

WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-25

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN ANIMAL CONTROL FEE PROVISIONS AND
ADOPTING A CONSOLIDATED ANIMAL CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE**

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-8-2-6 authorizes a unit to capture animals and to establish, maintain, and operate animal shelters;

WHEREAS, Warrick County is not governed by Indiana Code § 36-2-3.5 or a consolidated city, and Indiana Code § 36-1-3-6 authorizes the Board of Commissioners, as the County executive, to exercise home-rule power by ordinance when no other manner is prescribed by law;

WHEREAS, §§ 131.50 and 131.51 of the Warrick County Code place Animal Control receipts in the County General Fund Animal Control Revenue Line and place administration of the Animal Control facility under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners;

WHEREAS, Chapter 131 presently contains certain Animal Control fees and also permits some amounts to be modified administratively, and the Board desires one prospective, publicly available fee schedule adopted by ordinance;

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-1-3-8(a)(5) and (6) limits regulatory license fees and service or user charges to amounts reasonably related to the applicable administrative cost or to reasonable and just rates and charges for services;

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the current pricing and service information supplied by Warrick County Animal Control and finds the fixed fees and charges adopted below to be reasonably related to the County's applicable administrative costs and services, with "Actual Cost" items limited to documented County cost without markup unless separately authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends this Ordinance to address the current Animal Control fee schedule and related fee provisions only, without delaying or deciding separate amendments concerning animal-bite procedures, quarantine standards, dangerous-animal policy, or new permit and program proposals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF § 131.32 — REDEMPTION-RELATED CHARGES.

Section 131.32 is amended only as necessary to remove administrative authority to set or modify generally applicable charges and to conform redemption-related charges to the Animal Control Fee Schedule. Subsections 131.32(B)(2) through (5), 131.32(C), and the final sentence of 131.32(F) are amended to read as follows; all other provisions of § 131.32 remain unchanged:

§ 131.32(B)(2) The owner must pay the impoundment and daily boarding charges stated in the Animal Control Fee Schedule adopted under § 131.56. The first calendar day of impoundment and each additional calendar day through the day of redemption shall be charged as stated in the Schedule;

§ 131.32(B)(3) The owner must pay the applicable charge for a rabies vaccination when vaccination is required and is administered before release;

§ 131.32(B)(4) The owner must pay any applicable fixed charge stated in the Animal Control Fee Schedule for identification, vaccination, sterilization, medicine, or other services actually provided to the animal and properly chargeable to the owner under this Chapter;

§ 131.32(B)(5) The owner must pay documented Actual Cost amounts authorized by the Animal Control Fee Schedule for special food, medicine, laboratory services, transportation, emergency boarding, or reasonable and necessary veterinary care actually incurred for the animal and not already included in another fixed charge.

§ 131.32(C) After an animal's third impoundment, excluding pocket pets and livestock, the owner shall pay the applicable charge stated in the Animal Control Fee Schedule to spay or neuter the animal, subject to controlling state law and any written determination by a licensed veterinarian that the procedure is medically contraindicated.

§ 131.32(F), **final sentence** Any charge imposed on a reclaiming owner for microchip implantation or registration under this subsection shall be the amount stated in the Animal Control Fee Schedule adopted under § 131.56.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF § 131.33 — ADOPTION AND RESCUE FEES.

Section 131.33(B) and (C) are repealed and replaced as follows; the remaining provisions of § 131.33 are unchanged:

§ 131.33(B) **Adoption.** An adopting party shall pay the applicable bundled dog or cat adoption fee stated in the Animal Control Fee Schedule adopted under § 131.56. The bundled fee includes the standard vaccinations normally administered by Animal Control, rabies vaccination when legally and medically applicable, microchip implantation and registration, and spay or neuter. A component included in the bundled adoption fee may not be charged again as a separate County fee for the same adoption. A dog or cat shall be spayed or neutered before adoption as required by IC 15-20-4 and other applicable law. Any statutory sterilization deposit is governed by state law and is not an additional County fee under § 131.56.

§ 131.33(C) **Rescue.** A rescuing party must be approved by Warrick County Animal Control and have a completed rescue application on file. Warrick County Animal Control shall not charge an approved rescue a pull or transfer fee solely as a condition of receiving an animal.

SECTION 3. ADDITION OF § 131.56 — ANIMAL CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE.

- (A) The prospective Animal Control service fees, user charges, and authorized reimbursements that Warrick County Animal Control may assess are stated in Exhibit A to this Ordinance, which is incorporated by reference as the Animal Control Fee Schedule. A general Animal Control fee or charge not listed in the Schedule, another duly adopted County ordinance, or controlling state law shall not be collected as a County fee.
- (B) Except when a statute assigns authority to another body or prescribes another manner of action, a generally applicable Animal Control regulatory fee, service charge, or user fee may be established or changed only by ordinance of the Board of Commissioners. Warrick County Animal Control may administer the Schedule but may not change a generally applicable amount.

- (C) A regulatory license fee, if later established, must comply with IC 36-1-3-8(a)(5). A service charge or user fee must comply with IC 36-1-3-8(a)(6). The Animal Control Director and the appropriate County fiscal officers shall retain records reasonably sufficient to support the cost basis, collection, deposit, and accounting treatment of the charges.
- (D) For purposes of the Animal Control Fee Schedule, "Actual Cost" means the documented amount actually paid or incurred by Warrick County for the particular third-party service, product, transportation, laboratory work, medicine, special diet, or emergency boarding, without markup unless separately authorized by law. An Actual Cost item may not duplicate a fixed charge already collected for the same service or cost component.
- (E) The Animal Control Director shall maintain the current approved Schedule at the Animal Control facility and make it reasonably available to the public. Receipts and collection records shall identify the applicable charge and shall be maintained in accordance with County fiscal procedures and State Board of Accounts requirements.
- (F) This section and the Animal Control Fee Schedule do not establish or alter a civil penalty or fine under § 131.99, a county option dog tax or licensing system, a statutory sterilization deposit under IC 15-20-4, a care-and-keeping bond or reimbursement under state law, or bank-card and credit-card authority governed by § 131.55 and applicable state law.
- (G) A fee for a future TNVR, assemblage, animal-establishment, breeding, or other new regulatory program is not collectible unless and until the underlying program is lawfully established and the applicable fee is adopted in the manner required by law.

SECTION 4. ADOPTION OF EXHIBIT A.

The Animal Control Fee Schedule attached as Exhibit A is adopted and incorporated into this Ordinance. The fixed fees and charges in Exhibit A control over any older inconsistent Animal Control fee amount contained in an administrative list, form, or prior ordinance, except for a charge governed by a more specific controlling statute or ordinance.

SECTION 5. EXISTING QUARANTINE, CREDIT-CARD, AND REVENUE PROVISIONS PRESERVED.

The existing \$15 per day County-facility boarding charge in § 131.42(D)(1), the bank-card and credit-card provisions of § 131.55, and the deposit requirement in § 131.50 are not amended by this Ordinance. Exhibit A reproduces the existing quarantine and payment-method charges for administrative completeness. Nothing in this Ordinance determines the separate pending policy questions concerning the standards for bite-related quarantine or home quarantine.

SECTION 6. CONFLICTS; PRIOR TRANSACTIONS; CODIFICATION.

Ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed only to the extent of the conflict. A charge lawfully incurred before the effective date of this Ordinance remains governed by the law and schedule then in effect unless otherwise required by law. The County codifier may correct numbering, capitalization, and cross-references without changing substantive meaning.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.

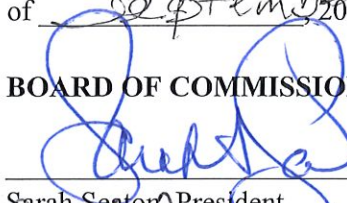
If any provision or application of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions and applications remain in effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

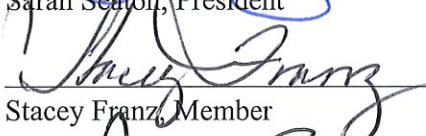
This Ordinance takes effect upon passage, adoption, and signature by the presiding officer, subject to any publication or promulgation specifically required by law. No new or increased fee adopted by this Ordinance shall be collected before the Ordinance is effective. This Ordinance does not prescribe or increase a civil penalty or forfeiture.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, this 28th day of September, 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA



Sarah Seaton, President



Stacey Franz, Member



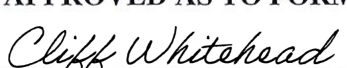
Terry Phillippe, Member

ATTEST:



Michael Dietsch, Warrick County Auditor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Clifford R. Whitehead, Warrick County Attorney

EXHIBIT A
WARRICK COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL
ANIMAL CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise stated, fixed amounts are charged per animal and only when the listed service, product, or charge applies. "Actual Cost" means the documented amount actually paid or incurred by Warrick County for the particular third-party service, product, transportation, laboratory work, medicine, special diet, or emergency boarding, without markup unless separately authorized by law.

Dog and cat adoption charges are bundled fees. A component included in the applicable adoption fee may not be charged again as a separate Animal Control fee for the same adoption.

An approved rescue organization is not charged a pull or transfer fee solely as a condition of receiving an animal from Warrick County Animal Control.

This Schedule does not establish civil penalties, statutory deposits or bonds, a county option dog tax, or a new TNVR, assemblage, animal-establishment, or breeding-permit program. Any such amount or program is governed by separate law or later County action.

IMPOUNDMENT AND REDEMPTION

Charge / Service	Amount
First calendar day of impoundment	\$5
Each additional calendar day through redemption	\$15 per day
County-facility boarding during bite/rabies quarantine under § 131.42	\$15 per day
Microchip implantation and registration when charged to a reclaiming owner	\$25

VACCINATIONS AND INTAKE SERVICES

Charge / Service	Amount
Feline Distemper vaccination	\$10 per dose
Bordetella vaccination	\$15 per dose
DA2PP vaccination	\$10 per dose
Rabies vaccination	\$10 per dose

STERILIZATION SERVICES

Charge / Service	Amount
Community Cat spay/neuter with ear tip	\$55
Cat spay/neuter	\$90
Dog spay/neuter — 90 pounds or less	\$125
Dog spay/neuter — more than 90 pounds	Actual Cost

The Community Cat entry establishes only the charge for a sterilization service. It does not establish a TNVR program, a running-at-large exemption, or a grant-funded no-charge program.

OWNER-REQUESTED / PUBLIC SERVICES

Charge / Service	Amount
Owner-requested euthanasia, when accepted by Animal Control	\$25
Remains disposal	\$25
Humane trap rental	\$10 per week

MEDICINE AND SPECIAL CARE

Charge / Service	Amount
Selarid	\$10 per dose
K9 Advantix II	\$25 per dose
Other medicine or special diet not separately listed	Actual Cost
Medical, laboratory, transportation, and emergency boarding services	Actual Cost

ADOPTIONS AND RESCUE TRANSFERS

Charge / Service	Amount
Dog adoption — bundled fee	\$185

Charge / Service	Amount
Cat adoption — bundled fee	\$135
Approved rescue pull / transfer fee	No Fee

The dog and cat adoption fees include the standard vaccinations normally administered by Animal Control, rabies vaccination when legally and medically applicable, microchip implantation/registration, and spay/neuter. Any sterilization deposit required by IC 15-20-4 when a statutory exception permits adoption before sterilization is governed by state law and is not an additional County fee.

CREDIT-CARD PAYMENTS (SEPARATELY AUTHORIZED UNDER § 131.55)

Charge / Service	Amount
Convenience fee	\$3 per card payment
Official processor / transaction fee	Actual vendor charge; no more than amount charged to County