



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 17, 2018
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Meeting Date: June 5, 2018

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing
SUBJECT: 2018 Animal Welfare Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve four (4) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,472, as outlined in the Financial Implications section.

Source of the funds will be the 2018 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 seven applications for the 2018 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$47,100. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2018 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$11,472, to be allocated across four organizations, as follows: \$5,000 to the Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, \$2,157 to be provided to the Small Animal Rescue Society of British Columbia (SARS), \$2,157 to the Critter Care Wildlife Society, and \$2,157 to the O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL).

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of the Animal Welfare Grant requires affirmative votes from two thirds of all Council members. For the 2017 Animal Welfare Grant, Council approved the awarding of \$11,247 of Animal Welfare Grants to three organizations on December 12, 2017.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

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 2018 totalled \$11,472. 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.

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:

- 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.

In addition, the organization must meet the minimum standard of animal care as set out by the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) Companion Animal Welfare Position Statement.¹

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 Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, the Small Animal Rescue Society, and the Critter Care Wildlife Society for work completed using the 2017 Animal Welfare Grant.

Strategic Analysis

In 2018, staff put out a request for 2018 Animal Welfare Grant applications to 14 rescues and societies. The following organizations submitted applications:

- Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary
- Small Animal Rescue Society of BC
- Critter Care Wildlife Society
- O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society
- Cross Our Paws Rescue Society
- BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association

Staff received seven applications from seven organizations with a total funding request of \$49,100. Each application was looked at on the overall greatest impact the funding would have to the City of Vancouver's residents and overall Animal Welfare. A description of the successful organizations, the rationale for their funding request and the recommended Animal Welfare Grant amount is described below.

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 66 parrots from the Vancouver Animal Shelter.

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

The Sanctuary has been a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017. 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 the amount of \$5,000 be approved for Greyhaven to assist with the cost of operational uses and supplies. \$4,000 will be dedicated to providing a complete healthy diet for birds. There are higher operational expenditures by adopting a healthier but costlier pellet-based diet for parrots, that is recommended by avian specialists. \$1,000 will be dedicated to purchasing vet wrap for padding perches for birds that have mobility issues and arthritis.

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. 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 has been a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017. 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 the amount of \$2,157 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.

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 Shelter does not always take in these animals. However, Vancouver Animal Shelter 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.

Critter Care Wildlife Society was a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant for the first time in 2017. Vancouver Animal Services staff received a Grant report for last year and was satisfied with the direct and indirect outcomes resulting from the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$2,157 be approved for the Society to assist with purchasing medical supplies, equipment, (including a new autoclave) as well as medicines and vaccines.

O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL)

O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society is a rehabilitation and education centre established for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured birds of prey. They care for raptors such as eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, osprey and vultures. They care for over 700 birds of prey each year. The number of animals in the Society originating from the Vancouver Animal Shelter is hard to determine as Vancouver Animal Shelter does not always take in these animals. However, Vancouver Animal Shelter 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.

O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society has impacted the Vancouver Animal Shelter by rescuing and caring for 2 different local bald eagles in 2016 from Strathcona Park and releasing them once they had recovered. The Society is a new recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$2,157 be approved for the Society to assist with the rebuilding and repair of an enclosure and the demolition of a structure that is unrecoverable.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications in 2018 is \$11,472, which is the total amount allocated in the 2018 budget for such use. This report recommends four Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,472; the source of the funds is the 2018 Animal Welfare Grants Budget.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase pellet diet - complete diet - better for birds ▪ Equipment and supplies for padding roosts for birds with mobility issues and or arthritis 	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Small Animal Rescue Society of BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spay & neuter vaccinate and other vet care ▪ Community Outreach funding specifically for the DTES hoarding issues 	\$10,000.00	\$2,157

Critter Care Wildlife Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase medical supplies, equipment and medicines/vaccines ▪ Purchase a new autoclave 	\$4,000.00	\$2,157
O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rebuild an enclosure ▪ Add onto an existing enclosure ▪ Demolish an unrecoverable structure 	\$10,000.00	\$2,157
	TOTAL	\$29,000.00	11,472

CONCLUSION

The four recommended organizations to receive the Animal Welfare Grant in 2018 are providing valuable assistance to Vancouver Animal Services. They are assisting animals that would not be accommodated in the Vancouver Animal Shelter due to resource and space constraints, and providing valuable community outreach programs. Staff recommends that four Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,472 be awarded to the Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, the Small Animal Rescue Society, the Critter Care Wildlife Society, and O.W.L Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society to assist with their capital and operational needs.

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