

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-015

AN ORDINANCE OF FRESNO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
TO REPEAL SECTIONS 9.04.045, 9.04.047, 9.04.049, AND AMEND
SECTIONS 9.04.010, 9.04.030, 9.04.040, and 9.04.115 OF TITLE 9,
CHAPTER 9.04 OF THE FRESNO COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE,
RELATING TO DOG LICENSING AND CONTROL

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno is repealing Sections 9.04.045, 9.04.047, and 9.04.049 of Chapter 9.04 of the existing Ordinance Code, and amending Section 9.04.010 "Definitions," 9.04.030 "License – Required," Section 9.04.040 "License – Issuance – Fees," and Section 9.04.115 "Sale of animals at swap meets" to conform with a new Ordinance Chapter 9.05 that will provide the County with enhanced methods to address the pet overpopulation problem in Fresno County by adding stronger licensure requirements for dogs.

The Ordinance Code of the County of Fresno is hereby amended by repealing Sections 9.04.045, 9.04.047, and 9.04.049, and amending Sections 9.04.010, 9.04.030, 9.04.040, and 9.04.115 of Title 9, Chapter 9.04 to read as follows:

The word "Adoption Event" shall be added to the list of definitions in Section 9.04.010.
9.04.010 – Definitions.

- A. "Adoption Event" means a planned event, often scheduled and time-bound where dogs and or cats from government agencies, nonprofit animal rescue organizations exempt from taxation under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), humane societies or societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals if such societies are incorporated under the provisions of the California Corporations Code Section

1 10400 and the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law in Part 2 of the California
2 Corporations Code, beginning at Section 5110, are brought together with potential
3 adopters.
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5 Section 9.04.030 shall be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

6 9.04.030 – License–Required.
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- 8 A. Except as herein otherwise provided every owner of any dog in the unincorporated
9 area of the County, which dog is over the age of four months, shall procure a license
10 from the license collector of the County within thirty (30) calendar days upon
11 obtaining ownership of the dog. It is unlawful for any owner to fail to procure said
12 license. The license shall be transferable with transfer of ownership of the dog. No
13 additional license fee shall be required for any dog for which there exists a valid
14 license issued by any city within the County until the end of that license period.
- 15 B. In addition to the license requirement listed in Subsection A. above, but with the
16 exceptions provided in Subsection C. below, every owner of any dog shall ensure
17 that the dog bears an identifiable microchip. For the purposes of this Chapter, the
18 term “microchip” shall mean the injection of an identification chip below the skin of
19 an animal performed by a veterinarian, registered veterinary technician or other
20 qualified staff. The County Administrative Officer or his or her designee shall keep
21 a register, wherein shall be entered the name of every person to whom a license
22 has been issued, together with the microchip number and the period for which the
23 license is valid, the date of issuance, the address of the applicant, and any other
24 data deemed pertinent.
- 25 C. There shall be no license fee for assistance dogs or other service animals as
26 defined by state and federal law. Falsely claiming an animal to be a service animal
27 is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for six (6) months or
28 a fine up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or both.
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1 Section 9.04.040 shall be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

2 9.04.040 – License—Issuance—Fees.

3
4 A. Upon the submittal of a valid rabies certificate, information required by this
5 paragraph, and payment of the fees as set forth in Schedule “A” of the Master
6 Schedule of Fees, Charges and Costs Recovery for Fresno County, the license
7 collector shall prepare a dog license, which shall contain a brief description of the
8 dog as to breed, age, sex, color, rabies vaccination certificate number and date
9 thereof, and shall include the name, address and telephone number of the owner,
10 dog tag number, license expiration date, and any other information the license
11 collector deems necessary or appropriate. The license collector shall maintain
12 these licenses in a permanent file and upon the request of any person may give the
13 name, address and telephone number of any owner for the purpose of returning a
14 lost dog. No fee receipt or paper license shall be issued to an owner, except upon
15 request. Such license shall be valid for a one (1) year period, unless the owner
16 elects to initiate or renew a dog license to coincide with a rabies vaccination period
17 that expires in less than one (1) year. If the owner elects to obtain a license for less
18 than a one (1) year period, the owner shall pay the licensing fee for a full one (1)
19 year period, as set forth below. A license shall be renewed prior to or upon its
20 expiration date. No license is delinquent if application is made therefor within thirty
21 (30) days after the dog is first required to be licensed and within sixty (60) days after
22 the expiration date of the previous county license.

23 B. Upon submittal of the information and payment of the fees required in Subsection
24 A. of this Section, the license collector shall issue a permanent dog tag made of
25 some durable material, which tag shall bear the inscription “Fresno County Dog
26 License,” the license tag number and any other information the license collector
27 deems appropriate. A new dog tag will not be issued upon the annual renewal and
28 payment of the dog license fees unless the owner requests a replacement dog tag.
29 The owner shall pay the applicable fee, as set forth in Schedule “A” of the County
30 of Fresno Master Schedule of Fees, Charges and Costs Recovery, for the issuance
31 of the initial dog tag or for a replacement dog tag.

1 C. A license shall be prepared and a dog tag issued gratuitously, if the dog for which
2 the license is sought is properly certified as being:

- 3 1. Honorably discharged from the service of the armed forces of the United
4 States;
- 5 2. A guide dog in the service of a blind person;
- 6 3. A signal dog in the service of any person who has impaired hearing;
- 7 4. A service dog in the service of any person who is physically disabled or
8 developmentally disabled;
- 9 5. A dog in the service of any law enforcement agency;
- 10 6. A dog being raised or trained for any of the services as set forth in this
11 Subsection;

12 The license shall contain thereon a statement of the reason for such gratuitous
13 issuance.

14 7. For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- 15 a. "Guide dog" means any dog or seeing-eye dog which was trained
16 by a person licensed under Chapter 9.5 (commencing with Section
17 7200) of Division 3 of the California Business and Professions Code.
- 18 b. "Signal dog" means any dog trained to alert a deaf person or a
19 person whose hearing is impaired, to intruders or sounds.
- 20 c. "Service dog" means any dog individually trained to do work or
21 perform tasks to meet the requirements of a physically disabled
22 person, including, but not limited to, minimal protection work, rescue
23 work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items.

24 D. In order to be eligible for the rate for a spayed or neutered license, the owner must
25 provide evidence to the license collector that the dog has been spayed or neutered.
26 Such evidence shall be a certificate signed by a veterinarian on his letterhead
27 stationery, or by a signed sworn statement of the owner.

28 E. In order to be eligible for the rate for a dog owned by a senior citizen, the owner
29 must submit to the license collector a signed sworn statement of the owner's age.

30 F. The dog tag issued shall be firmly attached to the collar or harness of the dog for
31 whom the license was issued. It is unlawful to affix said tag to any dog for whom it

1 has not been issued, to maintain upon any dog a tag other than the one issued by
2 the license collector for that dog, to remove said tag from any dog without the
3 authority of the owner thereof, or to make or have in possession any unauthorized
4 tags, imitations or facsimiles thereof.

- 5 G. No owner required by this Chapter to pay a fee or penalty is entitled to a refund or
6 waiver unless specifically authorized by the director of public health or designee.
7 The director of public health or designee may waive fees at their discretion for
8 circumstances of extreme hardship or for a specific time period county wide to
9 encourage dog or cat licensing.

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11 Section 9.04.115 shall be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

12 9.04.115 – Adoption Events at swap meets allowed.

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14 The operator of a swap meet, who possesses a valid permit to operate issued by the
15 county department of health, shall allow certain types of entities to hold Adoption Events
16 at swap meets as defined in Section 9.04.010(A) of this Code. The following terms and
17 conditions apply to any such entity while operating at a swap meet:

- 18 A. Only government agencies, nonprofit animal rescue organizations exempt from
19 taxation under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), or humane societies or
20 societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals if such societies are incorporated
21 under the provisions of the California Corporations Code Section 10400 and the
22 Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law in Part 2 of the California Corporations
23 Code, beginning at Section 5110, are allowed to participate in Adoption Events
24 under this section.

- 25 1. Any commercial entity or any entity that is not described in A. of this Section,
26 or Section 9.04.010(A) of this Code is prohibited from selling dogs, cats, or
27 any other animals at swap meets in the County and shall be issued a one
28 thousand dollar (\$1,000) administrative civil penalty per dog or cat available
29 for sale.
30 2. A second violation of this Section within one (1) year from the date of the first
31 violation is punishable by six (6) months in jail and an additional one

thousand dollar (\$1,000) penalty per dog or cat available for sale.

3. Any appeal of a civil penalty imposed for a violation(s) of this Section will require following the procedures described in Chapter 1.13 of this Code.

B. Any such entity listed in A. of this Section shall provide proof of their status as such an entity to the operator of the swap meet and shall have such proof on hand for inspection while the entity provides for adoption of dogs and or cats at any Adoption Event at a swap meet.

C. Any such entity providing dogs and or cats for adoption at an Adoption Event under this Section shall have portable or mobile facilities set up that provide the dogs and or cats for adoption with heating and air conditioning, water and food such that all dogs and cats for adoption are in no danger from exposure to cold or heat.

These ordinance amendments shall take effect (the "Effective Date") and be in force and effect thirty (30) days after the second reading hereof by the Board of Supervisors and its passage.

The foregoing was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 8th day of July, 2025, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Bredefeld, Chavez, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco

NAYS: None


ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None



Ernest Buddy Mendes
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Fresno

Attest:
Bernice E. Seidel
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Fresno, State of California

By: 
Deputy