



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of December 7, 2021
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of December 14, 2021

DATE: November 19, 2021

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

THRU: Andrea Gardner, Assistant City Manager
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FROM: Tracey K. Cantu, Interim Director of Neighborhood Services
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Ordinance accepting and appropriating \$30,000 from PetSmart Charities to be used for animal medical expenses.

CAPTION:

Ordinance accepting and appropriating \$30,000 from PetSmart Charities to be used for animal medical expenses.

SUMMARY:

This is an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept and appropriate \$30,000 from PetSmart Charities, and authorizes the City Manager, or designee to execute all documents necessary to accept, appropriate, and disburse the funds and to execute all agreements, amendments, and all other documents necessary to implement the funding from PetSmart Charities.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Corpus Christi Animal Care Services (CCACS) has a yearly intake of approximately 3,000 to 4,000 animals. When animals leave through live release, they do so through different “pathways” such as adoptions, foster, transport, and “tagged” or reserved by a rescue organization.

CCACS has an established rescue program working directly with rescue partners via memorandums of understanding (MOU). The program allows the rescues to “tag” animals to be taken from the shelter to find permanent placement for the animals through the rescue organization’s network.

Some animals enter the shelter with health issues and, or behavioral problems that require medical treatment. CCACS has a clinical operational budget for FY2022 of \$154,466.36 that is

used for medical treatment and preventative health care of the animals in the shelter, such as standard vaccines, flea, and tick preventatives, spay and neuter, complex treatment of diseases, and surgeries. However, once a rescue takes possession/ownership of an animal they are now considered the “releasing agency” under the Texas Health and Safety Code 828 and are required to have the animal sterilized and provide any medical attention the animal needs. The associated expenses are assumed by the rescue organization.

Our rescue partners have limited resources, so “tagging” an animal with medical needs or behavioral problems is cost prohibitive. The PetSmart Charities \$30,000.00 grant will allow CCACS to assist rescues with the expenses of an animal that needs treatment for behavioral problems, illness, or injury. Upon presenting a receipt of treatment or services from a veterinary clinic, CCACS will reimburse the rescue for expenses up to \$300.00. Additional reimbursement will be considered for approval by the of CCACS Veterinarian and Program Manager.

CCACS took in 3,608 animals for FY2021 and 2,987 or 87.47% of those animals were live release from the shelter. Offering a reimbursement of \$300.00 per animal for medical or behavioral care will potentially increase the live release number by at least 100 animals. The incentive of reimbursing medical costs for “tagged” animals will increase the number of placements for shelter animals, promote a stronger partnership with our rescue partners, and have an overall positive impact on the total live release rate.

Reimbursement through the PetSmart grant program is only available to rescue organizations with an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the rescue organization. Per the grant agreement, the grant period is upon execution of the agreement through 11/20/22. However, Animal Care Services anticipates expending the funds in the next 9 months or the end of FY 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to not accept the funds and CCACS will not be able to offset expense for the rescues who take on medical and or behavioral cases.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City will receive and allocate the \$30,000 from PetSmart Charities to help supplement related medical expenses for animals “tagged” by established rescues.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1072 – Community Development Grants Fund
Organization/Activity: Neighborhood Services / Animal Care Services
Mission Element: 083
Project # 870106L
Account: 1072-171-520120

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the acceptance and appropriation of the PetSmart Charities funds.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance