



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 10, 2008  
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Meeting Date: November 25, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector  
SUBJECT: 2008 Animal Welfare Grant

### *RECOMMENDATION*

THAT Council approve a grant of \$4,955 to the Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia: the source of the funds to be the 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 \$4955 to the Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia from the 2008 budgeted grant funds allocated to animal-related applications.

## ***BACKGROUND***

On November 30, 2006, Council approved a recommendation to eliminate the "Miscellaneous" Grants category from the "Other" Grants category of the City's civic grant program and approved the transfer of \$5,000 from the "Miscellaneous" Grants budget plus a \$5,000 budget increase to the Community Services Grants budget for 2007, to develop an approach to animal-related grant applications that had been traditionally funded under the "Miscellaneous" Grants category.

At that time, Council, also approved the recommendation put forward by the General Manager of Corporate Services in consultation with the General Manager of Community Services Group (CSG) to direct CSG to develop an approach to animal-related grant applications that had been traditionally funded under the "Miscellaneous" Grant category. Animal Control falls under the direction of the Department of Licences and Inspections.

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 total \$10,000, including \$5,000 transferred from the "Miscellaneous" Grants budget plus a \$5,000 budget increase approved by Council on November 30, 2006.

## ***DISCUSSION***

### **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 the Vancouver Animal Shelter (VAS) that provides food, care and housing for dogs that were lost, abandoned, or abused. Due to size, resources, and other constraints, the VAS 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 the VAS until a more appropriate boarding is available elsewhere such as the SPCA, Wildlife Rescue Association, independent rescue groups and by private individuals.

### **Eligibility 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.

#### **Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia**

The Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia (WRA) is a charitable society established almost 30 years ago to treat and rehabilitate wildlife and to raise public awareness of the issues affecting wildlife in the urban environment of the Lower Mainland. WRA's core programs provide for the professional care and welfare of wild animals in distress, and providing educational information and presentations that enable the public to learn about how to reduce the potential for conflict with wildlife in urban areas. Over the last 15 years, WRA has admitted into care more than 45,000 birds and mammals. Members of the public are referred to WRA facilities by municipal and provincial government departments, BC SPCA shelters animal emergency clinics and veterinary offices.

Since 2002, the WRA has received grant funding from the City for their operations, as summarized in the following table:

<b>WILDLIFE RESCUE ASSOCIATION</b>	
<b>Application Date</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
2002	\$5,000
2003	\$4,500
2004	\$5,000
2005	\$5,000
2006	\$5,000
2007	\$5,000

#### **WRA Proposed Activities**

In previous years, WRA has requested funds to help provide food, medicines and rehabilitative care for thousands of animals admitted each year, and for the provision of core educational programs and services, and emergency response capability for wildlife. While this funding need will always be present, in 2008 WRA would like the City to consider helping to fund the renovation of the "Raptor Pen". The "Raptor Pen" was originally designed and built for birds of prey in 1990. Since then, the enclosure is now used year round as a multipurpose facility containing at least 10% of WRA's animals and is beginning to show signs of wear and tear from general use and weathering. The funding from the City would assist with some specific repairs to roof and wall timbers required now to keep it secure and safe for long term use.

<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Who is involved?</b>	<b>Anticipated Costs</b>	<b>Anticipated Dates</b>
Timber removal and preparation	Site Maintenance staff (1) and volunteers (3)	\$240	By end of November 2008
Purchase and transport of new timber and anti-predator materials	Site maintenance staff (1) and volunteers (1)	\$4,475	By end of November 2008
Fitting of anti-predator screening, new timbers, and netting	Site maintenance staff (1) and volunteers (3)	\$240	By end of February 2009
		<b>Total cost: \$4,955</b>	

*FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS*

Funding for the recommended \$4,955 grant to WRA is to be provided from the Community Services Group grants budget for Animal Welfare.

*CONCLUSION*

Staff recommends that Council allocate \$4,955 to the Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia from the 2008 funds allocated to animal-related applications. At this time no other animal welfare grant applications have been received. The Licence Office will continue to receive applications until the end of the year for the remaining funds for 2008.

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