



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 3, 2010  
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Meeting Date: September 23, 2010

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets  
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector  
SUBJECT: 2010 Animal Welfare Grant

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve grants totalling \$10,400 to the following organizations:

- i. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary for \$4,275;
- ii. HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society for \$2,500;
- iii. Small Animal Rescue Society of BC for \$3,625;

source of funds to be the 2010 Community Services Grants budget for Animal Welfare.

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes of Council.

**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 2010 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 2010 total \$10,400.

### **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. Three applications were received with total funding request of \$21,075.

### **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 12 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 assist in controlling internal temperature on a south facing aviary, Greyhaven would like to purchase and install blinds.

#### **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 rescued pit bulls with guidance and support.

HugABull is requesting \$5,000 in financial support to be placed in an assistance fund for bull breed dogs requiring medical care. The amount will allow for approximately 5 dogs to receive medical attention for various health ailments, including items such as mange and ligament surgery. The "Lovely Fund" was created with donation funds to help those dogs that come to the rescue with medical conditions that are out of the norm. These conditions typically take long term medical intervention or costly surgical intervention. The "Lovely Fund" has seen dozens of dogs treated and eventually placed into permanent and responsible homes as opposed to being euthanized for medical reasons.

#### **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 \$3,625 grant to provide funding for their community outreach program and to fund the spaying and neutering of 25 of 73 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 small other small pets but otherwise provide loving, safe homes. This service provides for such items as food, bedding, caging and vet care.

#### ***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 three organizations (\$21,075) exceed the amount of available funding by approximately \$10,500. 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 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 has taken approximately 20 birds from the shelter in 2009 and at the current moment 6 in 2010.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$4,275 go towards ongoing sanctuary costs. These expenses directly cover the care of each bird for the length of time in care including food, cages, medical cost and toys.

**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 2009 this group has taken in 1 dog in need of extensive medical treatment 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 funding in the amount of \$2,500 be approved to be used in the "Lovely Fund" to provide medical care for bull breed type dogs taken into care by the Society.

**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 took in an approximate 52 small animals and in 2010, to date, have taken in an approximate 13 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 \$3,625 be approved for the cost of spaying and neutering of 25 rabbits in their care and to fund the cost of a community outreach program.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Veterinarian care &amp; treatment</li> <li>▪ Sanctuary operational supplies</li> <li>▪ Blinds for south facing aviary window</li> </ul>	\$10,000	\$4,275
HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Veterinay care and treatment</li> </ul>	\$5,000	\$2,500
Small Animal Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fund a Community Outreach</li> </ul>	\$3,625	\$3,625

Society of BC	Program ▪ Spay & neuter 25 rabbits		
	▪ <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,075</b>	<b>\$10,400</b>

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Council is requested to approve \$10,400 in grants for animal-related applications from the 2010 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 \$10,400 to the organizations outlined in the Recommendation from the 2010 funds allocated to animal-related applications.

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