Resolution No.: 20-1185
Introduced: July 28, 2026
Adopted: July 28, 2026

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

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SUBJECT: Approval of Executive Regulation 6-26 – Pet License Fees (Revisions)

Background

1. The Code of Montgomery County Regulations, under Section 5-401, authorizes the County Executive to issue regulations pertaining to cat and dog licensing laws under Method (2).

2. Executive Regulation 6-26 would lower the age requirement for a cat or dog license from 1 year to 4 months, the age at which rabies vaccination is permitted, and eliminate the free juvenile license category for cat and dog licenses, replacing it with a standard 1-year license. These updates will allow the Office of Animal Services to license pets earlier, align County practices with veterinary recommendations for rabies vaccination, and improve revenue collection.

3. Executive Regulation 6-26 was advertised in the June 2026 Montgomery County Register. No public comments were received. The proposed regulation is unchanged from the advertised regulation.

4. The Council received Executive Regulation 6-26 in a memorandum from the Executive dated July 8, 2026.

5. Under Method (2), the Council may approve, disapprove or extend the time for action within 60 days of receiving the regulation. In the absence of Council action, the regulation is deemed approved as submitted.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council approves Executive Regulation 6-26, Pet License Fees (Revisions).

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Offices of the County Executive • 101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject	Number
Pet License Fees - Revisions	6-26
Originating Department	**Effective Date**
Office of Animal Services	

Office of Animal Services
Montgomery County Regulation on:

PET LICENSE FEES - REVISIONS

Issued by: County Executive
COMCOR 05.00.01 & 05.401.01
Authority: Code Section 5-401
Supersedes: Executive Regulation [XX-25] 29-01AM
Council Review Method (2) Under Code Section 2A-15
Register Vol. 43, Issue 6
Comment Deadline: 6/30/26
Effective Date: _____
Sunset Date: _____

SUMMARY: The regulation revises the license fees for dogs and cats.

ADDRESS: Office of Animal Services
7315 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855

STAFF CONTACTS: Bonnie White, Program Manager 2
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240-773-5641

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COMCOR 05.00.01 Terms for Dog and Cat Licenses

05.00.01.01

The following terms for dog and cat licenses are adopted under Section 5-59(e); Required, issuance, duration; Article VI, Dog and Cat Licenses; Chapter 5, Animal Control; Montgomery County Code, 2024, as amended:

Pet License, available to owners of a dog or cat 4 months old that has received a rabies vaccination	Expires one year after the animal's first rabies vaccination
Altered dog or cat	Owner's option of one year or three years
Unaltered dog or cat	Three years

In no case shall the license term exceed the rabies vaccination expiration date. Should the rabies vaccination expire prior to the standard one-year or three-year term, the license shall expire when the rabies vaccination expires.

05.00.01.02 Should an Animal be Unable to be Altered for Health Reasons

Permanent health considerations:

If a licensed veterinarian certifies that any animal should not be altered due to age or permanent condition, said animal shall be considered to be altered and the owner shall have the option of electing a one- or three-year license term if veterinary certification of the condition is submitted with the license application or renewal.

Temporary health considerations:

If a licensed veterinarian certifies that any animal should not be altered due to a temporary condition, said animal shall be considered to be altered and the owner shall have the option of electing a one- or three-year license term if veterinary certification of the condition is submitted with the license application, and the certificate contains an estimated date by which the animal can be altered. Within one month of that estimated altering date, the owner must provide the Department

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with veterinary certification that the animal has, in fact, been altered or must at that time license the animal for three years.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 5, SEC. 5-401 DOG AND CAT LICENSES – REGULATIONS

COMCOR 05.401.01 Dog and Cat License Fees

05.401.01.01 Purpose.

The purpose of this Section is to set dog and cat license fees. The license fee is authorized under Section 5-401(b) of the County Code as amended.

05.401.01.02 Applicability.

The following fees apply:

1. ALTERED

   A. Altered Animals – Annual Fee $12.00

   B. Altered Animals – Three Years $32.00

2. UNALTERED

   A. Unaltered Animals – Annual Fee $25.00

   B. Unaltered Animals – Three Years $75.00

3. Altered Animals owned by temporary cash assistance (TCA) recipients will be $6.00 per year, if requested. There is no discount for license fees for unaltered animals owned by TCA recipients.

A license term may not exceed the duration of the animal's rabies vaccination/booster. The license fee will be pro-rated to coincide with the time remaining until the pet requires a rabies vaccination/booster.

In the future, fee amounts may be changed by Executive Regulation under Method 3.

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05.401.01.03 Severability.

If a court holds that part of this Section is invalid, the invalidity does not affect other parts.

Approved:

Marc Elrich, County Executive — July 8, 2026
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Assistant County Attorney — 5/26/2026
Date