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# Press Release

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Hood County Animal Control Announces Adoption Fee and Voucher Program

Effective Monday, April 1, 2013, Hood County Animal Control (HCAC) is implementing an Adoption Fee and Voucher Program to cover cost of spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations for animals adopted through Animal Control.

Currently, when an animal is adopted at HCAC, the adopter is required to sign a contract stating that they agree to have the animal sterilized (if not already altered) and vaccinated for rabies within 30 days of the adoption. For various reasons these animals are not always altered or vaccinated in this timeframe. This requires a significant amount of time for HCAC staff to follow up and, if necessary, issue citations for failure to meet the terms of the contract. In the event that an owner cannot be located or does not respond to the citation, a warrant must be issued which, again, adds more work for county law enforcement and other officials.

This process was adequate in the past; however the increase in the county's population calls for HCAC to reevaluate and improve the policies and procedures for the benefit of the community.

Hood County Animal Control will now begin collecting an "Adoption Fee" of \$75 for non altered animals and \$15 for previously altered animals. This will cover the cost of sterilizing the animal plus a rabies vaccination, or rabies vaccination if previously sterilized. The person adopting the animal will receive a numbered voucher for one of 5 local veterinary clinics who have graciously agreed to participate in this program.

The clinics are:

Granbury Animal Clinic  
Town and Country Animal Clinic

All Creatures Animal Hospital  
Mesquite Ridge Small Animal Hospital  
Long Creek Animal Hospital

The new owner will be responsible for making the appointment with one of the participating veterinarians and transporting the animal to the selected provider within 30 days of adoption.

At the end of each month, HCAC will receive invoices from the participating veterinarians for the low cost services (sterilization and rabies vaccination only) they provided to the adopted animals. Sgt. Kelly McNab will review these invoices and reconcile them with the issued vouchers to ensure the adopters are complying with the adoption contract. If any owner has not used the voucher within the allotted time period, the HCAC staff will follow up with the owner according to current procedures.

Currently the County spends thousands of dollars and countless hours fighting the animal over population problem, dealing with strays and unwanted litters. Although instituting an adoption fee may increase the county's euthanasia rate initially, we believe this will lessen over time because the animal overpopulation problem will begin to diminish due to mandated sterilization.