

**MEMORANDUM**  
**PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Environmental Health, Public Health, and Animal Services**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.  
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services  
Wesley Nicks, R.E.H.S., Director of Environmental Health, Public Health,  
and Animal Services

**DATE:** June 18, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Umbrella Contract for Emergency Veterinary Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Approve a maximum payment authorization ("umbrella contract") with various providers for emergency veterinary services for FY 2013-14 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 (\$37,500 net County cost) and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to amend the list of providers as necessary.

**BACKGROUND:**

Emergency veterinary services are necessary when Animal Control Officers pick up injured animals in the community. The Food and Agricultural Code defines the degree of veterinary care necessary when an Animal Control Officer impounds an animal. The animal is taken to the nearest veterinarian who is willing to perform services for the County, after authorization by the Animal Services Manager. These services are performed at the usual and customary fees for each veterinary practice. As these services may be provided by any willing veterinary office, the providers may include any Placer County veterinarian, allowing Animal Services to obtain the best and most cost-effective care. Cities which contract with the County for animal care services reimburse the County for emergency care provided to animals from their jurisdictions. In addition, in situations where the emergency services arise from abuse, the abuser is held responsible for all treatment costs.

Annually, an estimated 250 injured and homeless animals require treatment. Over 73 percent of these animals recover and are either reunited with their owner or, if stray, adopted out. Due to the service authorization and review process, and the collaboration of the veterinary partners, the average cost per visit is less than \$150 and the annual total cost of providing this care is usually under \$40,000.

The veterinarians willing to perform these services for the County change as the veterinarians change within the community. In order to maximize the number of facilities providing services to these animals, an umbrella contract is again being recommended. The umbrella contract allows multiple providers to be tied to one aggregate total contract amount controlled through the Performance Accounting System. This offers the County the flexibility to use the most appropriate provider available at the time that services are needed, within the funding limits authorized by the Board. The current list of 17 providers is shown in Attachment A.

It is also requested that Health and Human Services be authorized to update the provider list throughout the year as additional providers are identified. Animal Services has worked closely with the veterinary community over the past two years to increase the number of emergency services providers.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for these services is included in the FY 2013-14 Requested Budget. The requested maximum amount of \$50,000 is unchanged from FY 2012-13. These mandated services are funded with County General Funds (75 percent) and reimbursements from cities and individuals (25 percent).

**Attachment A – Emergency Veterinary Providers**

# Attachment A

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Board of Supervisors Agenda Item  
HHS Animal Services Division  
June 18, 2013

## **Veterinarians Providing Emergency Services Effective July 1, 2013**

Agate Bay Animal Hospital, Kings Beach

Animal Emergency Center, Reno

Animal Medical Center, Auburn

Animal Spay & Neuter, Auburn

Atlantic Street Veterinary Hospital, Roseville

Bowman Veterinary Hospital, Auburn

Burton Creek Veterinary Clinic, Tahoe City

Colfax Veterinary Hospital, Colfax

Companion Veterinary Clinic, Auburn

Critter Creek Veterinary Hospital, Lincoln

Edgewood Veterinary Clinic, Auburn

Loomis Basin Large Animal Veterinary Clinic, Loomis

Loomis Basin Small Animal Veterinary Clinic, Loomis

Meadow Vista Veterinary Clinic, Meadow Vista

North Fork Veterinary Clinic, Auburn

Sierra Pet Clinic, Truckee

Sunset Whitney Veterinary Hospital, Rocklin