



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 6, 2019
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-25
Meeting Date: June 11, 2019

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: 2019 Animal Welfare Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve two (2) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,701, the total amount allocated in the 2019 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| i. | Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary | \$5,448 |
| ii. | Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association | \$6,253 |

Recommendations require 2/3 affirmative votes pursuant to Vancouver Charter S. 206(1)

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 five (5) applications for the 2019 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$41,699. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2019 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$11,701 to be allocated across two organizations: \$5,448 be allocated to Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary and \$6,253 be allocated to Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of the Animal Welfare Grant requires affirmative votes from two thirds of all Council members. In 2018, Council approved the awarding of \$11,472 of Animal Welfare Grants to four (4) organizations on June 6, 2018.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends 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 2019 totalled \$11,701. 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 Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary in 2018, which was a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2018 and found that funds were used in a legitimate fashion. Vancouver Animal Services staff also visited Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association's shelter location in 2018 and found conditions and treatment of the cats fell within the BC SPCA's animal welfare guidelines.

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 a report from Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, for how the 2018 Animal Welfare Grant monies were utilized.

Strategic Analysis

In 2019, staff put out a request for 2019 Animal Welfare Grant applications to 14 rescues and societies which have interacted with the City of Vancouver Animal Shelter over the past 2 years. The following 5 organizations submitted qualified applications:

- Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary
- Small Animal Rescue Society of BC
- Critter Care Wildlife Society
- Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association
- Senior Animals in Need Now Society

Staff received five applications from five organizations with a total funding request of \$41,699. 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 birds that are injured, orphaned, abused, and abandoned in the Greater Vancouver region. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for birds 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 bird's special needs. Over the past 16 years, Greyhaven has taken in approximately 90 birds from the Vancouver Animal Shelter, 24 in 2018. Species including budgies, finches, canaries, conjures, parrots, parakeets, love birds, cockatiels, cockatoos etc.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary has been a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Greyhaven continues to provide a specialized avian care environment not available at the Vancouver Animal Shelter. Staff received Grant reports

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

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 \$5,448 be approved for Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary to assist with the cost of operational uses and supplies. \$5,448 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, which is recommended by avian specialists.

Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA)

Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association is a volunteer run charity cat/kitten rescue serving Vancouver and other surrounding municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In 2018, they took in 1,222 cats from Vancouver and adopted out 1,140. Their mission is to end cat homelessness through rescue, trap-neuter-release (TNR), adoption and public education, which started in the year 2000 to deal with the 40 to 50 feral Vancouver cat colonies. Over the last 19 years the program has been successful in reducing feral cat populations in Vancouver, and the few remaining colonies are static or declining in numbers due to their efforts. Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association was incorporated as a registered society in July 2014, however, they have been providing this service for over 19 years now.

Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association has not been a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant previously; however, the City of Vancouver Animal Shelter recognizes the extremely important work that VOKRA does for the cities feline population, feral, abandoned, injured and ill.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$6,253 be approved for Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association to assist with the cost of operational uses and supplies. \$6,253 will be dedicated to assist with spay, neuter, vaccination and flea treatment. At a cost of \$150 per cat, the funds would help approximately 40 cats.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications in 2019 is \$11,701, which is the total amount allocated in the 2019 budget for such use. This report recommends two Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,701; the source of the funds is the 2019 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 ▪ Seed ▪ Pervail disinfectant wipes vikron/ vet wrap 	\$9,498	\$5,448
Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spay, neuter, vaccinate and flea treatment @ \$150.00 per cat 	\$7,500	\$6,253
	Total	\$16,998	\$11,701

CONCLUSION

The two recommended organizations to receive the Animal Welfare Grant in 2019 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 two Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,701 be awarded to Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary and Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association to assist with their operations.

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