Holly Licht

From: Hausbeck, John <JHausbeck@publichealthmdc.com>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 10:12 AM
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Subject: Proposed change to county dog tax

All,

We license dogs in WI because it is state law; and, it's something we have always done. But there is more to it than that. Dog licensing became common throughout the USA in the 1940's and early 1950's in response to the number of human rabies cases caused by dog bites. This action dramatically decreased the number of human rabies cases to the current rate of 2-3 cases per year nationally. Dog licensing also supports the services we provide in our Animal Services Program and the care that stray, abandoned, and impounded animals get at the Dane County Humane Society (DCHS). DCHS is under contract with us to serve as the County shelter and receive these unwanted animals from our Animal Services Officers, local law enforcement, and the general public. Last year, DCHS admitted nearly 2,400 animals.

Through the budget process, Public Health Madison and Dane County has proposed an increase to the County Dog tax to assure the Dane County Humane Society contract is fully funded so that the care of stray, abandoned and impounded animals is maintained. The animals receiving care are mainly dogs and cat but also other small domestic animals (birds, rabbits, rodents, etc) and livestock (cows, horses, sheep, etc). Currently, the amount of money that we receive for this purpose from the County is about $150,000 short of what the service costs every year. The additional revenue raised through the dog tax will help to cover the costs of the contract with DCHS.

I am sending this email because an increase in the Dog Tax will have a direct impact on each municipality and I wanted you to be aware of the discussions going on. Through the County Budget Process, we are seeking approval to move

forward with increasing the dog tax by $5 per license. I will be working to get a draft ordinance revision prepared by County Corporation Counsel for adoption by the County Board as part of the budget.

We hope that this heads up helps you to prepare for this potential tax increase. Please let me know if you have questions or if there is additional information that would be helpful for your municipality to communicate this change.

Sincerely,

John

John S Hausbeck MS RS (pronouns he, his, him) **| Environmental Health Services Supervisor |**
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Healthy People. Healthy Places.

It is important to us to protect your confidential information. Please be aware that emails sent or received by Public Health-Madison & Dane County employees are subject to open records requests and can be released to the public, unless there is an exception allowed by law. Thus, we do not discuss your confidential information over email. We will gladly talk to you over the phone instead.