



Fairfield County Dog Adoption Center & Shelter
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Press Release for immediate release

Fairfield County Animals to Benefit from License Fee Change to State Average

Over the past several years the residents of Fairfield County have made it clear that they desired an increase in care for the animals under the protection of the Fairfield County Dog Shelter. Over the last two years, the Fairfield County Dog Adoption Center & Shelter has responded by making changes that have had a positive impact on the shelter environment and the animals that are cared for at the facility. Some of the positive changes that have taken place include vaccination of animals upon intake and the ability to address other medical issues as they arise. All of these great initiatives for increased care have added significantly to the cost of animal care operations for the Fairfield County Dog Adoption Center & Shelter. Based on a recent cost analysis over the duration of each dog's stay the shelter spends on average approximately \$330 on each animal's care. It costs the shelter around \$23 per day to care for each dog.

A 2014 survey of all Ohio counties showed the average cost of a dog licenses to be \$15 per year. The most reasonable way to offset the cost associated with operating and sheltering is to increase the current license fee for the County to reflect the Ohio State average. This means that one year dog licenses will increase a total of \$3 from the current price of \$12 to the state average of \$15. Similarly, this change will adjust the price of a 3 year dog license from \$36 to \$45, and a permanent license from \$120 to \$150. In addition it will increase the cost of a kennel license fee from \$60 to \$75 annually. This approach will help to ensure the sustainability of the positive changes taking place.

Dog Warden and Adoption Center Director, Todd McCullough, stated, "While we have been implementing necessary changes we have also been carefully monitoring the impact that the services have on the finances. I didn't want to rush in to recommending any adjustments to licensing fees without taking the time to understand the impact that the fees have overall. We now have the necessary understanding required to make a responsible decision in order to enhance our sustainability. Matching our license fees to the state average allows us to continue to provide our county's lost dogs with appropriate care until they can find their way home."