

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Animal Services Division**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
James T. Gandley, D.D.S, M.P.H., Assistant Director

DATE: April 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Animal Services Spay/Neuter Grant

ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign a spay and neuter grant agreement in the amount of \$5,000 with the Placer Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Placer SPCA).

BACKGROUND:

In January, a grant request was received from the Placer SPCA, a local non-profit organization for operation of spay and neuter subsidy programs for animals of residents within Placer County. Animal Services has reviewed this request and, with the approval of Health and Human Services, is recommending this organization for receipt of a grant in the amount of \$5,000. This grant will be funded by the Placer County Trust Fund for Animals, Spay and Neuter Subsidies program. Your Board may recall that last December, similar grant agreements were approved for Friends of Auburn/Tahoe Vista Placer County Animal Shelter, Animal Spay & Neuter, and FieldHaven Feline Rescue.

Placer County Trust Fund for Animals provides resources to meet the needs of neglected, abused, and adoptable animals within Placer County. Gifts to the Placer County Trust Fund for Animals help to provide for the needs of sheltered animals which are not funded by the County or any other agency, group or foundation. Donations to the trust fund are solicited in multiple ways, including the Placer County Combined Giving Campaign and the inclusion of inserts for voluntary contributions with annual property tax statements. The Trust Fund includes multiple categories to which donations may be designated; including Auburn Shelter, Tahoe Shelter, Where the Need is Greatest, Education and Publicity Projects, and Spay and Neuter Subsidies. The grant included in this action is drawn from the Spay and Neuter Subsidies category.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Animal Services has sufficient funding in the Placer County Trust Fund for Animals to fulfill this grant request. There is no County General Fund contribution.



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January 10, 2007

Mike Winters, Program Manager, Animal Services
Placer County
11251 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Placer SPCA, I am pleased to submit our request for funding in the amount of \$5,000 for our Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), a low-cost spay/neuter service for pets owned by Placer County residents.

The ultimate objective of SNAP is to serve a very real community need while putting an end to pet overpopulation in our community by providing low-cost spay/neuter vouchers to Placer County pet owners in need. Pet overpopulation and the euthanasia of surplus pets is a national tragedy, and our community is no exception. The simplicity of SNAP, and its demonstrated community need, make this a very positive community program. SNAP is managed by dedicated volunteers (as it has been since its inception in 1998).

This program has proven invaluable to the Placer SPCA and to the residents of Placer County for the past nine years. As animals are altered through SNAP, and individuals and other organizations are educated with regard to the importance of spay and neuter, the word is spreading and the demand is growing for SNAP services. Each surgery brings Placer County and the SPCA closer to its ultimate goal – to stop killing surplus animals and to help to create a safer, healthier community. Consider these alarming statistics:

- Number of dogs one female dog and her offspring can produce in 6 years = 67,000
- Number of cats one female cat and her offspring can produce = 420,000
- Number of animals in a litter of 6 who will find a home = 1
- Average minimum cost to care for an animal at our shelter = \$143.32

Considering how vast and dense Placer County has become over the years, it is clear that the animal population has and will continue to increase in comparison. With that growth, we have seen an abundance of unaltered animals, especially with cats and kittens. In fact, even today, the Placer SPCA is just now beginning to recover from the effects imposed on our shelter during the busiest past two kitten seasons we have experienced in years. While we can usually expect 200 kittens to be brought to us during each of the seasons, our shelter actually took in quadruple the amount. Clearly, as Placer County continues its rapid

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growth, the need for more animal services, especially spay and neuter assistance and education, is crucial.

We know it is a joint concern and priority of both the County and the Placer SPCA to stop the needless euthanasia of surplus dogs and cats. The highly successful SNAP program was designed to address this important objective, which is being met with each spay or neuter surgery as countless animal lives are being saved throughout Placer County. In 2006, the Placer SPCA issued 672 vouchers to Placer County residents (outside of Roseville) that resulted in \$10,637.50 in expenses. This is an increase of almost 10% from 2005, in which we issued a total of 611 vouchers with an expense of \$7,004.

We would like to continue to partner with Placer County in providing this much needed and fiscally responsible program for County residents. Last year, the Placer SPCA funded all vouchers issued utilizing money funded through foundation grants and private donations (we requested no assistance from the County). As those funds have been exhausted, we hope to continue to provide this valuable service to the residents of Placer County with your support. With this in mind, we respectfully request \$5,000 from the Placer County Animal Trust Fund to continue to operate the SNAP program.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (530) 885-7387 x. 105.

Sincerely,



Leilani Vierra
Chief Executive Officer

The following Grant for:

**Spay and Neuter Grant with
Placer SPCA**

is on file with the Clerk of the Board
for BOS meeting:

April 17, 2007