

INTRODUCED: September 13, 2021

AN ORDINANCE No. 2021-244

To amend City Code § 4-275, concerning impoundment and violation notices and fees for board and care of impounded dogs and cats, for the purpose of modifying the requirements for the impoundment of dogs and cats.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 27 2021 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That section 4-275 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020) be and hereby is **amended** as follows:

Sec. 4-275. Impoundment and violation notice; fee for board and care.

(a) ~~[Unrestrained dogs of unknown ownership shall be taken by the animal control officer and confined in a humane manner, as shall dogs of known ownership the owners of which cannot be found at the time of apprehension of the unrestrained dog. In lieu of impounding a dog, if the owner is known and can be found when such unrestrained dog is taken into custody, the officer shall release such dog to its owner and shall then and there issue and serve upon the owner~~

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEP 27 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

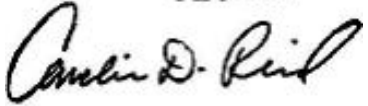
~~a summons to appear in court for violation of the restraint law. Such owner may, in lieu of appearing in court on the return date of such summons, within five working days of the date of receipt of the summons, pay a fine of \$15.00 if such summons is for a first offense or a fine of \$25.00 if it is for a second or subsequent offense]~~ The Department may confine dogs found unrestrained in violation of section 4-243 that are of unknown ownership or whose owners cannot be located at the time of apprehension.

(b) If by a license tag the owner of an impounded dog or cat can be identified, the animal control officer shall, immediately following impoundment, seek to notify the owner of the fact of impoundment by the best means reasonably available to that officer.

(c) An owner reclaiming an impounded dog or cat shall pay a fee of \$25.00 plus \$5.00 for each day or portion of a day the dog or cat has been impounded. ~~[Also, whenever a dog or cat is impounded and the owner reclaims the dog or cat, at the time the owner reclaims the dog or cat an officer shall then and there issue and serve upon such owner a summons to appear in court for violation of the restraint or license law. Such owner may, in lieu of appearing in court on the return date of such summons, within five working days of the date of receipt of the summons, pay a fine of \$15.00 if such summons is for a first offense or a fine of \$25.00 if it is for a second or subsequent offense.]~~

(d) Any animal not reclaimed by its owner within five days shall be deemed the property of the City and shall be disposed of as provided by State laws or placed with a new owner, subject to Section 4-278 and State laws. The fee for the adoption of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens shall be \$100.00.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:

City Clerk



CITY OF RICHMOND

INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O&R REQUEST

DATE: July 19, 2021 **EDITION:** 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor *[Signature]*

THROUGH: J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Acting Chief Administrative Officer *[Signature]*

THROUGH: Robert C. Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer *[Signature]*

FROM: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Richmond Animal Care and Control *[Signature]*

RE: Amendment to Sec. 4-275 of the Richmond City Code which concerns Impoundment and violation notice; fee for board and care.

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to amend Sec. 4-275 of the Richmond City Code, Impoundment and violation notice; fee for board and care.

REASON: The requested amendment, attached, would modify the existing text to allow for increased discretion by Animal Control Officers as related to the issuance of a summons resulting from an unrestrained dog or the impoundment of a dog or cat.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

BACKGROUND: In its current form, this section of Richmond City Code mandates that a summons to appear in court be issued to the owner of an unrestrained dog or to an owner reclaiming an impounded dog or cat. While this may be appropriate in some circumstances, the requested text amendment would allow for greater discretion on the part of Animal Control Officers and therefore keep the practices and procedures of Richmond Animal Care and Control in alignment with industry best practices while prioritizing the safety and welfare of City animals and residents.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: None at this time.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None at this time.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No.

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: September 13, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 27, 2021

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Governmental Operations Standing Committee.

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: N/A.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Richmond Animal Care and Control.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: N/A.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A.

ATTACHMENTS: Requested text amendments to Richmond City Code Sec. 4-275.

STAFF: Christie Chipps Peters, Director of Richmond Animal Care and Control
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