



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: March 12, 2024
Contact: Saul Schwebs
Contact No.: 604.873.7040
RTS No.: 16204
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: April 9, 2024
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licencing
SUBJECT: 2024 Animal Welfare Grant

Recommendations

THAT Council approve four (4) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$14,710, the total amount allocated in the 2024 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

i.	Paws for Hope Animal Foundation	\$8,000
ii.	Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	\$2,310
iii.	Rabbitats Rescue Society	\$2,400
iv.	Lower Mainland Humane Society	\$2,000

Purpose and Executive Summary

The City of Vancouver's Animal Welfare Grant provides financial aid to registered non-profit organizations that assist the City of Vancouver with the sheltering and caring of animals and other related services. Vancouver Animal Services (VAS) received ten applications for the 2024 Animal Welfare Grant with a total funding request of \$103,070. Staff recommends that Council approve funding for the 2024 Animal Welfare Grant in the total amount of \$14,710 be allocated across four organizations as follows; Paws for Hope \$8,000; Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary \$2,310, Rabbitats Rescue Society \$2,400, and Lower Mainland Humane Society \$2,000.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Approval of the Animal Welfare Grant requires two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

For the 2023 Animal Welfare Grant, Council approved the awarding of \$14,665 in Animal Welfare Grants to three organizations on March 28, 2023.

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 2024 totalled \$14,710 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 Animal Welfare Grant helps organizations in offsetting their costs for providing these important supplemental animal services to the City of Vancouver.

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, 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.

Eligibility and Review Criteria

To be eligible for the Animal Welfare Grant, an applicant must be a registered non-profit organization 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(s) 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 2023 Animal Welfare Grant evaluations is included in Appendix B.

Staff received ten applications from ten organizations with a total funding request of \$103,070. 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 four agencies receive the Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$14,710 as outlined in the table below. The 2024 operating budget includes \$14,710 dedicated to animal-related grant applications, which would be fully allocated through the recommendations in this report.

Organization	Purpose	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
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	\$10,000	\$8,000
Rabbitats Rescue Society	Spay, neuter, vaccination, mapping/trapping of rabbits	\$4,900	\$2,400
Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	Bird seed and air purifier	\$11,750	\$2,310
Lower Mainland Humane Society	Veterinary fees, supplies and pet food	\$14,710	\$2,000
VOKRA	Spay, neuter, vaccination and supplies for cats	\$14,710	\$0
Critter Care Wildlife Society	Medical supplies and formula	\$4,000	\$0
Wildlife Rescue Association of BC	Fuel and food costs for rescue, transport and release program	\$14,000	\$0
Atira Development Society	Spay, neuter, and muzzle equipment for marginalized tenants of their buildings	\$7,000	\$0
Katie's Place	Spay, neuter, vaccination and supplies for fostered cats	\$10,000	\$0
Circle F Horse Rescue Society	Hay, veterinary care and farrier care	\$12,000	\$0
Total		\$103,070	\$14,710

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.¹

Background on the applicants:

Through the 2024 Animal Welfare Grant application process, the following organizations submitted applications:

- Paws for Hope Animal Foundation
- Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary
- Rabbitats Rescue Society
- VOKRA
- Lower Mainland Humane Society
- Critter Care Wildlife Society
- Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
- Atira Development Society
- Katie's Place
- Circle F Horse Rescue Society

Staff received ten applications from ten organizations with a total funding request of \$103,070. 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 goal of fundamentally changing the animal welfare system in BC. The organization creates sustainable solutions that protect pets that may

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

be from marginalized homes, such as providing a pet foster care program to support people that are in transition housing, treatment centres or hospitals. Paws for Hope has also implemented programs to provide access to veterinary care and other supports for low-income pet guardians. Dog owners that have been impacted by the aggressive dog bylaw are also able to seek help from Paws for Hope should they wish to pursue the relief process but lack the financial means to cover the costs associated with training, muzzling and behavioural assessments. This is the second year that Paws for Hope has applied for the Vancouver Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding for \$8,000 be approved for Paws for Hope Animal Foundation to assist with the costs of behaviour training, veterinary care and other related costs to enable low-income pet guardians to remain united with their dogs.

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary (est. 1998) has been providing support to VAS for many years. Since 2018 Greyhaven has taken in over 100 exotic birds from VAS. The organization's main purpose is to provide rescue and protection for parrots, and to educate people on how to care for these intelligent creatures. Greyhaven has applied for \$11,740 of the possible \$14,710 available grant, for the purpose of funding the purchase of more air purifiers, food, and supplies for the sanctuary.

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$2,310 be approved for Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary, to assist with the cost of bird seed.

Rabbitats Rescue Society

Rabbitats Rescue Society was established in 2011 and received charity status in 2019. The society currently operates a shelter and sanctuary in Richmond, two sanctuaries in South Surrey, a bunny café adoption centre in East Vancouver, and several micro-sanctuaries throughout the lower mainland. Rabbitats has rescued numerous stray and injured rabbits in the City of Vancouver over the years and accepted owner surrenders from residents. In 2023 Rabbitats had eighteen rabbits spayed and neutered for VAS. This is the second year that Rabbitats Rescue Society has applied for the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding for \$2,400 be approved for Rabbitats Rescue Society to assist with the costs of spaying and neutering twelve rabbits.

Lower Mainland Humane Society

The Lower Mainland Humane Society was formed in 2017 to provide health, happiness, and homes for mistreated or abandoned pets. The society works with many municipal shelters, including Vancouver Animal Services, accepting transfers of their under-socialized and "unadoptable" dogs for rehabilitation. The society also provides free pet food and training to pet owners in need, so that animals can stay in their homes and prevent them from being surrendered. The Lower Mainland Humane Society has been able to accept transfers of numerous dogs from VAS throughout the years, with four "unadoptable" dogs being transferred to them 2023. This is the first year that this organization has applied for the Animal Welfare Grant.

It is recommended that funding for \$2,000 be approved for the Lower Mainland Humane Society to assist with veterinary costs and pet food.

APPENDIX B EVALUATION OF 2023 GRANT

VAS staff were able to visit in person the locations of the four 2023 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. The Assistant Manager of Animal Services also collected expense reports from each of the three 2023 recipients of the Animal Welfare Grant, which detailed how the funds were used.

Paws for Hope Animal Foundation received \$10,000 in funding from the 2023 Animal Welfare Grant. With this funding Paws for Hope was able to reunite over forty dogs from marginalized communities with their owners. Rabbitats was another 2023 recipient that received \$2,000 in funding, which was used to spay and neuter twelve rabbits from the City of Vancouver. Lastly, Atira Development Society used its grant of \$2,665 to spay, neuter and provide flea treatment to nineteen cats and twelve dogs.