

**BOROUGH OF HELMETTA
ORDINANCE 2026-05**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 31 (“DOGS AND CATS”), SECTION 31-3
 (“LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FEES; EXEMPTIONS”), OF THE CODE OF THE
 BOROUGH OF HELMETTA TO ESTABLISH A REVISED SCHEDULE OF DOG AND
 CAT LICENSING FEES**

WHEREAS, Chapter 31 of the Code of the Borough of Helmetta governs the licensing and regulation of dogs and cats within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, § 31-3 currently provides that license and registration fees are established annually by resolution and includes a general late fee structure; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to amend the Code to establish a clear, tiered licensing fee schedule based upon the timing of application and the sterilization status of the animal; and

WHEREAS, the revised fee structure is intended to encourage timely compliance with licensing requirements and promote responsible pet ownership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Helmetta, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 31, Section 31-3 (“License and registration fees; exemptions”), Subsection A, is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

A. License Fees.

Any person applying for a dog or cat license shall pay a fee in accordance with the following schedule:

- 1. January 1 through January 31:**
 - (a) Spayed/Neutered: \$10.00
 - (b) Not Spayed/Neutered: \$13.00
- 2. February 1 through February 28:**
 - (a) Spayed/Neutered: \$15.00
 - (b) Not Spayed/Neutered: \$18.00
- 3. March 1 through March 31:**
 - (a) Spayed/Neutered: \$20.00
 - (b) Not Spayed/Neutered: \$23.00
- 4. After March 31:**
 - (a) Spayed/Neutered: \$25.00
 - (b) Not Spayed/Neutered: \$28.00

B. The above fees shall apply to both initial licenses and annual renewals.

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C. The additional fee required by State law for dogs or cats of reproductive age which have not been spayed or neutered shall be deemed incorporated into the above fee schedule where applicable.

D. The fee for replacement tags and all other provisions of § 31-3 not inconsistent herewith shall remain in full force and effect.

E. All licenses and registration tags shall continue to expire on January 31 of each year, as presently provided in the Code.

F. Exemptions, including but not limited to dogs used as guides for blind persons, shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 2.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3.

If any section, subsection, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 4.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.