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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 19, 2012
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Meeting Date: November 27, 2012

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector and the General Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: 2012 Animal Welfare Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve grants totalling \$7,125 to the following organization:

- i. Small Animal Rescue Society of BC for \$7,125;

source of funds to be the 2012 Community Services Grants budget for Animal Welfare.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS/ CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing recommendation. 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 \$7,125 from the 2012 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 2012 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. One application was received with a total funding request of \$7,125.

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 \$7,125 to provide funding for their community outreach program, volunteer program materials and to fund the spaying and neutering of 25 of 40 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.

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.

Small Animal Rescue (SARS) takes in rodent type species of all sizes from the shelter. In 2012 SARS has taken in an approximate 15 small animals and in 2011 took in approximately 28 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 \$7,125 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.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
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 	\$7,125	\$7,125
	▪ TOTAL	\$7,125	\$7,125

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is requested to approve \$7,125 in grants for animal-related applications from the 2012 Community Services Group grants budget for Animal Welfare. Approval of this recommendation will leave this budget with \$3,475 unallocated funds.

CONCLUSION

The organization which applied 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 typically sufficient to cover the total amount of grant requests from each organization that assists Animal Control, staff recommends that Council allocate a grant totalling \$7,125 to the organization outlined in the Recommendation from the 2012 funds allocated to animal-related applications.

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