



# Taylor County

## Board of County Commissioners'

### Policy Manual

5.15

Policy #:	Title:	Effective Date:
2009-17	Veterinarian Expenses	03/17/09

#### PURPOSE

To establish a consistent procedure for controlling and monitoring veterinary expenses.

#### REFERENCE

None

#### POLICY

Depending on the specific circumstance, the following procedures shall be in effect:

- A) When any animal with confirmed ownership and in our custody that becomes sick or injured, Taylor County Animal Control will authorize treatment and payments to a licensed veterinarian. In some instances, the owner may be required to make restitution to the County when the animal is redeemed from the Shelter.
- B) Any time Animal Control is dispatched to an emergency service call:
1. All veterinary expenses will be authorized by the owner if possible before treatment is administered. At that time, the owner will take responsibility and either transport the animal to the veterinarian or meet (when possible) the Animal Control officer at the veterinarians office. Animal Control will not be responsible for any fees associated with said animal.
  2. If animal ownership is unknown, Animal Control will take the animal into custody and may take the animal to a licensed veterinarian. If possible the animal will be stabilized for 24 hours while every effort is made to contact an owner.
  3. If after the initial 24 hours an owner has not been found, Animal Control will reclaim the animal from the veterinarian and provide for its disposition. In this case, Taylor County Animal Control will pay for the veterinarian expenses incurred, unless the owner comes forward.
- C) Veterinarian expenses incurred due to an animal owner's violation of State or County Laws or Ordinances Pertaining to Animal Laws:
1. Animals that are taken into custody and that must be given veterinarian treatment due to possible abuse and/or neglect will initially be paid for by Taylor County Animal Control.

The owner will be ultimately responsible for all costs incurred throughout the investigation process until the final disposition of the case.

**RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT**

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Environmental Services Department – Animal Control

**DATE ISSUED/SUNSET DATE**

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**Sunset Date: 03/17/14**