



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: March 14, 2022  
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Meeting Date: March 28, 2023  
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TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licencing  
SUBJECT: 2023 Animal Welfare Grant

### Recommendations

THAT Council approve three (3) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$14,665, the total amount allocated in the 2023 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

|      |                                 |          |
|------|---------------------------------|----------|
| i.   | Paws for Hope Animal Foundation | \$10,000 |
| ii.  | Atira Development Society       | \$2,665  |
| iii. | Rabbitats Rescue Society        | \$2,000  |

### Purpose and Executive 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 four applications for the 2023 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$25,784. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2023 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$14,665 be allocated across three organizations as follows; Paws for Hope \$10,000; Atira Development Society \$2,665 and Rabbitats Rescue Society \$2,000.

### Council Authority/Previous Decisions

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

For the 2022 Animal Welfare Grant, Council approved the awarding of \$12,417 in Animal Welfare Grants to three organizations on April 14, 2022.

## **City Manager's Comments**

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

## **Context and Background**

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 2023 totalled \$14,665, 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.

## **Discussion**

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. The Animal Welfare Grant is provided to organizations to support in offsetting 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 provides assistance to the City of Vancouver and extends its services to the general public. Organizations applying for the Animal Welfare Grant must submit documents to VAS staff for evaluation of their adherence to the Grant's eligibility criteria. Details of the required documents are listed in Appendix A.

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. A summary of the 2022 Animal Welfare Grant evaluations is included in Appendix B.

Staff received four applications from four organizations with a total funding request of \$25,784. Each application is 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 rationale for their funding request and the recommended Animal Welfare Grant amounts for the successful applicants are described in Appendix A

## **Financial Implications**

This report recommends three agencies receive the Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$14,665 as outlined in the table below. The 2023 operating budget includes \$14,665 dedicated to animal-

related grant applications, which would be fully allocated through the recommendations in this report.

| <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                    | <b>Requested Amount</b> | <b>Recommended Amount</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paws for Hope Animal Foundation | Financial and responsible pet ownership support for marginalized dog owners who encounter impound fees and other cost challenges to pet ownership | <b>\$10,000</b>         | <b>\$10,000</b>           |
| Rabbitats Rescue Society        | Spay, neutering, vaccinating, mapping/trapping of rabbits                                                                                         | <b>\$5,400</b>          | <b>\$2,000</b>            |
| Atira Development Society       | Spays, neuters, and muzzle equipment for marginalized tenants of their buildings                                                                  | <b>\$5,000</b>          | <b>\$2,665</b>            |
| Loveabull Rescue Society        | Storage Unit fees – monthly, marketing materials, banner, rack cards, t-shirts                                                                    | <b>\$5,384</b>          | <b>\$0</b>                |
|                                 | <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$25,784</b>         | <b>\$14,665</b>           |

**Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this report’s recommendations.

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## **APPENDIX A APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION ANALYSIS**

### **Grant application document requirements:**

- 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **Background on the applicants:**

Through the 2023 Animal Welfare Grant application process, the following organizations submitted applications:

- Paws for Hope Animal Foundation
- Rabbitats Rescue Society
- Atira Development Society
- Loveabull Rescue Society

Staff received four applications from four organizations with a total funding request of \$25,784. Each application is 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.

#### **Paws for Hope Animal Foundation**

Paws for Hope was launched in 2011 with the big goal to fundamentally change the animal welfare system in BC, to target the underlying causes of harm and abandonment, and create sustainable solutions that protect pets that may be in marginalized homes. Paws for Hope has implemented programs to target access to veterinary care and other supports for low-income pet guardians. They launched a pet foster care program to support people in need to help care for their pet while in shelters, transition housing, treatment centres or hospitals and are creating a network of animal welfare organizations to work together to tackle common issues in the animal welfare system. Paws for Hope has also expressed interest in working with the new aggressive dog bylaw by providing support to dog owners who wish to pursue the relief process

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

but are financially unable to cover the costs associated with training, muzzling and other expenses.

This is the first year that Paws for Hope has applied for the Vancouver Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding for \$10,000 be approved for Paws for Hope Animal Foundation to assist with the costs of dog behaviour training, veterinary care and other related costs to assist low-income pet guardians who have aggressive dogs.

#### Rabbitats Rescue Society

Rabbitats Rescue Society formed in 2011 shortly after the founder assisted in the humane removal and rescue of 1000 feral rabbits from the University of Victoria campus. In 2017, Rabbitats became a society and a charity in 2019. They currently operate a shelter and sanctuary in Richmond, 2 sanctuaries in South Surrey and several micro-sanctuaries in the lower mainland. In 2021, Rabbitats collaborated with the owners of “Catfe”, to open the bunny café in East Vancouver, which operates as their adoption centre. Rabbitats has rescued a number of stray and injured rabbits from Vancouver over the years and accepted owner surrenders from Vancouver residents. This is the first year that Rabbitats Rescue Society has applied for the Vancouver Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding for \$2,000 be approved for Rabbitats Rescue Society to assist with the costs of spaying and neutering 10 rabbits.

#### Atira Development Society

Atira Development Society (Atira) was established in 2009 as a not for profit organization. Atira is committed to relieve poverty by constructing, operating and maintaining safe and supportive housing for women and children affected by violence. One of their many programs is the Pet Outreach Program that was developed in October 2021. The Pet Outreach Program aids low-income pet owners who reside in their housing for various animal welfare needs including providing food, litter, toys and other animal equipment. Atira develops, animal care plans and room support, behavioural plans and training for both staff and tenants. Atira supports access to veterinary care and low-cost spay and neuter. Atira has also acknowledged the need to help people with dogs that have aggressive tendencies to ensure a safe living environment for all. This is the first year that Atira Development Society has applied for the Vancouver Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$2,665 be approved for Atira Development Society to help assist in the cost of spays and neuters as well as buying muzzle equipment for those dogs that need them that reside in their buildings.

#### Loveabull Rescue Society

Loveabull Rescue Society was established as a non-profit, 100% volunteer supported, bull breed rescue based out of Surrey, BC in 2013. Loveabull strives to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome bull breed dogs in need. In 2022, Loveabull started a new project to provide outreach to marginalized pet owners in the lower mainland. The “Spread the Love” project is a way for Loveabull to share food and supplies to those most in need. This is the first year Loveabull Rescue Society has applied for the Animal Welfare Grant.

The City of Vancouver is not recommending any funding for the 2023 Animal Welfare Grant to Loveabull Rescue Society. While they are providing a valuable service to multiple pet owners and organizations in the Lower Mainland, the request for grant funding was for marketing materials and rental fees for storage and not for supplies or equipment that would go directly to the animals in need.

## **APPENDIX B EVAUATION OF 2022 GRANT**

VAS staff were able to visit in person the locations of the three 2022 recipients of the Animal Welfare Grant over the course of the year. 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 \$4,800 in 2022 and the City found that these funds were used to spay and neuter an additional 30 cats in 2022. Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, was another 2022 recipient that received \$4,887 which they used to purchase 5 specialized air purifiers, veterinary supplies and 18 Hepafilter replacements. Lastly, Wildlife Rescue Association of BC received \$2,730 to help offset costs of providing specialized diets and creating public education materials for proper hummingbird feeder care and maintenance.

In addition, the successful applicants agreed 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 is useful in evaluating applications put forward from the same organization. Staff received reports from two of the three agencies that received the 2022 Grant funding. The third organization's report should be arriving soon.