HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Subject: Advocating for the Reduction or Waiver of Adoption Fees at Government Animal Shelters

[ENTER SHELTER NAME] and the Human Animal Support Services advocate for policies that encourage the reduction or waiver of adoption fees at animal shelters. Shelters face a significant burden of caring for large populations of animals, and reducing these fees can be a crucial step toward alleviating that burden.

Many benefits to people and pets justify allowing the shelter discretion to waive or reduce adoption fees:

- Reducing or waiving adoption fees has proven an effective way to promote adoptions, as it eliminates a barrier for many potential adopters, allowing more animals to find loving homes more quickly.
- Increased adoptions may mean animals spend less time in the shelter, reducing the per-animal cost of care. As animals wait in shelters, the costs associated with their care, including food, medical treatment, and staff resources, increase substantially. *[After X days[1] in the shelter, the costs of keeping that animal exceed the amount brought in through adoption fees, essentially canceling out any benefit to the City/County of requiring the animal shelter to charge the full adoption fee, without any discretion to reduce or waive.]*
- Animals waiting in kennels can create a bottleneck for intakes and can lead to an increase in non-live outcomes as shelter kennels fill up. By removing the barrier of adoption fees, pets move through the shelter more quickly, reducing the cost per animal and increasing the shelter's lifesaving ability.
- In summary, reducing or waiving adoption fees could reduce the overall length of stay for animals, and this decreases the cost burden per animal on shelters.

I urge you to consider the long-term financial benefits of implementing or supporting policies that encourage lower or waived adoption fees.

By doing so, we can create a win-win situation for both the shelter and the animals they care for, ensuring that more pets find their forever homes while also easing the financial pressures on our community shelter.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this issue and hope that together, we can work towards more humane and financially sustainable solutions for our animal shelters.

Resources

- Link to HASS Blog, "You Should Be Doing Fee-Waived Adoptions This Summer"
- Link to Maddie's Forum, "The truth about free pet adoptions"

[1] Based on costs provided by [ENTER SHELTER NAME]

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