



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 14, 2017
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 12, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager, Development, Building and Licensing
SUBJECT: 2017 Animal Welfare Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve three (3) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,247, the total amount allocated in the 2017 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

- i. Small Animal Rescue Society of British Columbia for \$2,500
- ii. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary for \$5,000
- iii. Critter Care Wildlife Society for \$3,747

Source of the funds will be the 2017 Animal Welfare Grants Budget.

REPORT SUMMARY

The City of Vancouver's Animal Welfare Grant provides financial aid to registered non-profit societies that assist the City of Vancouver with the sheltering and caring of animals and other related services. Vancouver Animal Services received three applications for the 2017 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$30,999.28. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2017 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$11,247, to be allocated across three organizations, as follows: \$2,500 be provided to the Small Animal Rescue Society of British Columbia, \$5,000 to the Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, and \$3,747 to the Critter Care Wildlife Society.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of the Animal Welfare Grant requires affirmative votes from two thirds of all Council members. For the 2016 Animal Welfare Grant, Council previously approved the awarding of \$10,600 of Animal Welfare Grants to three organizations on April 26, 2016.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager and General Manager of Development, Building and Licensing recommend approval of the foregoing recommendation.

REPORT

Background/Context

On June 28, 2007, Council approved the Application Process and Form for the Animal Welfare Grant for 2008 and future years. The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications in 2017 totalled \$11,247. Based on feedback from past recipients, the Animal Welfare Grant is an important source of funding for the operational sustainability of several animal rescue agencies that provide supplemental animal support services to the City of Vancouver.

Objective of the Grant

The objective of the Animal Welfare Grant is to provide financial aid to registered non-profit organizations that assist Vancouver in a capacity that the City cannot feasibly provide while supporting the City's animal control and licensing work. The City currently operates the Vancouver Animal Shelter (VAS) which primarily provides food, care and shelter to abandoned or lost dogs. Due to size, resources and other constraints, the VAS is only capable of providing services for other animals on a limited scale. Notwithstanding this limitation, Vancouver Animal Services officers are often called out by residents to address incidents concerning animals other than dogs, including birds, small rodents, and wildlife. These animals may be temporarily housed at the VAS until more appropriate boarding is available elsewhere, including the BCSPCA, Wildlife Rescue Association, other independent rescue groups, and private individuals. The Animal Welfare Grant is provided to these organizations to help offset their costs of providing supplemental animal services to the City of Vancouver.

Eligibility and Review Criteria

To be eligible for the Animal Welfare Grant, an applicant must be a registered non-profit society that serves the City of Vancouver. The organization must extend its services to the general public and may not exclude anyone due to religion, ethnicity, 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. Furthermore, the organization must meet the minimum standard of animal care as set out by the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's (BCSPCA) Companion Animal Welfare Position Statement.¹

Organizations applying for the Animal Welfare Grant must submit the following documents to Vancouver Animal Services staff for evaluation of their adherence to the Grant's eligibility criteria:

¹Source: <http://spca.bc.ca/programs-services/leaders-in-our-field/position-statements/position-statement-companion-animal-welfare/>

- An application form detailing information including the organization's Society Incorporation Number and/or Federal Registered Charity number, the purpose and brief history of the organization, the amount of financing requested, the type of work/project that will be financed and how it reinforces the City of Vancouver's animal services mandate, and the anticipated results;
- A copy of the organization's Certificate of Incorporation;
- A list of the organization's Board of Directors, specifying the position held, address and phone numbers; and
- A copy of the Minutes from the organization's last Annual General Meeting.

The organization that receives the Animal Welfare Grant must also agree to certain conditions, including allowing occasional visits from City staff to verify that Animal Welfare Grants were utilized for their intended purpose. Vancouver Animal Services staff visited the Small Animal Rescue Society of British Columbia and the Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary in 2016, which were recipients of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2016 and found that funds were used in a legitimate fashion.

In addition, the successful applicant must agree to submit a brief report at the end of the Grant's term identifying the direct and indirect outcomes achieved through the Animal Welfare Grant. This report will also be relevant in evaluating future applications put forward from the same organization. Staff received reports from the Small Animal Rescue Society and Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary for work completed using the 2016 Animal Welfare Grant.

Strategic Analysis

In 2017, staff put out a request for 2017 Animal Welfare Grant applications to the following organizations:

- Small Rescue Animal Society of BC
- Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary
- Critter Care Wildlife Society
- HugAbull Advocacy and Rescue Society
- Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Organization

Staff received three applications from three organizations with a total funding request of \$30,999.28. A description of the organizations, the rationale for their funding request and the recommended Animal Welfare Grant amount is described below.

Small Animal Rescue Society of British Columbia (SARS)

SARS was established in 2004 with the objective of rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing homeless or unwanted small animals throughout the province. It works with SPCA branches and municipal animal shelters to provide assistance and education to shelters, their staff and volunteers. In addition, SARS houses animals that traditional animal shelters are unable to care for, including rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, chinchillas and hedgehogs. In 2016, SARS took 15 animals from the Vancouver Animal Shelter. SARS also has a community outreach program that provides food or veterinarian care for low-income pet owners. Other programs include adoption and fostering programs, advocacy, and educational programmes at the elementary and high-school levels.

SARS was a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015. Vancouver Animal Services staff received Grant reports for each corresponding year and was satisfied with the direct and indirect outcomes resulting from the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding in amount of \$2,500 be approved for SARS to help with their community outreach, especially in the Downtown Eastside which is experiencing an increase in abandoned small pets, especially fancy rats. The grant will also offset the organization's spaying and neutering costs.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary was founded in 1998 as a safe haven for parrots that are injured, orphaned, abused, and abandoned in the Greater Vancouver region. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for parrots in the region by offering a refuge for birds, providing medical treatment and professional avian veterinary services, facilitating bird adoptions, and educating current and potential bird owners of parrot's special needs. Over the past 15 years, Greyhaven has taken in approximately 49 parrots from the Vancouver Animal Shelter.

The Sanctuary was a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016. Vancouver Animal Services staff received Grant reports for each corresponding year and was satisfied with the direct and indirect outcomes resulting from the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding in amount of \$5,000 be approved for Greyhaven to assist with the capital cost of replacing the plumbing in their ageing facility to ensure sanitary conditions for parrots and enhance the exterior's security features to deter frequent vandalism. The grant will also alleviate the Sanctuary's higher operational expenditures from adopting healthier but costlier pellet-based diet for parrots that is recommended by avian specialists.

Critter Care Wildlife Society

Critter Care Wildlife Society specializes in the treatment, care and release of sick, injured and orphaned native mammal species in British Columbia's Southern and Lower Mainland. Animals assisted include squirrels, bears, beavers, coyotes, deer, otters and raccoons. The Society is the only facility in the province specializing in the care of mammals and one of only four Bear Rehabilitation facilities in the province. The number of animals in the Society originating from the Vancouver Animal Shelter is hard to determine as Vancouver Animal Services does not always take in these animals. However, Vancouver Animal Services often refers calls from the public concerning wildlife to the Society. In addition to rehabilitation of animals, the Society is also involved in community based education programs at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. The Society is a new recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding in amount of \$3,747 (the remainder of the budget) be approved for the Society to assist with the rebuilding and repair of several large enclosures that were damaged by wind and snow over the last year.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications in 2017 is \$11,247, which is the total amount allocated in the 2017 budget for such use. This report recommends three Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,247; the source of the funds is the 2017 Animal Welfare Grants Budget.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Small Animal Rescue Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund community outreach in the DTES - Offset the costs of spaying and neutering 	\$11,000	\$2,500
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace plumbing in facility and upgrade exterior security features - Offset higher expenditure from transitioning to a pellet-based diet for birds 	\$9,999.28	\$5,000
Critter Care Wildlife Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebuild and repair several large animal enclosures 	\$10,000	\$3,747
TOTAL		\$30,999.28	\$11,247

CONCLUSION

The three organizations applying for the Animal Welfare Grant in 2017 are providing valuable assistance to Vancouver Animal Services to assist animals that would not be accommodated in the Vancouver Animal Shelter due to resource and space constraints. Staff recommends that three Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,247 be awarded to the Small Animal Rescue Society, the Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, and the Critter Care Wildlife Society to assist with their capital and operational needs.

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