

Animal Control – Part 1

Recommendation:

That the June 21, 2010, Planning and Development Department report 2010PCS007 be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides information on four of nine summary areas outlined in Attachment 3 of the Animal Control Facility – Outcome Amendments report (September 29, 2009, Planning and Development Department report 2009PCS022).

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the October 19, 2009, Community Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration report back to Community Services Committee with more information on the nine summary areas outlined in Attachment 3 of the September 29, 2009, Planning and Development Department report 2009PCS022, including:

- Funding information
- Information from stakeholders
- Results of any community consultation
- Administration's recommendations, including a framework and timelines

Report

- Administration identified nine potential program areas to achieve the successful outcome where no adoptable animal will be euthanized. In support of this

guiding principle, five fundamental goals were established:

1. Reduce the number of stray animals
 2. Increase the number of animals reclaimed
 3. Reduce the number of animals needed to be rescued
 4. Create capacity to hold, treat and care for stray animals
 5. Reduce unwanted litters
- To achieve these goals, program business cases were developed outlining a strategic direction, framework, timeline and funding requirement for Council's consideration.
 - Animal Report – Part 1 provides information on four of the nine summary areas identified in the September 29, 2009, report. Administration advised Committee that it would bring forward program reports in batches as research and input were gathered. The remaining five proposed programs are contained in the Animal Control – Part 2 report (June 22, 2010, Planning and Development Department report 2010PCS021). Consultation with external service providers, partners and stakeholders remains ongoing.
 - The four proposed programs include: a Spay/Neuter Subsidy Program for low income Edmontonians; a community based Trap Spay/Neuter Release Program; a Pet Rescue Agency Support Program; a Veterinary Medical Treatment Program. (See Attachment 1)
 - Each of these programs could run independently; however,

animal care and service professionals agree that a comprehensive approach to responsible pet ownership, managing feral cats, supporting animal care partners and improving pet health are essential in achieving and maintaining the lowest possible euthanasia rate.

- **Spay/Neuter Subsidy Program**
Pet overpopulation is viewed as the number one cause of unwanted and unclaimed animals in animal shelters. Spaying and neutering of cats and dogs has long been accepted as the most effective way of reducing the number of unwanted pets, decreasing the number of strays, reducing euthanasia and it supports the notion of responsible pet ownership. The cost of surgery is the primary reason why pet owners do not spay or neuter their pets.

Programs that subsidize spay/neuter surgery costs have proven to result in more pets being altered. The successful outcome for a community where an increasing number of pets can no longer produce offspring will reduce the number of stray animals, unwanted litters, and ultimately reduce City animal care and control service costs.

Administration supports the concept of encouraging more pet spay/neutering and implementation of a spay/neuter subsidy program for 'low income' Edmontonians. (See Attachment 2)

- **Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release Program (TNR)**
In an effort to decrease the number of stray cats and litters being euthanized by the Animal Services Facility, the City of Edmonton would partner with a non-profit organization to develop a community-based Trap/Spay Neuter/Release program to manage specifically identified feral cat communities in Edmonton.

A Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release program is typically managed by community volunteers with the local municipality providing spay/neuter funding or support services. The desired outcome for a Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release program is to reduce overall euthanasia rates of urban feral cats and to humanely manage cat colony populations.

Administration supports collaborative efforts with groups to manage feral cat populations and moving forward on a funding support program. (See Attachment 3)

- **Pet Rescue Agency Support Program**
In addition to the long established partnership with the Edmonton Humane Society, the City will continue its collaboration with animal rescue groups in support of finding all stray pets a home.
- Rescue groups are a network of volunteers, foster homes and animal lovers. They rely on donations, fundraising events and

adoption fees as non profit groups to survive. The introduction of a financial assistance program is viewed as one means to maintain the benefits of continued and sustainable rescue services.

Such a program would support the placement of larger numbers of unclaimed stray cats and dogs into new homes and reduce Edmonton euthanasia rates.

Administration recognizes the significant value rescue groups provide and supports an agency pet adoption grant. (See Attachment 4)

- **Veterinary Medical Treatment Program**

Animal Services' health technicians currently provide quality, but basic first aid and pain management to stray pets. An opportunity exists to provide additional veterinary medical treatment to pets.

An increase in veterinary services will improve the quality of life for animals, increase the chance of animal rehabilitation, increase adoption rates and provide more timely treatment to suffering animals.

The implementation of a veterinary care program supports the notion and goal of no healthy adoptable animal being euthanized.

Administration supports an increase in the funding for

veterinary care and treatment of stray animals. (See Attachment 5)

Budget/Financial Implications

The cost associated with four of the nine summary program areas is \$160,000 annually. See Animal Control – Part 2 (Report 2010PCS021) for Financial Implications.

Attachments

1. Summary of Proposed Programs
2. Spay/Neuter Subsidy Program
3. Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release Program
4. Pet Rescue Agency Support Program
5. Veterinary Medical Treatment Program

Others Reviewing this Report

L. Rosen, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Summary of Proposed Programs

This table provides a summary on four of nine program costs.

Program	Name	Funding Estimate
1.	Spay/Neuter Subsidy Program	\$50,000
2.	Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release Program	\$30,000
3.	Pet Rescue Agency Support Program	\$30,000
4.	Veterinary Medical Treatment Program	\$50,000
	Remaining Program Funding Information Found in Report 2010PCS021	
5.	HOMESAFE INITIATIVE	
6.	Pet Licensing Enhancement	
7.	Enhanced Animal Services	
	Enhanced Lost and Found Services	
8.	Enhanced Public Education and Awareness Program	
9.	Animal Services' Enterprise Cost Recovery Model	

Spay/Neuter Subsidy Program

1. Executive Summary

Pet overpopulation is viewed as the number one cause of unwanted and unclaimed animals in animal shelters. Spaying and neutering of cats and dogs has long been accepted as the most effective way of reducing the number of unwanted pets, decreasing the number of strays, reducing euthanasia and supports the notion of responsible pet ownership. Unfortunately, the cost of surgery is the primary reason why pet owners do not spay or neuter their pets.

Programs that subsidize spay/neuter surgery costs have proved to result in more pets being spayed and neutered. The successful outcome for a community where an increasing number of pets can no longer produce offspring will progressively reduce the number of stray animals, and ultimately reduce City facility operational costs.

This report summarizes a variety of spay/neuter programs in use and recommends a subsidy coupon program for 'low income' pet owners. It also suggests funding sources and an income eligibility standard.

2. Background

Most municipal spay/neuter programs subsidize the cost of surgery to encourage any pet owner to take this important step to help reduce the high number of unwanted pets. Research showed most programs are geared towards cats owned by people in lower income ranges.

The number of licensed cats in Edmonton has not changed significantly in the nine years since cat licensing was introduced in 2001 (32,500 Licensed Cats). Of today's 35,500 licensed cats, an astonishing 98 %are spayed or neutered. This high percent is a reflection of a responsible owner attitude and a desire to have their licensed pets spayed or neutered.

While the number of licensed cats has only changed marginally, the total number of cats in Edmonton has increased significantly. This conclusion is based on comparisons to growth in both people and dog populations:

- The human population grew 37% from 660,000 to 908,000 between 2001 and 2010.
- The number of licensed dogs grew 36% (almost the same increase rate as the human population) from 48,800 in 2003, to 66,700 in 2009.
- The number of licensed cats during those same years grew only 9%.

This discrepancy supports the theory that a majority of Edmonton's cats are not licensed. In fact, the actual number of cats estimated to live in the City is over 108,000. (Based on the 2009 Ipsos Reid North American Urban Animal Survey).

Edmonton is certainly not unique in this regard. For example, in Calgary 40,500 cats are licensed, however, the same Ipsos Reid survey suggests they have 130,000 cats.

3. Strategic Initiative

The number of licensed cats has remained low since 2001 and so has the number of claimed cats at Animal Services. In 2009, the total number of stray pets received by Animal Services was approximately 3000 dogs and 5000 cats. Only a stark 9 % of cats were reclaimed by owners as compared to 66 % of dogs.

A recent American research project showed that 51 % of cats in households earning less than \$35,000 were spayed or neutered while 90% of cats owned by those earning more than \$35,000 were altered.
(Animal Sheltering December 2009)

These statistics indicate that cat owners with low incomes are less likely to spay or neuter their pet cats. Reports and studies clearly show that where funding support is made available for cat owners whose annual income is below a certain threshold, more cats will be spayed or neutered. Fewer unwanted kittens makes for fewer unclaimed stray cats.

Strategically, any successful incentive program for spaying or neutering should be directed at cats with the ultimate goal of reducing unwanted litters, decreasing the number of stray cats and reducing euthanasia. A commitment by the City to a spay/neuter program directed at lower income families is viewed as the most practical and financially responsible option.

The Edmonton Humane Society (EHS) was consulted regarding spay/neuter programs that may work well in Edmonton. Stephanie MacDonald, the Director of the Edmonton Humane Society, indicated no preference, and that the EHS supports any City of Edmonton initiative that succeeds in reducing the number of unwanted cats.

Currently the EHS is working to develop a spay/neuter program wherein participating vet clinics would charge a low rate for spaying or neutering during a 30 day period of the year. The EHS did suggest that cat owners must pay a certain amount to give the spay/neuter procedure a value. A free program means there is no personal investment by the owner and has the potential to be abused.

4. Program Options

There are many types of spay/neuter programs practiced across Canada and United States. These include: mobile units, programs by local veterinary colleges to help train students, incentive programs or other funding encouragements through donations, endowments, or lower fees.

Four options were considered as possible best fits for Edmonton:

1. A straightforward coupon program, whereby qualifying individuals receive a voucher worth a certain monetary value which may be spent only for spay/neuter services from local participating veterinarians.
2. Enter into a funding agreement with the Edmonton Humane Society to provide spay/neuter services to low income pet owners.
3. Enter into an agreement with an established clinic that specializes in spaying and neutering.
4. The City provide an in-house spay/neuter service to low income pet owners. This is the model used by Calgary Animal Control.

Spay & Neuter Program Cost Estimates:

In order to get a reliable estimate of the cost of surgeries in the private sector, the fees of 12 representative Edmonton veterinary clinics for spaying, neutering, microchip implant and tattoos were researched. The findings are summarized in the chart below.

<u>Fee</u>	<u>Female Cat</u>	<u>Male Cat</u>	<u>Averaged Male/Female</u>
<u>cost</u>			
Highest	\$ 543	\$ 423	\$ 480
Lowest	\$ 110	\$ 95	\$ 100
Average	\$ 326	\$ 263	\$ 300

5. Risk Assessment

Option One:

- A simple and easily accessible option for low income pet owners.
- The City has existing criteria it uses for lower income facility use.
- A veterinary participation and involvement process is critical for success. Promotion and adequate financial incentive are likely constraints to program success.

Option Two:

- Is a straightforward and easy option given the close proximity of the City and EHS facilities.

- Continued dialogue with the EHS would be required and a funding arrangement on the program would need to be drafted.
- Providing low income pet owners with subsidized spay/neuter service is not seen as impacting or taking away business from regular vet clinics.

Option Three:

- Developing a service agreement with one clinic would provide a number of administrative benefits and be a single sourcing for the service.
- The major operational difficulty is the support of one clinic over others.
- A single location may lack convenience for some users.

Option Four:

- The establishment of a City run spay/neuter clinic would provide a number of benefits, efficiencies and service advantages.
- A stand-alone clinic is seen as a costly alternative, requiring a major funding source and early cost-benefit estimates are unfavourable.

Other risks:

- Fraudulent low income information.
- Funding limit is reached prior to year end.
- Insufficient veterinary clinic buy-in.
- Incentive program buy-in does not materialize.
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association clinic approval is required.

6. Financial Analysis

The following chart provides 2010 cost estimates by 12 local veterinary clinics of spay/neutering services. The chart also shows how many cats could be spayed and neutered for \$50,000 using four different subsidy ranges.

S/N Average cost \$300	City Subsidy 100%	City Subsidy 70 %	City Subsidy* 50%	City Subsidy 30%	Total City Funding
Owner pays	\$0	\$90	\$150	\$210	
City pays	\$300	\$210	\$150	\$90	
Total # of cats S/N	166	238	333	555	\$ 50,000
S/N Low Cost \$100					
Owner pays	\$0	\$30	\$50	\$70	
City pays	\$100	\$70	\$50	\$30	

Total # cats S/N	500	714	1000	1667	\$ 50,000
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7. Recommendation

Support funding a Spay/Neuter Subsidy Program for 'low income' Edmontonians

"A straightforward coupon program, whereby qualifying individuals receive a voucher worth a certain monetary value which may be spent only for spay/neuter services from local participating Veterinarians".

This option would not require hiring additional City staff. The subsidy cost of \$50,000 would be returned after about three years from licence fees.

Possible funding options are:

1. Dedicate any increases to existing annual cat licence revenues and enforcement revenues to support the program, or
2. Increase the annual cat licence fee by \$1 to \$2.

8. Implementation

Administration recommends establishing a family income guideline similar to the guidelines used for the Community Services Leisure Access Program.

The qualifying seven income levels for households with one to seven persons are shown in the chart below.

	1 person	2	3	4	5	6	7
Household Income	\$22,171	\$27,601	\$33,933	\$41,198	\$46,727	\$52,699	\$58,673

Should Council approve funding on the implementation of a spay/neuter program, detailed work would commence on industry involvement and the development of an operational framework.

Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release Program

1. Executive Summary

In an effort to decrease the number of stray cats and litters being euthanized by the Animal Services Facility, the City of Edmonton would partner with a non-profit organization to develop a community-based trap/spay/neuter/release (TNR) program to manage specifically identified feral cat communities in Edmonton.

2. Background

Around 5000 stray cats are admitted to the Animal Services Facility every year with only a stark 9 percent returned to their owners. The average intake of feral cats is around 400 a year but represents 23 percent of the cats that were euthanized in 2009.

Feral cats are defined as untamed animals that live and breed outdoors year round, do not allow touching by humans, and do not have owners. They tend to live in “colonies” and occupy a defined territory. Like any other wild animal they breed to increase or maintain their population.

Concerns about these animals include a constant breeding cycle, feline disease transmission, neighbourhood cleanliness, disease, malnutrition and the impact on urban bird populations.

A feral cat, unless a kitten, will not become a house pet. Virtually all of these cats are euthanized because their fearful and aggressive behaviour rules out adoption. This outcome gives rise to the practice of TNR programs. These cat control programs are successfully practiced in many North American cities with one of the most successful being the release of altered cats back into colonies to lead normal non breeding lives.

3. Strategic Initiative.

A Trap Neuter Release program is typically managed by community volunteers with the desired outcome of reducing the municipality euthanasia rate and to humanely control feral cat populations.

The City of Edmonton through a not-for-profit group or partners, could carry out a TNR program to manage a number of existing feral cat colonies, with only the outlay of spay and neuter costs.

4. Program Outline

1. Operate a TNR program using community volunteers with some COE funding and management

2. Establish/recognize a core (trap, education, and coordination) group
3. Educate caregivers on safe cat trapping and transport
4. Establish ground rules for colony care
5. Provide spay and neutering

Assumptions:

- City of Edmonton (COE) and non-profit groups manage selected colonies.
- An approved volunteer group maintains the trap and return process.
- Spay and neuter coordinated by COE in collaboration with partner groups.
- Management and sustainability of volunteer “caregivers” controlled through not-for-profit organization.
- Colonies maintained according to TNR best practice guidelines.
- The program assumes 200 feral cats will be captured.
- The City of Edmonton and Edmonton Humane Society jointly endorse the program.
- Locations of colonies kept confidential to prevent interference.
- Education required for community, “caregivers” and outside agencies.

Metrics:

- The total number of feral cats received by the Animal Service Facility range up to 400 a year.
- Feral cat populations are hard to estimate given each city has unique environmental conditions and pet populations.
- Euthanasia rates will be compared before and after.
- Communities adjacent to the colonies would be surveyed during and after.
- The TNR volunteer group would provide feedback through performance measures.
- The total cost of spay/neuter support would be tracked and kept within the program budget.

Cost Estimate:

- Assuming that 200 cats are trapped and altered the cost is estimated to be around \$30,000. A private sponsor in Edmonton is already funding a “grass roots” non-profit organization to carry out spay/neuter of feral cats. This group has a low cost spay/neuter program supported by a local veterinary clinic which may provide a collaborative cost saving opportunity for the City.

Risk Assessment:

- To be successful, this program requires a two year commitment. Within the first year, 70% of the colony must be trapped and in the second year 15-20% of the colony must be caught.
- The Animal Services may need to coordinate surgeries with other groups.

- Affected communities may resist this program framework as the concept is counter intuitive. It may be difficult to convince citizens that a TNR program is an effective longer term control method.
- Messaging and awareness for the program would need to be a joint effort by the Animal Services Facility and the Edmonton Humane Society as community pet care leaders.
- Industrial/Commercial business areas are impacted most by feral cat colonies, and thus require awareness and education on program goals.

5. Financial Analysis

Assuming that 200 cats are trapped, neutered or spayed, the basic program cost would be \$30,000 per year.

The City would develop and deliver a public education piece to ensure the respective community is aware of the TNR program and the role everyone plays. This communication piece and guideline development can be managed through existing resources.

6. Recommendation

Support funding for a Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release Program.

7. Implementation Approach / Timeline

2010

- Organize a volunteer group to operate the program and develop procedures to monitor and control a minimum of four cat colonies.
- Identify test colonies and build in performance metrics and outcomes.
- Collaborate with EHS and support groups to train volunteers on trap and transport.

2011

- Begin TNR project.
- Promote program successes.
- Educate community and industrial clients.
- Control and monitor.

2012

- Continue program
- Update Council on program

Pet Rescue Agency Support Program

1. Executive Summary

Pet rescue groups are valuable partners along with the Edmonton Humane Society in adopting and re-homing stray pets. This report proposes a financial support framework for rescue groups through a Pet Adoption Agency Grant. The grant will support the placement of a larger number of unclaimed stray cats and dogs into new homes and reduce Edmonton euthanasia rates as a result.

2. Introduction / Background

The primary purpose of Edmonton's Animal Services Facility (ASF) is to hold and shelter stray cats and dogs until their owners reclaim them. The ASF does not have an in-house adoption program for pets not reclaimed by owners.

The City's major adoption partner is the Edmonton Humane Society (EHS). On average the Society annually receives 1800 cats and 650 dogs from the City for adoption. To reimburse the EHS for this service, an annual levy was applied to City pet licences in 2004 so that \$2.⁵⁰ for each licensed cat and \$5 for each licensed dog goes directly to the Edmonton Humane Society. The rationale behind this funding is the strong financial support the City has for the valuable service the EHS provides in finding new homes within the City for unclaimed pets, promoting responsible pet ownership and to encourage pet licensing.

Unfortunately, the EHS is not able to take every unclaimed pet from the ASF. Therefore, the City has nurtured informal relationships with other smaller local pet rescue groups who take the remaining unclaimed stray cats and dogs where possible. Traditionally, this has been entirely voluntary on the part of these groups and no payment is made to them for this valuable service.

3. Strategic Initiative

Rescue groups are a network of volunteers, foster homes and animal lovers. They rely on donations, fund raising events and adoption fees as non profit groups to survive. A financial assistance program is seen as one means to maintain the benefits of continued and sustainable rescue services.

This initiative requires the development and testing of a grant program that is reasonable, justifiable and effective. The selection of partner rescue groups would be based on criteria such as:

- Documented evidence from the agency of the number of animals taken in and the number and percentage of animals that are re-homed.

- Commitment that all animals received from the City would be spayed or neutered before being adopted in the community.
- The right of the city to inspect the rescue agency adoption policies and holding facilities.
- Rescue agency commitment to ensure that new owners in Edmonton licence the newly adopted pet.

The funding formula used to calculate the grant request of each rescue group considers the total number of Animal Service Facility animals received by the partner group and the number of these animals that are placed into homes.

4. Proposed Funding Option

Assumptions:

- The City would reserve the right to establish a limit on the number of groups participating.
- Documented results for each pet taken from the City would be required in order to determine the success and continued payment to each group.
- Agencies apply for grant funding on a yearly schedule.
- City could pay \$50 for each licensed cat or each dog successfully adopted.

Metrics:

- Establish a baseline figure from which to measure whether this initiative actually results in a greater number of adoptions.
- The ratio of licensed pets to the actual population of the City.
- Use total count as a baseline, such as the total number of pets adopted by each partner group in 2009.
- Five year average of successful adoptions for each group.

Cost Estimates:

- Based on the actual five year statistics that Animal Services have documented from 2005 to 2009, an average of 500 cats and 85 dogs were taken annually from the City by rescue groups. In most cases, these animals if not rescued would likely be euthanized.
- Assuming that each of these pets was successfully adopted the average annual cost to the City would have been \$30,000.

Risk Assessment:

- It is unknown if the offer of a grant would increase the number of pet rescue groups working with the City.
- It is anticipated more pets will be adopted.
- Funding will likely stabilize the fluctuation of group numbers and support longer term relations.
- In moving forward, development of clear policies that outline adoption processes, funding levels and priorities are required.

- There is an incentive for rescue agencies to increase their funding from the City by adopting out larger pet numbers. Any rescue group policy development will be done in consultation with our major service partner the EHS and the Animal Control Advisory Board.

5. Financial Analysis

Funds would be granted to rescue agencies based on the actual number of cats and dogs taken by the rescue groups and successfully re-homed. This differs from the current funding formula for the Edmonton Humane Society, which is based on the total number of licensed dogs and cats within Edmonton.

The funding for this grant program would come partially from the sale of pet licenses and partially from community donations collected solely for this purpose.

The actual number of animals admitted and outcomes in 2009 are reflected in the table below.

<i>Total received by City in 2009</i>	<i>Total returned to owner</i>	<i>Total not reclaimed</i>	<i>Total to EHS</i>	<i>Total to other Rescue Groups</i>
Cats 4997	468	1611	1873	465
Dogs 3042	2016	207	655	76

6. Recommendation

Support funding (\$30,000) for a Pet Adoption Agency Grant.

7. Implementation Approach / Timeline

2010

- June – Meet with local pet rescue groups.
- September – Develop program details and agency agreements.
- November – Develop application process for Grant.

2011

- January – Agencies can apply for Pet Adoption Agency Grant.
- May – Grant approvals.
- September – Grant review.

Veterinary Medical Treatment Program

1. Executive Summary

Administration is currently researching a series of programs, initiatives and strategies intended to increase adoptions and reduce stray pet euthanasia in Edmonton. In support of this endeavor a number of cats and dogs taken in by Animal Services would benefit from life saving vet medical treatment.

The implementation of a veterinary care program is seen as one means to provide extra care and treatment for pets. Any increase in vet service funding will add to the current level of medical treatment for admitted animals, save pet lives, and support the other initiatives currently being considered by Council.

The proposed option mirrors some of the new Calgary spay/neuter clinic enhanced pet care program and supports the goal that no healthy adoptable pet will be euthanized.

2. Background

Administration is exploring various ways and means of reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs. A stark illustration of the magnitude of the problem is to compare the number of cats taken in to the number reclaimed.

In 2009, Animal Services took in around 5000 cats and over 3000 dogs. Only 468 of these cats were reclaimed by their owners, while 2016 dogs were reclaimed. In other words, 66% of stray dogs went back home while only 9% of cats had the same good fortune. A number of these cats and dogs could have been adopted or returned to their owners if they have better medical treatment.

3. Strategic Initiative

A number of proposals and initiatives addressing the problems associated with companion animals have been presented to Council. This report focuses on the City providing not only temporary care, safety and shelter to lost and stray pets but additional vet medical treatment to help reduce the number of animals that need to be euthanized.

An increase in vet services will improve the quality of life for animals, increase the chance of animal rehabilitation and provide more timely treatment to suffering animals.

4. Veterinary Medical Treatment Program Options

Option One: Veterinary Clinic

- Requirements for operation: the minimum working space requirement for one veterinarian and two veterinary technologists, plus equipment in a 'stand alone' building not connected to the new Animal Care and Control Centre is 1000 – 1200 sq. ft. This space would include reception and preparation areas, a surgery room, a recovery area and supply/storage area.
- Equipment/Supplies: Surgical table, examination table, surgical instruments, anaesthetic equipment, vet supplies etc.

Benefits

- A City owned clinic would not be in competition with privately owned veterinary clinics since the City's clinic would focus exclusively on pets without owners, found injured pets admitted by enforcement staff or citizens, and services that support City programs to reduce stray pet populations. It follows that there is no risk of loss of business or revenue by private vet clinics.
- A further potential benefit is that local veterinarians or students could volunteer time at the City clinic.

Cost

- Estimates for a 1000 sq. ft building.
- To rent space: \$20,000 annually based on \$20 per sq. ft.
- To purchase: \$200,000 one time cost based on \$ 200 per sq. ft.
- Veterinary Equipment: \$50,000 one time cost.
- Staff annual salaries: One veterinarian and 2 veterinary technologists: \$200,000 annually.
- Operating costs may range from \$100,000 to \$180,000. This assumes that the veterinarian and both veterinary technologists will be able to dedicate one half of their time to spaying and neutering. Other essential duties such as examining and treating stray animals brought in by the public and by Animal Control Officers will take up their remaining time.

Option Two: Increase Vet Service Contract

- Any increase in vet services will add to the current level of medical treatment for admitted animals, save pet lives, reduce euthanasia numbers and support other Council initiatives.

Benefits

- The benefit of this option is that it can be undertaken at the new City facility with minimal cost.

Cost

- The addition of \$50,000 in vet treatment and care funds will support the notion and goal of no healthy adoptable animal being euthanized.

*Option Three: Contract Vet Services From EHS or Other Vet Clinics.**Benefit*

- The benefit of this option is the low cost and utilization of existing vet facilities and clinics. This option could provide a broader level of services and support many of the city initiatives.

Cost

- The addition of \$100,000 in vet treatment and care funds supports the goal of no healthy adoptable animal will be euthanized.

5. Risk Assessment

The success of a vet care program can be accomplished by all three options to varying degrees. A full service clinic is seen as providing a comprehensive and fully inclusive service, but at a significant cost. There is some suggestion that highly successful programming may reduce the need for such services and not support the continued use or need of a full clinic over time.

The new animal control facility was not intended to be used as a full service vet clinic so space and equipment may limit the amount of work and procedures that can be completed.

The use of outside vet services or EHS vet services raises a number of issue regarding timely treatment, disease control and containment, cost, hours of operation, availability and service contract fairness to local industry.

6. Financial Analysis**Vet clinic for stray animals**

- Space rent and staff \$277,500 annually
- Purchase stand-alone building and staff \$200,000 (one time) and \$257,500 staff and equipment

Increase Vet Service Contract

- \$50,000 service contract

Contract Vet Services from EHS or other Vet Clinic(s)

- \$100,000 contract vet care service

7. Recommendation

Support an increase to the existing vet services contract (Option Two) by \$50,000.