



REPORT

Report Date: September 4, 2020
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Meeting Date: October 6, 2020

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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: 2020 Animal Welfare Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve two (2) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,935, the total amount allocated in the 2020 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

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| i. Critter Care Wildlife Society | \$4,000 |
| ii. Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association | \$7,935 |

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 four applications for the 2020 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$33,121.07. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2020 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$11,935, to be allocated across two organizations, as follows: \$4,000 be allocated to Critter Care Wildlife Society and \$7,935 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. For the 2019 Animal Welfare Grant, Council approved the awarding of \$11,701 of Animal Welfare Grants to two organizations on June 11, 2019.

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, and is increased annually to account for inflation. 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 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 Society in 2019, 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 2019 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 reports from Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary and Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association, confirming how the 2019 Animal Welfare Grant monies were utilized.

Strategic Analysis

Staff issued a request for 2020 Animal Welfare Grant applications to 14 rescues and societies. The following organizations submitted applications:

- Critter Care Wildlife Society
- Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association
- Senior Animals in Need Now Society
- Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA)

Staff received four applications from four organizations with a total funding request of \$33,121.07. Each application was assessed based 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.

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. Their mission is to end cat homelessness through rescue, trap-neuter-release (TNR), adoption and public education. Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association was incorporated as a registered society in July 2014; however, they have been providing this service for over 18 years.

Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association was the recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant for the first time in 2019; the City of Vancouver Animal Shelter recognizes the important work that VOKRA does for the City's feline population management, and support for feral, abandoned, injured and ill cats.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$7,935 be approved for Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association to assist with operational costs. The funding will be dedicated to

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

assist with spay, neuter, vaccination and flea treatment. This comes at a cost of \$160 per cat. The funds would help with approximately 49 cats.

Critter Care Wildlife Society

Critter Care Wildlife Society was established to assist in the rehabilitation and releasing of indigenous wildlife species in Southern BC which have been brought to them as injured or orphaned mammals. Critter Care Wildlife Society was incorporated as a registered charity in January 1993 but existed long before that.

Critter Care Wildlife Society has taken in several orphaned and abandoned wildlife mammals from Vancouver Animal Services in the past year including but not limited to racoons, skunks, deer, beaver, bear and squirrels.

In 2018 Critter Care Wildlife Society was awarded \$2,157. They used this money to purchase medications, vaccinations and antibiotics to help treat the animals in their care

It is recommended that funding of \$4,000 be approved for Critter Care Wildlife Society to assist with the costs of operational needs. \$4,000 of the funding is to be used to purchase medical supplies and species specific formula.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

The amount of funds dedicated to the Animal Service Grant budget in 2020 is \$11,935. This report recommends awarding the full amount, through two Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,935.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Critter Care Wildlife Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical supplies ▪ Species specific formula 	\$4,000	\$4,000
Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spay, neuter, vaccinate and flea treatment @ \$160 per cat 	\$8,000	\$7,935
	Total	\$12,000	\$11,935

CONCLUSION

The two recommended organizations to receive the Animal Welfare Grant in 2020 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, expertise and space constraints, and providing valuable community outreach programs. Staff recommends that two Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$11,935 be awarded to Critter Care Wildlife Society and Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association to assist with their operational expenses.

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