



City of Monroe repeals household pet licensing requirements

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CONTACT: Commander Paul Ryan | [Monroe Police Department](#)
(360) 863-4579 | pryan@monroewa.gov

MONROE, Wash. - At its Nov. 28, meeting, the Monroe City Council voted unanimously to repeal existing household pet licensing requirements, citing a significant decline in pet licensing compliance over recent years, along with cost inefficiencies and societal advancements in pet reunification—such as the widespread adoption of microchipping and the use of social media to bring attention to lost and found pets. The repeal, as established by Ordinance No. 022-2023, takes effect on December 4, 2023.

In 2019, the City issued 30 cat licenses and 278 dog licenses. However, the numbers have steadily dwindled, with only 11 cat licenses and 57 dog licenses issued in 2022. Revenues attributed to household pet licensing have decreased as well from a little under \$6500 in 2019 to just under \$1900 in 2022. The City of Monroe will join a short list of Washington cities, including Kennewick and Richland, that have repealed pet licensing without any negative impacts, according to feedback obtained by City of Monroe staff.

Under previous regulations, residents of the City of Monroe were required to obtain an annual license for their dogs and cats. The cost for a license was \$15 for spayed or neutered pets and \$30 for unaltered pets. This fee had to be renewed for the entire duration of the pet's life, accompanied by proof of rabies vaccination.

City of Monroe
806 West Main Street, Monroe, Washington 98272
Phone (360) 794-7400
MonroeWA.gov

There are no changes to several areas of the existing animal control code, including sheltering fees, regulations on dogs running at large, animals left unattended in a vehicle, failure to remove animal feces, and excessive barking. The repeal also does not affect dangerous dog declaration and registration fees, as well as kennel licensing requirements for businesses.

For more information, please visit the City of Monroe Animal Control webpage at:

<http://monroewa.gov/274/Animal-Control> or contact the Monroe Police Department at (360) 794-6300.

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