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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 25, 2011
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 29, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: 2011 Animal Welfare Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve grants totalling \$10,600 to the following organizations:

- i. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary for \$1,200;
- ii. Wildlife Rescue Association for \$2,000;
- iii. Small Animal Rescue Society of BC for \$7,400;

source of funds to be the 2011 Community Services Grants budget for Animal Welfare.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing recommendation.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing recommendation.

COUNCIL POLICY

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes of Council.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to allocate \$10,600 from the 2011 budgeted grant funds allocated to animal-related applications.

BACKGROUND

On June 28, 2007, Council approved the Application Process and Form for animal-related grant applications for 2008 and future years for animal-related grant applications.

The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications for 2011 total \$10,600.

Objective of Grant Funds

The objective of the animal welfare grant is to provide financial aid to credible non-profit organizations that serve Vancouver in a capacity that the City cannot feasibly provide while reinforcing and supporting City policy and current Animal Control and Licensing work. The City currently operates Vancouver Animal Control (VAC) that provides food, care and housing for dogs that were lost or abandoned. Due to size, resources, and other constraints, the VAC is only capable of supporting dog-related services, and on a limited scale, services for other animals. Animal Control Officers are often called out by residents and Vancouver Police Department to address animal related incidents other than dogs and in some cases, the animal may be temporarily housed at VAC until a more appropriate boarding is available elsewhere such as the SPCA, Wildlife Rescue Association, independent rescue groups and by private individuals.

Eligibility and Review Criteria

To be eligible for the Animal Welfare Grant, the successful applicant must be a registered non-profit society that serves the City of Vancouver. The organization must extend its services to the general public in the City of Vancouver, and may not exclude anyone by reason of religion, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, disability or income. Societies must be in good standing with the Registrar of Companies, financially stable with sound administration, and have a proven track record of public service. Further, the organization must meet the minimum standard of care as set out by the SPCA Certified Standards (<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/farm/standards.asp>).

The organization that receives an Animal Welfare Grant must agree to certain conditions. Specifically, these are to allow occasional visits from City staff to ensure compliance with standards of care and accountability. In addition, the successful applicant must agree to submit a brief report at the end of the grant's term identifying direct and indirect outcomes from the Animal Welfare Grant.

Upon meeting the eligibility criteria the organizations application will be assessed considering financial need and the degree to which the organization supports the operation and objectives of Animal Control.

APPLICANTS AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Staff contacted and informed several organizations that were eligible for animal-related grants. Four applications were received with total funding request of \$34,150.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary was founded in 1998 as a safe haven for parrots that are injured orphaned, abused, neglected and abandoned in Metro Vancouver. Its mission is to

enhance the quality of life for parrots in Metro Vancouver by offering a refuge for abandoned, abused and unwanted birds; providing medical treatments and professional avian veterinary services; placing birds into permanent loving homes and educating current and potential bird owners of the special needs that parrots require to live a long healthy and happy life. Over the past 13 years, Greyhaven has taken in and found new adoptive homes for more than 2,200 parrots.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary is seeking a \$12,500 grant to support Greyhaven's ongoing care and rehabilitation efforts including covering the costs of avian veterinary care and treatments for sick and abused parrots entering the program and to help cover operational expenses to run the sanctuary.

Small Animal Rescue Society of BC (SARS BC)

Small Animal Rescue Society of BC was established in 2004 and is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of homeless or unwanted small animals throughout the province. SARS BC works with all of the SPCA's and municipal animal shelters across the province to provide assistance and education to shelters, their staff and their volunteers. SARS BC works to take in animals that traditional shelters are not set up for or trained to care for which include rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats, degus, chinchillas and hedgehogs. SARS BC also has a community outreach program that provides food or vet care for those who are unable to provide for their animals but do provide a loving home. Other programs included adoption and fostering programs, advocacy and humane education and educational opportunities for elementary schools and colleges.

SARS BC is requesting a grant of \$8,950 to provide funding for their community outreach program, renovation of educational centre and to fund the spaying and neutering of 25 of 65 rabbits that are currently waiting for surgery. The community outreach program assists members of the community who are unable to provide proper care for their rabbits or other small pets but otherwise provide loving, safe homes. This service provides for such items as food, bedding, caging and vet care.

Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA)

Wildlife Rescue Association of BC was established in 1979 to treat and rehabilitate wildlife, and to raise public awareness of wild animals and the issues affecting them in the urban environment of the Lower Mainland. WRA's core programs provide for the professional care and welfare of wildlife in distress, and deliver educational information and presentations that enable the public to learn about how to reduce the potential for conflict with wildlife in urban areas. WRA serves as a primary response group for wildlife in environmental crises, including oil spills, and WRA is an important sentinel facility working with government agencies to monitor the prevalence of zoonotic diseases such as Avian Flu, West Nile Virus and Rabies in wild animal populations. Since starting its operations in 1979, WRA has admitted over 70,000 wild animals into care, the vast majority of which have come from Metro Vancouver.

WRA is requesting \$8,000 in funding to support its mission of helping wildlife and the public to co-exist. This would involve providing food, medicines and rehabilitative care for more than 3,000 wild animals that WRA expects to receive, provide approximately 150 educational

presentations, displays and community activities, and support a large dynamic volunteer program for over 200 people (with one third of it's volunteers based in Vancouver).

HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society

Hugabull Advocacy and Rescue Society has been in operation since 2003 and is an organization that actively works for bull breeds in the shelter system, placing them in foster care and ultimately into responsible, loving homes. The organization also provides public education, community events and assists owners of pit bulls with guidance and support.

HugABull is requesting \$4,700 in financial support to develop a community education curriculum focusing on bite prevention, address breed bias, and outline the proven factors behind dog bites. The curriculum will be aimed at children.

RECOMMENDED GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Vancouver Animal Control is a facility that was built to house dogs. However, the shelter also receives multiple species through its animal control work. This includes rabbits, gerbils, guinea pigs, budgies, cockatiels, parrots, reptiles, and the occasional wildlife. Over the years, Animal Control staff have fostered relationships with a number of specialized rescue organizations that receive these animals and provide them with the specialized care they may need and deserve. If these agencies did not exist, the facility would need to deal with a larger number and variety of animals.

This year, the grant requests received from the four organizations (\$34,150) exceed the amount of available funding by approximately \$23,550. All organizations provide worthwhile services and support to Vancouver Animal Control and to Vancouver citizens, so partial funding is being recommended to support each request as described below.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary is a bird rescue organization that takes in pet birds that come into the care of the shelter. These birds can range from parrots and budgies. Although the Vancouver Animal Control Shelter can house the occasional small bird, it is not capable of caring for most species of parrots. It is also very difficult to find appropriate placement for these animals since specialized care is unique to each species.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$1,200 go towards ongoing veterinary costs. This grant will assist in covering for the cost of veterinary treatment of parrots and other birds before being placed in the adoption program.

Wildlife Rescue Association (WRA) is a wildlife rescue organization that takes in a rehabilitates over 3,000 animals from 149 different species in a given year. Although Vancouver Animal Control is not mandated to respond to wildlife complaints they do handle multiple species of injured wildlife. These animals are then immediately transported to WRA for care and treatment. Vancouver Animal Control is unable to care or house wildlife in any capacity due to lack of appropriate housing and training.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$2,000 be approved to cover the costs for the Education and Outreach Program and Services and to cover costs for the Volunteer Program and Services.

Small Animal Rescue (SARS) takes in rodent type species of all sizes from the shelter. In 2009 SARS took in an approximate 52 small animals and in 2010 took in approximately 31 small animals, to date in 2011 they have taken in an approximate 7 small animals from the shelter's care. Without these placements these animals would either linger in the shelter for adoption or would have to be euthanized since the shelter is not adequately set up to house and care for animals other than dogs.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$7,400 be approved for the cost of spaying and neutering of 25 rabbits in their care, to fund the cost of a community outreach program and to assist in the renovations of the educational centre.

HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society is a bull breed based rescue organization that takes care of and places pit bull type dogs. Although this rescue organization may not always be able to take pit bull type dogs from the shelter for space reasons they are willing to work with the shelter to help find suitable placement for those pit bull type dogs in the shelter's care that are having difficulty finding placement. Prior to 2010 this group has taken in dogs in need of medical treatment and placement from Vancouver Animal Control and has helped place and find homes for a half dozen other pit bull type dogs in the shelter's care.

It is recommended that no funding be approved for the development of a bite prevention program. Given that the SPCA has a program currently in use for bite prevention focused on school aged children, Animal Control recommends working in conjunction with both the SPCA and HugABull to update and deliver a Bite Free program.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Veterinarian care & treatment ▪ Ongoing care of birds in sanctuary 	\$12,500	\$1,200
Wildlife Rescue Association of BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and Outreach Program and Services ▪ Volunteer Program and Services 	\$8,000	\$2,000
Small Animal Rescue Society of BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fund a Community Outreach Program ▪ Spay & neuter 25 rabbits ▪ Renovations of educational centre 	\$8,950	\$7,400
HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Bite Free Program ▪ Printing and presentation materials ▪ Training of presenters ▪ Honoraria and expenses for presenters ▪ Promotion and Outreach 	\$4,700	\$-
	TOTAL	\$34,150	\$10,600

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is requested to approve \$10,600 in grants for animal-related applications from the 2011 Community Services Group grants budget for Animal Welfare. Approval of this recommendation will leave this budget with no unallocated funds.

CONCLUSION

Each of the organizations applying for grant funding is of value to the City as it provides services and assistance to the City that, at times, the Vancouver Animal Control cannot feasibly provide. Although, the amount of funding available for animal-related applications is not sufficient to cover the total amount of grant requests from each organization, staff recommends that Council allocate grants totalling \$10,600 to the organizations outlined in the Recommendation from the 2011 funds allocated to animal-related applications.

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