



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 26, 2013
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 20, 2013

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: Deputy Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: 2013 Animal Welfare Grant Report

RECOMMENDATION

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

- i. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary for \$5,200;
- ii. Small Animal Rescue Society of BC for \$5,400;

Source of funds is the 2013 Community Services budget for Animal Welfare Grants.

REPORT SUMMARY

The objective of the animal welfare grant is to provide financial aid to non-profit organizations that assists Vancouver Animal Control which is focused primarily on residents' safety, dog-related services, and on a limited scale, services for other animals.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$5,200 be approved for Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary and that \$5,400 be approved for Small Animal Rescue Society.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes of Council.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager and General Manager of Community Services recommend approval of the foregoing recommendation.

REPORT

Background/Context

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.

This annual grant is to provide financial aid to non-profit animal organizations that assist Vancouver Animal Control. Vancouver Animal Control is a facility that was built to house dogs. However, the shelter also receives multiple species through its animal control work. In some circumstances these other animals may be temporarily housed at VAC until more appropriate boarding is available.

Vancouver 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.

On an annual basis staff contact and inform several animal related organizations to inform them of the grant availability. Grant approvals vary per year based on the applications received.

The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications for 2013 total \$10,600.

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 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 Companion Animal Welfare Position Statement

(<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/assets/documents/welfare/position-statements/companion-animal-welfare.pdf>)

The organizations that receive an Animal Welfare Grant must agree to ensure compliance with standards of care and accountability, and agree to submit a brief report to the City at the end of the grant's term identifying direct and indirect outcomes from the 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.

Strategic Analysis

Applicants and Proposed Activities

Two applications were received with total funding request of \$20,636. Funding requests exceeded the maximum available through the grant and it is recommended that funding be

split amongst both groups. Although grant amounts are relatively small they are very valuable and provide needed resources to these groups.

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 14 years, Greyhaven has taken in and found new adoptive homes for more than 2,500 parrots.

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.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary is seeking a \$10,236 grant to support Greyhaven's on-going care and rehabilitation efforts with the purchase of a new furnace with filtration unit and three portable air purifiers for use in areas with heavy dust and dander concentrations.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$5,200 go towards the purchase and installation of a new furnace with filtration.

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 SPCA locations and all municipal animal shelters across the province to provide assistance and education to shelters, their staff and their volunteers. SARS BC takes in animals that traditional shelters are not able to care for which include rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats, chinchillas and hedgehogs. SARS BC also has a community outreach program that provides food or vet care for those who are unable to care for their animals but do provide a good home. Other programs included adoption and fostering programs, advocacy and humane education and educational opportunities for elementary schools and colleges.

In 2012 SARS took in an approximate 28 small animals from the Animal Control Shelter. 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.

SARS BC is requesting a grant of \$10,400 to provide funding for their community outreach program, the spaying and neutering of 40 rabbits and 10 small animals that are currently waiting for surgery, and the purchase of a wooden storage shed to properly store caging and supplies used by the rescue.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$5,400 be approved for the cost of spaying and neutering of 40 rabbits and other small animals in their care, and to fund the purchase of a wooden storage shed.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase of three air purifiers ▪ Purchase and install of new furnace with filtration 	\$10,236	\$5,200
Small Animal Rescue Society of BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spay & neuter 40 rabbits and 10 small animals ▪ Purchase of a wooden storage shed ▪ Community Outreach funding 	\$10,400	\$5,400
	TOTAL	\$20,636	\$10,600

Financial

Council is requested to approve \$10,600 in grants for animal-related applications from the 2013 Community Services budget for Animal Welfare Grants. 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 2013 funds allocated to animal-related applications.

Preliminary conversations have begun with Social Policy to discuss opportunities for the leveraging of grant amounts and efficiencies for future report submissions.

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