
Duplicate	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$21.00	\$12.00	7	\$10.14
Expired/Late fee	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$39.00	\$54.00	\$24.00	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$9.00	7	\$30.14
Transfer fee	-	\$28.39	-	\$20.00	-	\$7.00	\$23.00	\$12.00	5	\$18.08
RTO/Impound/Surrender/Daily										
Altered Cat RTO	-	-	\$47.00	-	\$31.00	-	\$50.00	-	3	\$42.67
Altered Dog RTO	-	-	\$47.00	-	-	-	\$50.00	-	2	\$48.50
Unaltered RTO	-	-	\$82.00	-	-	-	\$50.00	-	2	\$66.00
Non Cat/Dog RTO	-	-	\$47.00	-	\$49.00	-	\$50.00	-	3	\$48.67
1st Impound (12 mos)	\$50.00	\$58.00	\$47.00	\$65.00	\$55.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	-	6	\$48.33
2nd Impound	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$100.00	\$116.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	-	6	\$89.33
3rd Impound	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$142.00	\$150.00	\$214.00	\$120.00	\$100.00	-	6	\$154.33
Unalt/Unlic 1st Impound	\$75.00	\$58.00	\$82.00	\$35.00	\$110.00	\$85.00	\$35.00	-	6	\$67.50
Unalt/Unlic 2nd Impound	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$141.00	\$50.00	\$153.00	\$138.00	\$50.00	-	6	\$105.33
Unalt/Unlic 3rd Impound	\$75.00	\$200.00	\$242.00	\$100.00	\$244.00	\$281.00	\$100.00	-	6	\$194.50
Surrender Fee (OTC)	\$25.00	\$68.25	-	\$45.00	-	\$80.00	\$134.00	-	4	\$81.81
Surrender Fee (field)	\$25.00	\$68.25	\$63.00	\$235.00	-	\$80.00	\$134.00	-	5	\$116.05
Daily Boarding/Care	\$20.00	\$27.04	\$39.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	-	6	\$25.84
Deceased										
Disposal	-	\$26.25	\$32.00	\$30.00	-	\$30.00	\$29.00	-	5	\$29.45
Euthanasia Request	-	-	\$38.00	-	-	\$45.00	\$134.00	-	3	\$72.33
P/U- 1 officer (<10lbs)	-	\$71.00	-	-	-	-	\$209.00	-	2	\$140.00
P/U- 1 officer (>10lbs)	-	\$97.25	-	-	-	-	\$209.00	-	2	\$153.13
P/U- 2 officers (60+lbs)	-	\$168.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	\$168.25
Dangerous										
Potentially Dangerous	-	\$177.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	-	\$570.00	\$90.00	-	5	\$317.40
Vicious or Dangerous	\$50.00	\$284.00	\$250.00	\$900.00	-	\$870.00	\$90.00	-	5	\$478.80
Inspection/Home Q	\$75.00	\$71.00	-	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$118.00	-	5	\$99.80
Labor Fee (hourly)	-	\$71.00	-	\$46.00	-	-	-	-	2	\$58.50
10 Day Quarantine	\$200.00	\$270.40	\$390.00	\$350.00	-	\$390.00	\$370.00	-	5	\$354.08
Medical										
Microchip	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$18.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$34.00	7	\$21.71
Vaccines (rabies)	-	-	\$15.00	\$20.00	-	\$25.00	\$28.00	-	4	\$22.00
Spay/Neuter	-	\$150.00	-	\$125.00	-	\$120.00	\$160.00	-	4	\$138.75
Fanciers Permit										
1st Application	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$181.00	-	1	\$181.00
2nd Application	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd Application	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subsequent Application	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Mike St. Pierre, Animal Care Services Manager, (510) 981-6603.

Attachments:

1: Resolution

 Exhibit A: Fee Schedule

2: Proposed Fee Schedule showing changes from 2013

3: Public Hearing Notice

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

UPDATING THE BERKELEY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE, AND
RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 66,174-N.S.

WHEREAS, Berkeley Animal Care Services is the municipal animal shelter of last resort for the Cities of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and Piedmont, and provides animal control and field services for the Cities of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Animal Care Services took in 2013 animals, with an average cost of \$1,225.90 per animal served; and

WHEREAS, these costs represent unavoidable, fixed expenses associated with that animal's basic care, including food, spay/neuter and other basic veterinary care; and

WHEREAS, the costs of providing these services has risen over the past several years, placing growing constraints on the Animal Care Services budget; and

WHEREAS, to recover costs associated with the provision of these services, the City Council of the City of Berkeley adopted Resolution No. 66,174-N.S. in 2013, establishing a schedule of animal care and animal shelter fees and charges; and

WHEREAS, this Animal Care Services fee schedule has not been modified since 2013 and is no longer reflective of the costs of such goods and services, nor competitive with fees from neighboring jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the rates and charges, including fee modifications and the establishment of new fees, as set forth in Exhibit A are hereby fixed and established for Berkeley Animal Care Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (1) the fees set forth in Exhibit A shall become effective on July 1, 2026, and (2) Resolution No. 66,174-N.S., is hereby rescinded as of that date.

Exhibits

A: Fee Schedule

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EXHIBIT A

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE**Adoption Fees**

Dog	\$150
Dog 6yrs+	\$150
Cat	\$100
Cat 6yrs+	\$100
Puppy	\$175
Kitten	\$150
Rabbit	\$25
Guinea Pig/Hamster/etc	\$15
Bird	\$25
Senior (65+) Cat/Kitten	\$75
Senior (65+) Dog/Puppy	\$75

Licenses

Altered 1yr	\$20
Altered 2yr	\$30
Altered 3yr	\$45
Unaltered 1yr	\$150
Sr-own Alt 1 yr	\$10
Sr-own Alt 2 yr	\$15
Sr-own Alt 3 yr	\$20
Sr-own Unaltered 1 yr	\$50
Cat License Alt (life)	\$50
Cat License Unaltered (life)	\$100
Duplicate	\$10
Expired/Late fee	\$25
Transfer fee	\$15

Return to Owner (RTO)/Impound/Surrender/Daily

Altered Cat RTO	\$25
Altered Dog RTO	\$25
Unaltered RTO	\$250

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Non Cat/Dog RTO	\$10
1st Impound	\$0
2nd Impound	\$75
3rd Impound	\$100
Unaltered/Unlicensed	\$100
Surrender Fee (OTC)	\$50
Surrender Fee (field)	\$150
Daily Boarding/Care	\$25(dog) \$20(cat)

Deceased Animals

Disposal (individual)	\$0
Disposal (group/rescue)	\$25
Pickup - 1 officer (<10lbs)	\$125
Pickup - 1 officer (>10lbs)	\$150
Pickup - 2 officers (60+lbs)	\$175

Dangerous/Misc

Potentially Dangerous	\$200
Vicious or Dangerous	\$400
Inspection/Home Q	\$100
Labor Fee (hourly)	\$55
10 Day Quarantine (dog)	\$250
10 Day Quarantine (cat)	\$200

Medical

Microchip	\$10
Spay/Neuter Dog or Cat	\$125

Fanciers Permit

Per Litter Permit	\$500
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Vaccine and Medical

Rabies	\$15
Advantage II Dog (dose)	\$15
Advantage Multi Cat (dose)	\$20
Drontal Plus <25lbs (dose)	\$10

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Drontal Plus >25lbs	\$15
1-DAPPv (per dose)	\$15
Intra-Trac3 (Bord) (per dose)	\$15
HCP (FVRCP) (per dose)	\$15

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Proposed Fee Schedule showing changes from 2013

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Change</u>
Adoption			
Dog	\$125	\$150	\$25
Dog 6yrs+	\$125	\$150	\$25
Cat	\$100	\$100	\$0
Cat 6yrs+	\$100	\$100	\$0
Puppy	\$125	\$175	\$50
Kitten	\$100	\$150	\$50
Rabbit	\$25	\$25	\$0
Guinea Pig/Hamster/etc	\$10	\$15	\$5
Bird	\$25	\$25	\$0
Senior (65+) Cat/Kitten	-	\$75	\$50
Senior (65+) Dog/Puppy	-	\$75	\$50
Licenses			
Altered 1yr	\$15	\$20	\$5
Altered 2yr	\$28	\$30	\$2
Altered 3yr	\$40	\$45	\$5
Unaltered 1yr	\$75	\$150	\$75
Sr-own Altered 1 yr	-	\$10	\$10
Sr-own Altered 2 yr	-	\$15	\$15
Sr-own Altered 3 yr	-	\$20	\$20
Sr-own Unaltered 1 yr	-	\$50	\$50
Cat License Altered (life)	\$75	\$50	-\$25
Cat License Unaltered (life)	-	\$100	\$100
Duplicate	\$10	\$10	\$0
Expired/Late fee	\$20	\$25	\$5
Transfer fee	-	\$15	\$15
Return to Owner (RTO)/Impound/Surrender/Daily			
Altered Cat RTO	-	\$25	\$25

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Altered Dog RTO	-	\$25	\$25
Unaltered RTO	-	\$250	\$250
Non Cat/Dog RTO	-	\$10	\$10
1st Impound	\$50	\$0	-\$50
2nd Impound	\$50	\$75	\$25
3rd Impound	\$50	\$100	\$50
Unaltered/Unlicensed	\$75	\$100	\$25
Unaltered/Unlicensed 2nd Impound	\$75	-	-\$75
Unaltered/Unlicensed 3rd Impound	\$75	-	-\$75
Surrender Fee (OTC)	\$25	\$50	\$25
Surrender Fee (field)	\$25	\$150	\$125
Daily Boarding/Care	\$20	\$25(dog) \$20(cat)	\$5
Deceased Animals			
Disposal (individual)	-	\$0	\$0
Disposal (group/rescue)	-	\$25	\$25
Euthanasia Request	-	Donation	
Pickup - 1 officer (<10lbs)	-	\$125	\$125
Pickup - 1 officer (>10lbs)	-	\$150	\$150
Pickup - 2 officers (60+lbs)	-	\$175	\$175
Dangerous/Misc			
Potentially Dangerous	-	\$200	\$200
Vicious or Dangerous	\$50	\$400	\$350
Inspection/Home Q	\$75	\$100	\$25
Labor Fee (hourly)	-	\$55	\$55
10 Day Quarantine (dog)	\$200	\$250	\$50
10 Day Quarantine (cat)	-	\$200	\$200
Medical			
Microchip	\$15	\$10	-\$5
Spay/Neuter Dog or Cat	-	\$125	\$125
Fanciers Permit			
Per Litter Permit	-	\$500	\$500

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Vaccine and Medical

Rabies	-	\$15	\$15
Advantage II Dog (dose)	-	\$15	\$15
Advantage Multi Cat (dose)	-	\$20	\$20
Drontal Plus <25lbs (dose)	-	\$10	\$10
Drontal Plus >25lbs	-	\$15	\$15
1-DAPPv (per dose)	-	\$15	\$15
Intra-Trac3 (Bord) (per dose)	-	\$15	\$15
HCP (FVRCP) (per dose)	-	\$15	\$15

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL
REVISIONS TO BERKELEY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES FEE
SCHEDULE**

The public may participate in this hearing by remote video or in-person.

Notice is hereby given by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that a public hearing will be conducted by said city council of the City of Berkeley at which time and place all persons may attend and be heard upon the following:

Berkeley Animal Care Services is proposing to modify the existing schedule of fees collected for animal adoptions, intakes, licenses, return to owner (RTO)/impound/surrender/daily, deceased animals, dangerous animals, fanciers permit medical procedures, and other services provided by Animal Care Services.

The hearing will be held on May 19 at 6:00 PM in the School District Board Room, located at 1231 Addison Street, Berkeley CA 94702.

For further information, please contact Mike St. Pierre, Animal Care Services Manager, at (510) 981-6603.

A copy of the agenda material for this hearing will be available on the City's website at <https://berkeleyca.gov/> as of May 7, 2026. **Once posted, the agenda for this meeting will include a link for public participation using Zoom video technology, as well as any health and safety requirements for in-person attendance.**

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, or e-mailed to council@berkeleyca.gov in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet.

Communications to the Berkeley City Council are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the City Clerk. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk at (510) 981-6900 or clerk@cityofberkeley.info for further information.

If you challenge the above in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Berkeley at, or prior to, the public hearing. Background information concerning this proposal will be available at the City Clerk Department and posted on the City of Berkeley webpage at least 12 days prior to the public hearing.

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I hereby certify that the Notice for this Public Hearing of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website, on May 7, 2026.

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Mark Numainville, City Clerk