



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 12, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Kate O'Connor, Manager, Animal Services

Subject: Contract: Rescuing/Sheltering Animals - Berkeley Animal Care Shelter

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Home at Last Rescue (HAL) for rescuing/fostering animals from the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter for the period January 1, 2007 through June 31, 2009 in an amount not exceed \$72,750.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Animal rescue funding in the amount of \$24,978 is included in the City's FY 2007 General Fund budget allocation for community-based organizations. Future funding will be contingent upon future Council budget authorization

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In FY06 the animal shelter took in 652 cats, 794 dogs and 245 miscellaneous animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens. Many of these animals were difficult to adopt animals or too young for adoption. Of these animals 131 dogs, 372 cats and 98 miscellaneous animals were rescued by non-profit organizations thus reducing the number of animals that may otherwise have been euthanized. HAL is the organizations that rescued the most number of animals from the Berkeley Animal shelter during the last fiscal year. The cost of caring for these animals is very high. Aside from feeding, vaccinating, worming and sterilizing these animals, some will be sick and in need of costly veterinary treatment.

BACKGROUND

HAL is a nonprofit group of volunteers who give much of their time to rescuing animals from the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter. They hold mobile adoptions in Berkeley, Oakland and Contra Costa and promote adoptions from the shelter through posting the animals on their web site. HAL also assist the shelter by doing 'home checks' for prospective pitbull adoptions. In FY06, HAL rescued 179 cats and 76 dogs directly from the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter. HAL continues to develop a foster network and finds foster homes for many of the animals that are too young or sick to be altered and adopted. The funding will enable them to expand their volunteer base as well as develop private fundraising activities to ensure not only the survival but also steady growth for HAL as a key Berkeley community resource in the future.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

HAL is a non-profit, grassroots organization that is dedicated to rescuing abandoned pets and finding them loving homes. They have a history of dedication to this community and, especially, to the animals at the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter. Their continued rescue efforts have helped reduce the number of animals that are euthanized at the shelter resulting in BACS being the municipal shelter with lowest kill rate in the State. The budget for this contract does not cover the full costs of the services to be provided but will be used to defray the high cost of veterinary services incurred in rescuing these animals.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Kate O'Connor, Manager, Animal Care Services - 981 6601

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AND ANY AMENDMENTS WITH HOME AT LAST RESCUE (HAL) FOR RESCUING/FOSTERING ANIMALS FROM THE BERKELEY ANIMAL CARE SHELTER FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 31, 2009 IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEED \$72,750.

WHEREAS, in FY06 the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter took in 652 cats, 794 dogs and 245 miscellaneous animals; and

WHEREAS, in FY06 372 cats, 131 dogs and 98 miscellaneous animals were rescued by non-profit animal rescue organizations; and

WHEREAS, Home at last rescued the majority of these cats and dogs; and

WHEREAS, the financial cost for caring for these animals is extremely high; and

WHEREAS, Hal is effective in rescuing and placing difficult to adopt animals into good homes; and

WHEREAS, the City is fortunate to have such a dedicated group as HAL helping to get animals adopted from the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter; and

WHEREAS, funding for FY 2007 is included.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with Home at Last Rescue (HAL) for rescuing/fostering animals from the Berkeley Animal Care Shelter for the period January 1, 2007 through June 31, 2009 in an amount not exceed \$72,750