



REPORT

Report Date: February 27, 2021
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Meeting Date: March 30, 2021
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: 2021 Animal Welfare Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve four (4) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,174, the total amount allocated in the 2021 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

- | | | |
|------|---|---------|
| i. | Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA) | \$4,000 |
| ii. | Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary | \$4,000 |
| iii. | British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) – Charlie’s Food Bank | \$2,152 |
| iv. | Critter Care Wildlife Society | \$2,022 |

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 applications for the 2021 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$42,494. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2021 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$12,174 be allocated across four organizations as follows; Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association \$4,000; Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary \$4,000; BC SPCA – Charlie’s Food Bank \$2,152; and Critter Care Wildlife Society \$2,022.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of the Animal Welfare Grant requires affirmative votes from two thirds of all Council members. For the 2020 Animal Welfare Grant, Council approved the awarding of \$11,935 in Animal Welfare Grants to two organizations on October 6, 2020.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The Acting 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 2020 totalled \$11,935, 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 its size, resources and other constraints, the VAS is only capable of providing services for other animals on a limited scale. Notwithstanding this limitation, VAS 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 boarding that is more appropriate is available elsewhere, including the BC SPCA, 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 and extend its services to the general public.

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 (BC SPCA) 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 VOKRA in 2020 and had a follow up phone interview later in the year. VOKRA was a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant in 2020 and the City found that the funds were used to spay and neuter an additional 49 cats in 2020.

Vancouver Animal Services staff also spoke with Critter Care on several occasions and confirmed that they used grant monies to purchase the needed species specific formula and medical supplies.

In addition, the successful applicants 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 Critter Care and Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association on how the 2020 Animal Welfare Grant monies were utilized. Further to the report that the agencies submit, verification of grant funding use is conducted through interviews with agency staff, on-site visits, reviewing financials including expenditure receipts when applicable, Annual General Meeting and annual agency activity output information. Through this follow up work, City staff have confirmed the 2020 grant funds were used as intended.

Strategic Analysis

Staff issued a request for 2021 Animal Welfare Grant applications to 13 rescues and societies. The following organizations submitted applications:

- Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association
- Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary
- BC SPCA – Charlie's Food Bank
- Critter Care Wildlife Society
- Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA)

Staff received five applications from five organizations with a total funding request of \$42,494. 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 amounts are described below.

Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association

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.

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

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.

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 extremely important work that VOKRA does for the City's feral, abandoned, injured and ill feline population.

In 2020 VOKRA was awarded \$7,935 of the Animal Welfare Grant. They were able to spay and neuter 49 additional cats with this funding as was described in the 2020 Animal Welfare Grant Report.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$4,000 be approved for Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association to assist with the cost of operational needs. \$4,000 will be dedicated to assist with spay, neuter, vaccination and flea treatment. This comes at a cost of \$160 per cat. The funds would help approximately 25 cats.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary has been involved in helping The Vancouver Animal Shelter for a number of years. In 2020 Greyhaven took 11 exotic birds from Vancouver Animal Services 26 in 2019, and 31 in 2018. They have been operating as a sanctuary since 1998. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary's main purpose is to provide rescue and protection for parrots. They have applied for \$12,130 of the possible \$12,174 available grant. They will use grant funding for supplies for the sanctuary and to purchase and provide a complete healthy diet for the birds.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$4,000 be approved for Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary to assist with the cost of operational needs. \$4,000 will be dedicated to assist with purchasing a vet recommended pellet food, seed diet and air purifiers to help control the dander and dust.

British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The BC SPCA has been operating on behalf of the province's most vulnerable animals for more than 125 years. The mission of the BC SPCA is to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm, and wild animals in BC. They provide a wide range of services including the enforcement of animal cruelty laws, sheltering and adoption of animals, low cost spay and neuter programs, youth programs, advocacy in animal related issues including higher welfare standards for farm animals, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Animal welfare issues vary across the province; the proposed project is targeted specifically at Vancouver's Downtown Eastside demographic.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$2,152 be approved for the BC SPCA to purchase 60 humane basket style muzzles of various sizes for use by residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside who access Charlie's foodbank to help create a safer environment for animals and residents. The presence of aggressive dogs in the DTES has provided on going challenges for Vancouver Animal Services with respect to dog bite incidents and safety concerns for the residents and animals the community. This work by the BC SPCA to provide free muzzles in the DTES will assist in promoting responsible pet ownership and will help towards reducing injuries to people and to animals.

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 and operated prior to incorporation as a charity.

In 2020, Critter Care Wildlife Society has taken in 500 orphaned and abandoned wildlife mammals. It is not too common to have wildlife brought directly to Vancouver Animal Services due to the general risk of handling wildlife. However, through the City's 311 Call Centre, wildlife calls are directly referred to wildlife agencies including Critter Care. The overall call volume which the City referred range from 1,985 calls in 2018, 2,119 calls in 2019 and 1,855 calls in 2020.

In 2020 Critter Care Wildlife Society was awarded \$4,000. They used this money to purchase species specific formula and medical supplies

It is recommended that funding of \$2,022 be approved for Critter Care Wildlife Society to assist with the costs of operational needs. The grant funding is to be used to purchase medical supplies and species specific formula.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

The amount of funds dedicated to animal-related applications in 2021 is \$12,174. This report recommends four Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,174.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association	Spay, neuter, vaccinate and flea treatment @ \$160 per cat	\$8,000	\$4,000
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	Pellet food Seed Air purification filters	\$12,130	\$4,000
BC SPCA Charlie's Food Bank	Muzzles	\$6,364	\$2,152
Critter Care Wildlife Society	Species specific formula and medical supplies	\$4,000	\$2,022
Wildlife Rescue Association of BC	Medical supplies and community support staffing	\$12,000	\$0
	Total	\$42,494	\$12,174

CONCLUSION

The four recommended organizations to receive the Animal Welfare Grant in 2021 are providing valuable assistance to Vancouver Animal Services. They are assisting animals that may not be accommodated in the Vancouver Animal Shelter due to resource and space constraints, and/or

providing valuable community outreach programs beyond the ability of the City. Staff recommends that four Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,174 be awarded to Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association, Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, the BC SPCA – Charlie's Food Bank, and Critter Care Wildlife Society to assist with their operational needs.

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