

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date / / **Held Until** / /
Agenda Item No: _____ **Agenda Item No:** _____

Department: Agricultural Commissioner

4/5 Vote Required

Contact: Cathy V. Neville

Phone:
(707) 565-2371

Board Date:
4/14/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Animal Care and Control Division acceptance of gifts or donations on behalf of the County.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the Animal Care and Control Director to accept any monetary donation, gift, bequest, or devise made to or in favor of the Sonoma County Animal Care and Control Division as allowed under Government Code section 25355, approve the establishment of an animal welfare fund, and authorize the Animal Care and Control Director to solicit donations for the benefit of shelter animals.

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors authorizing budgetary adjustments to the 2008-09 final budget for the Special Revenue Fund, Agricultural Commissioner-Animal Welfare Fund.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

Estimated Cost \$ 16,000.00

Amount Budgeted \$

Other Avail Approp. \$
(Explain below)

Additional Requested: \$

Explanation (if required):

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Unanticipated Revenue \$ 16,000.00
(Source: Donations)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Prior Board Action(s): None.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Monetary donations, and gifts would not be accepted by the Animal Care and Control Division.

Background:

The Sonoma County Animal Shelter receives approximately 5,400 live domestic and livestock animals annually. The Animal Care & Control (ACC) budget is designed to cover the basic needs of incoming stray, abandoned, and homeless animals. These needs include: food; prophylactic medical care (spay/neutering); antibiotics and general veterinary supplies; emergency veterinary treatment; sterilization; microchips; and collars/travel boxes for adoptable animals.

As an open-door agency, the Animal Shelter accepts animals suffering from medical or behavioral conditions that while treatable, may initially disqualify the animal from placement into a new home. The operating budget of the Division is currently not designed to fund medical rehabilitation for injured/ill animals, ongoing medical evaluations related to animal welfare/cruelty investigations, behavior management, foster care supplies for orphaned animals, supplies designed to enhance animal enrichment in the shelter environment, or marketing and outreach efforts aimed at increasing adoptions.

For nineteen years, monetary contributions and donations for services and supplies for animal welfare were solicited by the shelter volunteer non-profit to provide for unfunded needs of the animals impounded in the County shelter. The volunteer non-profit disbanded this past summer, thus eliminating donations to the shelter from this organization. In order to continue accepting donations, the Department is requesting that the Board approve the resolution delegating the ACC Director with the power to accept any gift, bequest or devise made for the benefit of animals in the shelter, pursuant to Government Code Section 25355. In keeping with this code section, the ACC Director will file a report with your Board every quarter that describes the source and value of each gift valued in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or any other amount as determined by the board. As is required by statute, any gifted funds or assets will be used for those purposes as are prescribed in the terms of the gift, bequest, or devise.

The Department is also requesting that the ACC Director be authorized to solicit monetary contributions through methods such as: request forms included in dog license mailing, website information, and adopters and owners surrendering pets will be given the opportunity to assist other shelter animals by contributing at the time of their transaction. Donations made to the general fund may also be used for spay/neuter activities. Donations will be tax-deductible and acknowledged in writing to the donor.

The ACC Director will utilize these funds in a manner that is consistent with the specific purpose for which they were donated. Each year, the Director will recommend expenditures from the general Animal Welfare Fund and the specific spay/neuter fund to your Board through the budgetary process.

Attachments: Resolutions

On File With Clerk: Donation solicitation mailer

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background: (Continued)

Funds donated for general animal welfare will go to a new special fund which may be used for such things as medical treatment of a heartworm positive dog; orthopedic repair for a damaged limb; veterinary diagnostic tests; kennel enrichment in the form of toys and beds; upgraded dog training supplies for volunteers such as training collars/harnesses; nutritional supplies for orphaned puppies and kittens; print or radio advertising to promote adoptions, and spay/neuter efforts.

The Department anticipates that approximately \$16,000.00 will be received annually in donations. This estimate is based on the amount of donations received by the animal shelter volunteer non-profit from license mailers soliciting donations. As a result, the Department is also requesting that the Board establish the Animal Welfare Fund, and approve budgetary adjustments to that fund that are consistent with anticipated revenues and related expenditures.

Requested Board Action: Resolution authorizing the Animal Care and Control Director to accept any monetary donation, gift, bequest, or devise made to or in favor of the Sonoma County Animal Care and Control Division as allowed under Government Code section 25355, approve the establishment of an animal welfare fund, and authorize the Animal Care and Control Director to solicit donations for the benefit of shelter animals.

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