



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 1, 2009
Contact: Tom Hammel
Contact No.: 604.873.7545
RTS No.: 08485
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 17, 2009

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: 2009 Animal Welfare Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve grants totalling \$10,400: the source of the funds to be the Community Services Grants budget for Animal Welfare to:

- i. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary for \$2,450;
- ii. HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society for \$2,000;
- iii. Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia for \$3,000; and
- iv. Small Animal Rescue Society of BC for \$2,950.

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 \$10,400 from the 2009 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 2009 total \$10,400.

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.

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 \$29,952.

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 10 years, Greyhaven has taken in and found new adoptive homes for more than 2,000 parrots.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary is seeking a \$10,000 grant to support Greyhaven's ongoing 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. Also, to deal with a mite infestation problem, Greyhaven would like to replace the existing carpeted areas in the sanctuary with new flooring.

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 new owners of rescued pit bulls with guidance and support.

HugABull is requesting \$3,500 in financial support to host a 3-day event focused on responsible dog ownership especially surrounding pit bulls. This will include a presentation by Bill Bruce, Director, Animal & Bylaw Services in Calgary, on owner responsibility and proven tactics to increase public safety; information sessions focused on strong breeds for various animal shelters and organizations in the Lower Mainland; and a large scale event open to the general public, offering information on training, health, etiquette and other facets of responsible dog ownership.

Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia (WRA)

The Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia was established 30 years ago to treat and rehabilitate wildlife and to raise public awareness of the issues affecting them in the urban environment of the Lower Mainland. WRA's work with wildlife on behalf of the community has been ongoing since 1979. WRA's core programs provide for the professional care and welfare of wild animals in distress, and delivers educational information and presentations that enable the public to learn about how to reduce the potential for conflict with wildlife in urban areas. WRA also serves as a primary response group for wildlife in environmental crises, such as oil spills and is an important sentinel facility, working with government agencies to monitor the prevalence of diseases in wild animals, such as Avian Flu, West Nile Virus and Rabies. In 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 hospitals. As a registered charity, WRA relies upon full community support each year to be able to deliver all of their programs and services.

For 2009, WRA is requesting a \$7,500 grant to support their mission of helping wildlife, including providing food, medicines and rehabilitative care for approximately 3,000 animals that are anticipated in 2009, and for the provision of core educational services and volunteer programs.

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, staffed nor 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 \$8,952 grant to purchase and install insulation on the inside of their rabbit shelter to keep it warm in the winter and cool in the summer; to fund the spaying and

neutering of 22 rabbits that are currently waiting; and to help support the day to day operational expenses with regards to food, bedding and vet care.

RECOMMENDED GRANT ALLOCATIONS

The Vancouver Animal Shelter 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, and the occasional wildlife. Over the years, Animal Control staff have fostered relationships with a number of specialized rescue organizations that received these animals and provide them with the specialized care they may need and deserve. If these agencies did not exist, the Shelter would need to deal with a larger number and variety of animals.

This year, the grant requests received from the four organizations (\$29,952) exceed the amount of available funding by approximately \$20,000. All organizations provide worthwhile services and support to the Vancouver Animal Shelter 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 birds, both pet, farm and wild that come into the care of the shelter. These birds can range from barnyard chickens and roosters to parrots and budgies. Although the Vancouver Animal 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. Greyhaven took approximately 15 birds from the shelter in 2008 and 16 in 2009.

It is recommend that funding in the amount of \$2,450 go towards replacement of the sanctuary flooring to assist the group with the mite infestation problem they have experienced.

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 always 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. Through the past two years this group has taken in approximately 8 dogs from the Vancouver Animal Shelter and have helped place and find homes for at least a dozen other pit bull type dogs in the shelter's care.

It is recommend that funding in the amount of \$2,000 be approved for public education and messaging around responsible dog ownership and to partially fund a presentation from Bill Bruce, Director of Animal and Bylaw Services in Calgary, to discuss bite safety.

Wildlife Rescue Association (WRA) is a wild animal rescue and rehabilitation that cares for injured and orphaned birds and small mammals. Although at Animal Control there is no mandate to care for wildlife, the city does have many species of wildlife that become injured and require the special care of a rescue organization. WRA receives the majority of their animals from other groups, such as the BC SPCA, or members of the public, the shelter on occasion will receive wildlife that has an opportunity to be rehabilitated. Over the past 2 years WRA has taken in approximately 4 wild animals from the shelter's care and has taken in countless other wild animals from the City of Vancouver.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$3,000 be approved for wildlife and education and outreach and wildlife rehabilitation programs and services.

Small Animal Rescue (SARS) takes in rodent type species of all sizes from the shelter. In 2008 SARS took in an approximate 14 animals for placement and in 2009, to date, took in an approximate 48 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 \$2,950 be approved for the cost of spaying and neutering of 22 rabbits in their care and to cover the cost of purchase and installation of insulation for the rabbit shelter.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Veterinarian care & treatment ▪ Sanctuary operational supplies ▪ New sanctuary flooring 	\$10,000	\$2,450
HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 day event/workshop focused on responsible dog ownership 	\$3,500	\$2,000
Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife rehabilitation program and services ▪ Education & outreach program & services ▪ Volunteer program & services 	\$7,500	\$3,000
Small Animal Rescue Society of BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase & install insulation to inside of rabbit shelter ▪ Spay & neuter 22 rabbits ▪ Food & bedding supplies 	\$8,952	\$2,950
	TOTAL	\$29,952	\$10,400

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is requested to approve \$10,400 in grants for animal-related applications from the 2009 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 are of value to the City as they provide services and assistance to the City that, at times, the Vancouver Animal Services 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 \$10,400 to the organizations outlined in the Recommendation from the 2009 funds allocated to animal-related applications.

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