

# **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS STUDY SESSION AGENDA**

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 | 8:00 a.m.



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1. General Discussion.
  2. Discuss animal control fee schedule adjustment request.
  3. Discuss gated roads with David Heger.
  4. Discuss CARES Funds consultant agreement.
  5. Discuss 2021 Annual Budget.
  6. 2019 audit presentation from Harold Mayes with Agler & Gaeddert at 11:00 a.m.

20 April 2020

Re: Animal Control Fee Schedule Adjustment Request

Dear Board of County Commissioners for Miami County, Kansas:

My name is Kenneth W. Richardson, I am a Deputy Sheriff for the Miami County Sheriff's Office. I oversee the Animal Control program for the county, and I entered this position when Captain Mike Early retired in 2019. Upon his departure, Captain Early provided a fee-schedule to me that encompasses services rendered by animal control; I have attached them to this request, for your reference. The purpose of this letter is to request the addition of a fee to the schedule; the particular fee in request would be applicable to a follow-up on any reported biting animal, as it relates to a mandated 10-day quarantine deemed necessary by policy and procedure.

Based on time-spent and benchmarking the fee-schedule provided, I believe the addition of a \$50 fee is appropriate. This fee would cover the response to the residence of the animal in question, to (1) evaluate the appropriateness of the setting for quarantine, (2) to evaluate whether or not the residence/owner has the capacity and physical environment required to safely and properly quarantine the animal for the mandated 10-day quarantine (e.g. appropriate fencing, separate area from other animals/humans etc.), (3) to review with the owner, the requirements for 10-day quarantine (e.g. proof of vaccination, who to contact if animal displays signs or symptoms of illness etc.), and (4) to have the capacity to follow-up in person (most appropriate) to release animal from 10-day quarantine, with proof of rabies vaccination and/or release from veterinarian and local health department, if indicated.

Miami County Animal Control follows all guidance documents and rabies control requirements provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment (please see attached; mandated in-home quarantine references pages 5 and 6 of the Rabies Control Requirements, Disease Investigation Guidelines). As referenced, the verbiage supports an in-home quarantine if the owner has adequate means to do so, as deemed appropriate by the secretary or local health officer. If an in-home quarantine is not appropriate based on an in-person evaluation, the Animal Control Officer would then facilitate an in-home quarantine at another location, based on circumstances and procedure. Disease Investigator Christena Beer with Miami County Health Department, handles all animal bites and reports of animal rabies, in-question. The preferred option for all, is to have the animal complete the required 10 day quarantine at the owner's residence, given the appropriateness based on recommendations and/or requirements set by Miami County Animal Control and Miami County Health Department. Animal control works closely with health department staff. Each report of an animal bite is thoroughly investigated by both departments, and oftentimes shared decision-making takes place to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved.

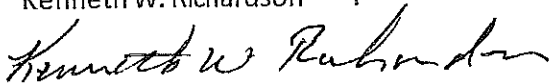
In closing, I would ask that you consider adding a \$50.00 fee for the purposes of an in-home quarantine response and follow-up by Animal Control. Since filling this position in 2019, I have evaluated and authorized many in-home quarantines and feel that it is most appropriate for the owner and animal, keeping safety and cost-saving measures in the forefront of all investigations; however, it is most appropriate to evaluate these circumstances in-person, and a fee associated would be appropriate given

the time and follow-up required. According to a report provided by Christena Beer, from 2018-2019 animal bite reports and subsequent investigations completed by Miami County Health Department, have increased by approximately 250%. This uptick in reported cases and investigations is due to increased communication efforts, revised reporting policies (from all local, county, state and hospital jurisdictions by either internal policy or state statute), and collaborative work to investigate all animal bites in a timely manner; thus, supporting the need for a safe and effective alternative to impounding the animal for a 10-day shelter quarantine all while providing compensation to animal control officer for services rendered.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Kenneth W. Richardson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth W. Richardson".

Miami County Animal Control