



M E M O R A N D U M
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ANIMAL SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: June 23, 2020

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Umbrella Contract for Emergency Veterinary Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to establish a maximum payment authorization ("umbrella contract") for FY 2020-2021 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the provision of emergency veterinary services by an identified list of providers; approve the provider list and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services, or designee, to amend the list of providers as necessary so long as amendments are included in the following years' list; and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services, or designee, to execute any needed provider agreements or other documents utilizing applicable County processes with Risk Management and County Counsel concurrence.

BACKGROUND

Emergency veterinary services are necessary when Animal Control Officers, or a Good Samaritan, picks up an injured animal 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 Director of Animal Services, or designee. 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.

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. 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 10 providers is shown in Attachment A includes deletions as well as one new provider added since FY 2019-20.

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 few years to increase the number of emergency services providers

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for these services is included in the FY 2020-21 Final Budget. The requested maximum amount of \$50,000 is unchanged from FY 2019-20. Funding is provided by County (\$37,500) and reimbursements from cities and individuals (\$12,500). These mandated services are funded with County General Funds (75 percent) and reimbursements from cities and individuals (25 percent).

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – Emergency Veterinary Providers

The agreement is on file with the Clerk of the Board for review.

Attachment A

Veterinarians Providing Emergency Services Effective July 1, 2020

1. Animal Medical Center, Auburn
2. Auburn Equine**
3. Burton Creek Veterinary Clinic, Tahoe City
4. ~~Colfax Veterinary Hospital, Colfax~~
5. Critter Creek Veterinary Hospital, Lincoln
6. Donner Truckee Veterinary Hospital, Truckee
7. Ethos Veterinary Health, LLC d.b.a. Atlantic Street Veterinary Hospital
8. Loomis Basin Equine Medical Center, Inc., Loomis
9. Sierra Veterinary Specialists
10. Sperka, Twylah, D.V.M., dba Sierra Pet Clinic, Truckee
11. VCA Animal Hospitals, Inc., dba VCA Loomis Basin Veterinary Clinic, Loomis
12. Companion Veterinary Clinic **

*Changed name since FY 2019-20

**Newly added for FY 2020-21

Strikethrough is a veterinarian who closed during FY 2019-2020.