

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that some citizens need financial assistance in sterilizing their pets.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT A REGULAR MEETING ASSEMBLED THIS 19TH DAY OF JUNE, 2002:

Indigent Citizens' Dog and Cat Spay and Neuter Program

- (1) It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners to encourage the sterilization of dogs and cats owned by residents, in accordance with Hillsborough County's Animal Ordinance 00 - 26.
- (2) Low-income Hillsborough County residents who meet specific eligibility criteria may be provided county financial assistance for pet dog and/or cat sterilization through this rebate program. Citizens who are enrolled in the Hillsborough HealthCare Plan are eligible to participate in this program. Before providing rebate assistance, the Department of Animal Services shall confirm eligibility for this program by verifying that the applicant is deemed eligible for Health and Social Services benefits. The County Administrator may change the eligibility criteria after receiving recommendations from the Animal Advisory Committee. The Department shall assist the Animal Advisory Committee with the development and refinement of eligibility criteria.
- (3) To be eligible for a rebate voucher, qualified low-income residents shall be required to remit an Administrative Fee to the participating veterinarian in the amount of \$10.00 for each pet being sterilized. Each qualified citizen shall be limited to four cats and four dog sterilization procedures within a 12-month period.
- (4) The funds to be appropriated shall be limited to seventy percent (70%) of those amounts available from the percentage of differential of fees for unaltered dogs and cats as compared with altered dogs and cats, as set forth in (6) below, along with any other funds appropriated by the BOCC, to be used to fund the rebates.
- (5) The other thirty percent (30%) of fees generated from the percentage of the differential of fees of unaltered dogs and cats as compared with altered dogs and cats will be appropriated to be used for administrative expenses and to establish an educational program for community education on responsible pet ownership and the companion animal bond, as set forth in (6) below.

In the event the thirty percent (30%) generates more funds than are needed for public education, the County Administrator, upon the recommendation of the Animal Advisory Committee, may alter the apportionment of funds so any excess may be appropriated for the purpose of "rebate vouchers."

- (6) The rebate program shall be funded by 50% of the differential of fees of unaltered dogs and cats as compared with altered dogs and cats, currently \$5.00 for each intact tag sold.

- (7) All sterilization procedures are to be performed by licensed veterinarians that practice in Hillsborough County and meet the guidelines of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and other applicable Florida statutes in regards to proper protocol for anesthesia, surgery, post-operative care and emergency services. With the exception of medical exemptions, animals that do not have proof of current rabies vaccination will be vaccinated with an approved rabies vaccine under this program in accordance with Section 828.30, Florida Statutes, and be issued a rabies registration tag by the veterinarian. Normal rabies registration tags fees for tags issued through this program are waived and shall be charged to the veterinarian at the Senior Citizen's sterile animal tag rate.
- (8) Signed rebate vouchers must be submitted by the veterinarian performing the sterilization procedure to the Department of Animal Services for payment within 90 days of the date of sterilization. Failure to submit the required documentation within the specified time will result in a waiver of any claim to the rebate. No rebate shall be paid for animals sterilized by the Department.
- (9) The rebate vouchers shall be paid directly to veterinary clinics that have agreed to participate in this program. Currently rebate vouchers will be paid at the rate of \$50.00 for each feline neuter, \$60.00 for each feline spay, \$65 for each canine neuter, and \$85.00 for each canine spay. After the effective date of this resolution, the amount paid for each sterilization rebate performed under this program shall be determined by the County Administrator after receiving a joint recommendation from the Animal Advisory Committee and the Hillsborough County Veterinary Medical Society Board of Directors.
- (10) This program will, for the specified time period, cease upon the complete depletion of the appropriated funds. The Director of Animal Services shall provide prompt written notice to all participating veterinarians in the event the funds for a particular time frame have been or are about to be exhausted. Any sterilization performed prior to the veterinarian receiving such notice will receive first consideration when additional funds are appropriated. Any dog or cat sterilized during the affected time period is ineligible for a rebate.
- (11) This resolution supercedes and replaces Board Resolution R00-132 in its entirety.
- (12) The provisions of this resolution shall become effective on October 1, 2002.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of June, 2002.

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, Richard Ake, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board at its regular meeting of

June 19, 2002, as the same appears of record in Minute Book 313 of the Public Records of Hillsborough County, Florida.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 21st day of June, 2002.



RICHARD AKE

By: Mildred K. Dufon
Deputy Clerk

Approved as to form
and legal sufficiency:

BY: Cynthia A. Costa
County Attorney