

**Council Introduction DRAFT**  
**SHOWING CHANGES FROM CURRENT CODE**  
**NEW LANGUAGE IN UNDERLINE**  
**~~DELETIONS IN STRIKE OUT TEXT~~**  
October 5, 2010

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AMENDING THE  
MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING THE CITY  
LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
KEEPING OF DOGS AND CATS WHICH  
HAVE NOT BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED  
AND IMPOSING A NEW LICENSING  
REQUIREMENT FOR UNALTERED CATS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DOES ORDAIN  
AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION ONE.** Chapter 6.12 of Title Six of the Santa Barbara  
Municipal Code is amended to revise Section 6.12.050, Section  
6.12.060 and Section 6.12.120 to read as follows:

**Section 6.12.050 Dog License Requirement.**

**A. Mandatory License Requirement - Altered Dogs.** Any person  
owning or having custody or control of one or more dogs in the  
City shall obtain a license and pay the license fee for custody  
or control of each such dog over the age of four (4) months.  
The license fees authorized by this Chapter shall be established  
by resolution of the City Council and such fees shall be set a  
lesser amount for dogs which have been spayed or neutered. In  
the event the animal to be licensed has been spayed or neutered  
prior to the issuance by the City of the first license to that  
dog, a written statement from a licensed veterinarian certifying  
the dog to have been spayed or neutered must be presented at the  
time the license is obtained in order to qualify for a reduced  
dog license fee.

**B. Mandatory License Requirement - Unaltered Dogs.** For those  
dogs which are to be licensed as non-spayed or non-neutered  
dogs, prior to the issuance by the City of the first license to  
a dog, and each time a City dog license is issued after the  
renewal of a rabies vaccination certificate for that dog, the  
owner of an unaltered dog shall present to the City a copy of  
the veterinary certificate (as such certificate is shown in the  
form attached to this Chapter as an exhibit) certifying that the  
owner has discussed the potential concerns which may arise in  
owning and keeping an unaltered dog with a duly-licensed  
veterinarian and that the owner has been counseled by the  
veterinarian on the owner's responsibilities in keeping an

unaltered dog. The unaltered dog certification required by this subparagraph may, at the discretion of the veterinarian, be incorporated into the wording of the rabies vaccination certificate issued by that veterinarian.

**C. License - Period of Validity.** The license period shall not extend beyond the remaining period of validity for the current rabies vaccination. A license shall only be issued if the rabies vaccine is current through the entire licensing period. A license shall be purchased for either a six (6) month period, ~~or~~ twelve (12) month period, 24 month period or a 36 month period. ~~A license shall expire either six (6) months or twelve (12) months from the exact date the license was issued.~~ The license fee shall not apply to any dog kept or maintained exclusively in any dog kennel in the City. No dog license required by this Section shall be transferable.

**D. Transfer of Ownership of Dogs.** Within thirty (30) days of the transfer of ownership of any licensed dog, the person receiving ownership shall obtain a license as set forth in Subsection A of this Section.

**E. Possible Penalties for Failure to Comply.** Failure to comply with the provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section may result in the impoundment of the dog or a fine or both. At the discretion of the City Animal Control Supervisor, a dog determined to be vicious under Santa Barbara Municipal Code Sections 6.08.404 or 6.12.040 may not issued an unaltered dog license.

**Section 6.12.060 Dog or Cat License Information.**

Each dog or unaltered cat license shall state the name, address, and telephone number of the person to whom such license is issued, the amount paid, the date when issued, the date on which such license shall expire, and in the case of an individual dog or cat license, a description of the dog or cat for which such license is issued, and the number of the metallic tag accompanying the license. In the case of a kennel license, such license shall show, in addition to the above information, the maximum number of dogs or cats which may be kept in such kennel under authority of such license.

**Section 6.12.120 Official Tag - Issuance.**

Upon exhibition of the proper certificate of vaccination (when applicable) and payment of the license fee, there shall be delivered to the person making such payment a metal pet license tag, with the serial number, the year and "Santa Barbara City" stamped or cut thereon, and, when applicable, the word "vaccinated" stamped thereon. Such dog or cat tag shall be securely affixed to a collar or harness, which shall at all times be worn by such dog or cat. The tag while attached to the dog's or cat's collar or harness shall be prima facie evidence that the dog or cat for which the same was issued has been vaccinated (when applicable) and licensed during the licensing period for which the tag was issued

**SECTION TWO:** Chapter 6.12 of Title Six of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code is hereby amended to add a new section, Section 6.12.055 ("Unaltered Cat License Requirement") and a new section, Section 6.12.058 ("Unaltered License Surcharge - Special Fund for Educational Services"), both which read as follows:

**Section 6.12.055 Unaltered Cat License Requirement.**

**A. Mandatory License Requirement - Unaltered Cats.** Any person owning, keeping, or having custody or control of one or more unaltered cats in the City shall obtain a cat license from the City and pay the required license fee for having custody or control of each unaltered cat over the age of four (4) months. The license fee authorized by this Chapter for unaltered cats shall be established by resolution of the City Council.

**B. Unaltered Cats - Veterinarian Certificate.** For those cats licensed as required by subsection (A) above, prior to the issuance by the City of the first license to such a cat, and upon the issuance of each City license thereafter, the owner of an unaltered cat shall present to the City a copy of a veterinary certificate (as such certificate is shown in the form attached to this Chapter as an exhibit) certifying that the owner has discussed the potential concerns which may arise in owning or keeping an unaltered cat with a duly-licensed veterinarian and that the owner has been counseled by the veterinarian on the owner's responsibilities in keeping an unaltered cat.

**C. License - Period of Validity.** A license for an unaltered cat may be purchased for either a six (6) month, a twelve (12) month period, a 24 month period, or a 36 month period. No unaltered cat license required by this Section shall be transferable.

**D. Transfer of Ownership of Cats.** Within thirty (30) days of the transfer of ownership of any licensed unaltered cat, the person receiving ownership of or now keeping a cat shall obtain a cat license as set forth in Subsection A of this Section.

**E. Possible Penalties for Failure to Comply.** Failure to comply with the provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section may result in the impoundment of the cat or a fine or both.

**Section 6.12.058 Special Fund - Unaltered License.**

**Surcharge.** Notwithstanding Santa Barbara Municipal Code section 6.04.020, in establishing the amount of City pet license fees for the keeping of an unaltered pet pursuant to section 6.12.050 or section 6.12.055 hereof, the City Council may also establish a license surcharge amount which surcharge is to be earmarked into a special City fund for use, at the discretion of the Chief of Police, in funding City educational outreach activities regarding the possible concerns with owning an unaltered pet and to foster methods to encourage City pet owners to be responsible in the ownership and maintenance of an unaltered pet.

**SECTION THREE:** The City Administrator shall schedule this ordinance for review by the City Council within three years of the adoption date of this ordinance.

**EXHIBIT A  
EXHIBIT TO SBMC SECTION 6.12.050  
AND SECTION 6.12.055**

**VETERINARIAN CERTIFICATE OF COUNSELING  
FOR NON-SPAYED OR NON-NEUTERED  
DOGS OR CATS**

This Certificate is to certify that -----,  
D.V.M has discussed the potential problems and concerns which  
may arise in keeping and properly maintaining a dog or cat which  
has not been altered and the responsibilities which come with  
owning an unaltered dog or cat with (insert owners name)  
, the owner of the dog or cat.

I have been advised by the owner that this pet will be kept at  
the following address within the City of Santa Barbara which  
will be the licensing address:

(insert address for license and where pet will be kept)

I also certify that I provided this owner with the informational  
materials and literature on how to responsibly and properly keep  
and maintain a non-spayed or non-neutered pet and I have  
discussed this information with him or her and advised them of  
their ownership responsibilities.

DATED

-----, DVM

ADDRESS