

RESOLUTION R-17-037

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RE-ESTABLISHING THE MANATEE COUNTY SPAYING AND NEUTERING PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCOME LIMITATIONS FOR OWNERS QUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO ANIMALS THAT MAY BE SPAYED AND NEUTERED UNDER THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF VETERINARIANS PROVIDING SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM AND REQUIREMENTS RELATED THERETO; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM; RESCINDING RESOLUTION R-15-128; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has determined that the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats is the most cost effective method of animal control for Manatee County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has previously adopted Resolution R-15-128 updating the Manatee County Spaying and Neutering Program for cats and dogs (hereinafter “the Program”); and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Safety has determined that the fee schedule for spay and neuter services should provide for juvenile sterilization and set specific prices based upon the sex and species of the animal; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Program to be effective and to assist low income families, it is also recommended and required that the veterinary fee for the spaying or neutering of a dog or cat not exceed \$80; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners now wishes to amend the veterinary fee for the spaying or neutering of a dog or cat to an actual cost not to exceed \$80.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida:

1. There is hereby re-established the Manatee County Spaying and Neutering Program for cats and dogs. The purpose of this Program is limited to the provision of financial assistance to certain low-income families who cannot afford to pay for the services to be furnished.
2. The Program is available to assist low-income owners of cats and dogs whose income, based on family size, is such that the owner is qualified for food stamps, Medicaid, aid to families with dependent children, or the Manatee County fee assistance program, and having indicia of being qualified for such programs. Alternatively, the Program is available to owners who submit documentation to the County, in accordance with the fee assistance program procedures, demonstrating that the family would qualify for one of the aforementioned programs or any other government-funded program designed to assist low-income individuals and families with income guidelines that do not exceed the amounts allowed for any of the aforementioned programs.
3. The Program is available for dogs and cats that are at least two (2) pounds or more in weight and/or are determined by a veterinarian to be at least two (2) months of age. No more than a total of two (2) animals per household may be paid for under this Program, and the owner must show proof to the veterinarian that the cat or dog has a current County license and has been vaccinated for rabies in accordance with the requirements of Manatee County as established by ordinance.
4. Veterinarians practicing in Manatee County may be paid up to \$40 for each cat neutered, \$45 for each cat spayed, \$75 for each dog neutered and \$80 for each dog spayed in accordance with procedures approved by the Director of Public Safety or his or her designee. Veterinarians who receive payment pursuant to the Program must be willing to provide services related to the spaying and neutering for the amounts herein specified. Veterinarians who receive payment pursuant to the Program may not seek additional payment for spay or neuter services from the families that qualify for the Program. Payments for these services shall be made when sufficient funds are available and to a person who has been deemed qualified by the County.
5. The owners of the cats or dogs spayed or neutered under the Program shall be solely responsible for locating a veterinarian and evaluating the risks to their cat or dog that may arise as a result of the surgical procedure, anesthesia, or other treatment furnished.
6. The Director of Public Safety, or his or her designee, is authorized to develop or approve forms and procedures necessary to implement the Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution R-15-128 is hereby rescinded in its entirety and is replaced by this Resolution R-17-037.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provisions of this Resolution are severable such that the invalidity of any one provision shall not operate to invalidate any other provision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this ____ day of _____, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: _____
Deputy Clerk