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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
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DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING
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CITY HALL ROOM 207 TELEPHONE (916) 449-5281

R. H. PARKER
CITY ENGINEER
J. F. VAROZZA
ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER

January 23, 1981

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Financial Assistance for the SPCA/Neuter-Spay Program/Animal Control Staffing

SUMMARY:

The attached report was submitted to the Budget and Finance Committee on January 20, 1981. The committee approved the staff recommendation by a 3-0 vote and requested that if an agreement is reached, an economic analysis comparing the agreement with the continuing present practice of boarding animals be submitted to them. The committee also requested that a report on the disposition of the existing animal control facility and property be submitted when the draft agreement is returned for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that staff be directed to negotiate and prepare a draft agreement with the SPCA to board City impounded animals. It is also recommended that this draft agreement be returned to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration with the additional information requested above.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Varozza
R. H. PARKER
City Engineer

Recommendation Approved:

Walter J. Slipes
Walter J. Slipes, City Manager

FILED
By the City Council
Office of the City Clerk
*Referred to
Bud/Fin Comm*
FEB 3 1981

February 3, 1981



CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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CITY HALL ROOM 207 TELEPHONE (916) 449-5281

R. H. PARKER
CITY ENGINEER

J. F. VAROZZA
ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER

January 14, 1981

Budget and Finance Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Financial Assistance for the SPCA/Neuter-Spay Program/Animal Control Staffing

SUMMARY:

At the November 3, 1980 meeting, staff was directed to report back on the possibility of the SPCA utilizing CETA positions in lieu of a cash contribution. Since Congress has not yet approved the final appropriation of these positions and because indications are that when they do the number will be reduced, it does not appear that an allocation of CETA positions to the SPCA is viable at this time. The SPCA's financial situation has improved to such an extent that an immediate contribution is not required. However, a long term solution remains a necessity. Staff is of the opinion that a contractual agreement for the boarding of animals impounded by the City will be of benefit to both the City and the SPCA. Therefore, this report discusses some of the ramifications of such an agreement. It is recommended that staff be directed to proceed with negotiations for this agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The November 3, 1980 report pointed out that the SPCA is in the process of building a new facility for which they have funds. This new facility is scheduled for completion in August, 1981, at the earliest. Although it is larger than the existing facility, it will not be large enough to house the animals normally handled by them in addition to the City impounded animals. The new facility was designed with the capability for expansion. Consequently, a new wing could be added to house the City animals. The cost for this wing would be approximately \$125,000. Therefore, an initial capital expenditure will have to be made as part of an agreement with the SPCA. It should be emphasized that this expenditure would be a part of an agreement for services provided and not a contribution. Therefore, provisions will have to be made in the contract to insure that the City's interests are protected. While this initial capital expenditure may seem excessive, it should be pointed out that the City may have to expend a greater amount to expand, or probably replace, its own facility in the near future. It was noted in the November 3, 1980 report that the

City's existing facility is becoming over crowded because of the reduced hours of the SPCA and if they completely close down, the problem will be increased.

As previously mentioned, any agreement reached would be for services rendered and would probably be based on a price per animal. Also, the agreement should be long term and address the issue of yearly cost increases. The matter of redemption fees will have to be resolved, but it probably would be best for the SPCA to retain these fees and deduct the amount from their services bill. A paramount issue in the agreement would be assurance that basic policy does not change if the SPCA management changes.

There are other issues which must be resolved especially dealing with quarantined animals. For instance, the liability issue will have to be addressed. Also, the City/County agreement on rabies control will have to be considered in addition to which veterinarian is responsible for the quarantined animal. Assurance will have to be made in an agreement that the SPCA facility will be open to our animal control officers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for depositing of animals. Also, the SPCA facility will have to remain open seven days a week to the public so that individuals can redeem their animals. Our animal control officers pick up many dead animals from the streets. The best arrangement would be for the SPCA to dispose of these animals; however, this may not be acceptable to them. Also, some type of arrangement for handling large animals such as horses and cows must be developed. These and other matters will have to be worked out before an agreement can be consummated.

A matter that can be improved with an SPCA agreement is the neuter/spay program. Staff reported at the November 5, 1980 Council meeting that the City's current neuter/spay program is about 20% effective. The SPCA's new facility will include a neuter/spay clinic and their success rate has been higher than the City's. All adult animals that are bought from the SPCA facility must be neutered or spayed before they leave the premises. Also, since the SPCA does the neutering or spaying themselves, there is a high rate of puppies and kittens returned for the operation when they reach the appropriate age. Staff is of the opinion that all stray animals should become the property of the SPCA once the 72 hour retention period has passed. It will then be their decision to euthanize the animal or put it up for sale. When an animal is sold by them, it will be subject to their normal neuter/spay procedure. Also, all euthanization will be done by the SPCA.

Still another situation that could be improved with an SPCA agreement is the amount of animal control officers on duty in the field. Supervisors and officers currently needed to staff the animal control facility could be utilized in field work. One consideration that must be resolved before this can be done is the matter of the issuance of citations when an animal is redeemed. Currently about half of the citations for loose dogs and non-licensing are issued at the City's animal control facility. If an animal control officer has to be available at the SPCA facility to issue citations, then personnel savings would not be realized. It is possible that certain SPCA officials could be granted the authority to issue these citations; however, details would have to be worked out with the City Attorney. Also, many pet owners demand to know the particulars concerning their animal being picked up. If it is necessary to have a supervisor available at the SPCA facility to answer these questions, this would reduce any personnel savings.


FINANCIAL DATA:

It is not possible at this time to estimate the yearly cost of an agreement with the SPCA. However, it is estimated that the expense will not be greater than the City's current cost to board, euthanize, provide veterinarian care, etc., for animals impounded by the City. As previously mentioned, an initial capital outlay will be required to provide a wing at the SPCA's new facility. However, this expenditure should be considered in light of the fact that expenditures should be made on the City's existing facility in the near future. Also, an agreement with the SPCA would preclude the need for a tax supported neuter/spay clinic.

RECOMMENDATION:

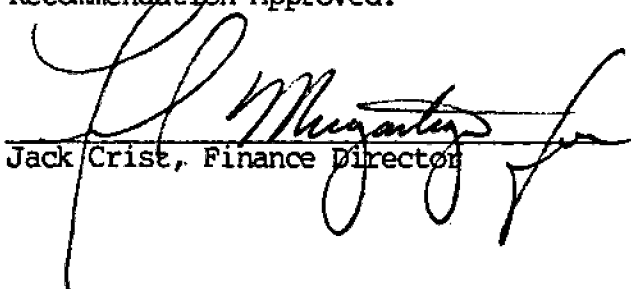
It is recommended that staff be directed to negotiate and prepare a draft agreement with the SPCA to board City impounded animals. It is also recommended that this draft agreement be returned to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



R. H. PARKER
City Engineer

Recommendation Approved:


Jack Crist, Finance Director