



REPORT

Report Date: March 1, 2022
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Meeting Date: April 13, 2022

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licencing
SUBJECT: 2022 Animal Welfare Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve three (3) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,417, the total amount allocated in the 2022 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| i. | Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA) | \$4,800 |
| ii. | Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary | \$4,887 |
| iii. | Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA) | \$2,730 |

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 (VAS) received three applications for the 2022 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$31,928. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2022 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$12,417 be allocated across three organizations as follows; Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association \$4,800; Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary \$4,887; and Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. \$2,730.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of the Animal Welfare Grant requires affirmative votes from two thirds of all Council members.

For the 2021 Animal Welfare Grant, Council approved the awarding of \$12,174 in Animal Welfare Grants to 4 organizations on March 30, 2021.

CITY 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 2022 totalled \$12,417, and is adjusted annually to account for inflation and or budget availability. 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 VAS, which primarily provides food, care, and shelter to abandoned or lost dogs. Due to its size, resources and other constraints, 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 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 VAS 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.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic precautions, VAS staff did not visit in person the locations of the four 2021 recipients of the Animal Welfare Grant. However, follow up phone calls and emails were made to verify the appropriate spending of all the allocated grant funding.

VOKRA was a recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant that received \$4,000 in 2021 and the City found that these funds were used to spay and neuter an additional 25 cats in 2021. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, was another 2021 recipient that received \$4,000 which they used to purchase 1 specialized air purifier, veterinary supplies and specialized bird food for parrots. BC SPCA received \$2,152 in 2021 in grant funding which they used to purchase various dog muzzles to be given away at the Charlie's Community Pet Resource Program in the downtown eastside to vulnerable pet guardians to promote responsible pet ownership. Lastly, Critter Care Wildlife Society received \$2,022 to purchase medical supplies and specialized animal food.

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 reports from all four agencies that received the 2021 Grant funding.

Strategic Analysis

Through the 2022 Animal Welfare Grant application process, the following organizations submitted applications:

- Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA)
- Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary
- Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA)

Staff received three applications from three organizations with a total funding request of \$31,928. 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 (VOKRA)

VOKRA 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,

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

trap-neuter-release (TNR), adoption and public education. VOKRA was incorporated as a registered society in July 2014; however, they have been providing this service for over 19 years.

VOKRA was the recipient of the Animal Welfare Grant for the first time in 2019; VAS recognizes the extremely important work that VOKRA does for the City's feral, abandoned, injured and ill feline population.

In 2021 VOKRA was awarded \$4,000 of the Animal Welfare Grant. They were able to spay and neuter 25 additional cats with this funding. VOKRA has applied for \$8,000 from the possible \$12,417 in 2022.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$4,800 be approved for VOKRA to assist with the cost of operational needs. \$4,800 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 30 cats.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary has been involved in helping VAS for a number of years. In 2021 Greyhaven took 9 exotic birds from VAS, 11 in 2020, and 26 in 2019. 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 \$10,928 of the possible \$12,417 available grant. They will use grant funding to purchase more air purifiers and supplies for the sanctuary.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$4,887 be approved for Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary to assist with the cost of operational needs. \$4,887 will be dedicated to purchasing 5 air purifiers, 18 Hepafilter replacements and medical supplies.

Wildlife Rescue Association of BC

The primary purpose of the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC is rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife. Founded in 1979, their animal hospital and support centre have been active in the lower mainland community for 43 years. Their operations have three main facets; wildlife rehabilitation in their hospital, wildlife education, and their high-demand wildlife support call centre. Wildlife Rescue Association serves the entire province of BC, with the majority of cases coming from the lower mainland. Wildlife Rescue Association have asked for \$13,000 to be used for the care and treatment of hummingbirds which have almost doubled in the number of hummingbirds admitted for care since 2019 at 144 to 247 in 2021.

Wildlife Rescue Association has been a successful Animal Welfare Grant in the past. They were awarded monies in 2008 for \$4,995, in 2009 for \$3,000 and in 2011 for \$2,000. It is recommended that they be approved for grant funding for the amount of \$2,730 to help offset costs of providing specialized diets and creating public education material for proper hummingbird feeder care and maintenance.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk***Financial***

This report recommends three Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,417 as outlined in the table below. The 2022 operating budget includes \$12,417 dedicated to animal-related grant applications, which would be fully allocated through the recommendations in this report.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association	Spay, neuter, vaccinate and flea treatment @ \$160 per cat	\$8,000	\$4,800
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	Air purifiers Hepafilters Medical expenses	\$10,928	\$4,887
Wildlife Rescue Association of BC	Hummingbird care supplies and public education material development	\$13,000	\$2,729
	Total		\$12,417

CONCLUSION

The three recommended organizations to receive the Animal Welfare Grant in 2022 are providing valuable assistance to Vancouver Animal Services. They are assisting animals that may not be accommodated in the City's animal shelter due to resource and space constraints, and/or providing valuable community outreach programs beyond the ability of the City. Staff recommends that three Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,417 be awarded to Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association, Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, and the Wildlife Rescue Association to assist with their operational needs.

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