

CM13.4. Adoption and Microchipping Fees - Albury Animal Care Centre

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CONFIDENTIAL	No		
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Purpose of Report

To present draft additional fees and charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre to Council and seek Council's approval for these draft fees and charges to be advertised as per legislative requirements.

Background

From 1 July 2021 AlburyCity will be managing the Albury Animal Management Facility. The facility will be known as the Albury Animal Care Centre (AACC) from this time. There are already standard fees and charges listed in Council's Fees and Charges Schedule for the AACC that formed part of the exhibited Council Budget for 2021/22; yet some fees were not able to be charged by AlburyCity while an external contractor managed the facility.

Specifically, these fees are:

	Item	Unit of measure	Fee
1.	Dog adoption fee	Per animal	\$110.00
2.	Cat adoption fee	Per animal	\$80.00
3.	Microchipping	Per animal	\$35.00

Issues

These fees support the proposed model of service delivery for the AACC, with a strong focus on education about responsible pet ownership including microchipping and the rehoming of pets where possible. Adoption fees also help to recover the expenses of any animal the Care Centre may keep beyond their statutory holding period (in hope of adoption). Medications administered, microchipping services and administration costs are included in the adoption fee. There also needs to be a stand-alone microchipping fee listed in the Fees and Charges Schedule for those members of the community seeking Council assistance in microchipping their own pet.

Charging a basic adoption fee is important for education and responsible pet ownership. 'Free to a good home' encourages casual pet owners who may not take adopting a new pet seriously. Free pets can also end up abandoned, surrendered to animal shelters, neglected and ignored, or re-sold.

The proposed adoption fee does not include registration (already in schedule and set by the NSW Companion Animals Regulation 2018), or vet fees for desexing and vaccination (if required). The total

cost to adopt a pet from the AACC would align with other rescue agencies if the proposed adoption fees are endorsed by Council.

The contractor, Canine Country Kennels, has for the past six years charged a flat fee of \$110 to adopt a dog and \$80 to adopt a cat. Therefore the fees to be charged by AlburyCity will not be greater than those currently being charged to our community. The microchipping fee of \$35 is currently being charged by AlburyCity, which is less than that charged by Canine Country Kennels.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – Not having endorsed fees and charges for the AACC will impact the operations and income.
- **Corporate Risk** – It is important that the fees support the proposed education model of the AACC, and the responsible pet ownership direction specified in the Companion Animals Management Strategy.
- **WHS and Public Risk** – No risks identified.
- **Environmental Risk** – No risks identified.
- **Delivery Program Risk** – No risks identified.

Community Engagement

If endorsed by Council, the draft fees and charges will be publicly exhibited for 28 days and promoted via the Border Mail and available for viewing on AlburyCity's website.

The AACC will have dedicated AlburyCity web content that will be updated with changes and news from the Centre. The AACC also has a strong social media presence that will be used to promote the service model and associated fees and charges.

Options

1. That Council:
 - a. Endorses the additional draft Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre as outlined in this report;
 - b. Places the additional draft Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre on public exhibition for a period of 28 days; and
 - c. If no submissions are received, that the additional draft Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre be adopted and included in Council's 2021/22 Fees and Charges Schedule.

Recommended.

2. That Council does not endorse the additional draft Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre as outlined in this report.

Not recommended.

Conclusion

From 1 July 2021, AlburyCity will be managing the Albury Animal Care Centre (AACC). There are already standard fees and charges listed in Council's Fees and Charges Schedule for the AACC that formed part of the exhibited Council Draft Budget for 2021/22, yet some fees were not able to be charged by AlburyCity while a contractor managed the facility. These proposed fees to be added to the Schedule are for adopting dogs and cats and microchipping services.

These fees support the proposed model of service delivery for the AACC, with a strong focus on education about responsible pet ownership including microchipping, returning animals to their owners prior to impounding and, if this cannot be done, the rehoming of pets where possible.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a. Endorses the additional draft Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre as outlined in this report;
- b. Places the draft additional Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre on public exhibition for a period of 28 days; and
- c. If no submissions are received, that the additional draft Fees and Charges for the Albury Animal Care Centre be adopted and included in Council's 2021/22 Fees and Charges Schedule.