



Esteban Rodriguez  
Director

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March 18, 2025

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

**Subject:** Approval of a Second Amendment to Pets for Life Mentorship Grant Agreement between the Humane Society of the United States and the County of Ventura; Authorization for the Animal Services Director to Accept a Distribution of Grant Funding in the Amount of \$289,000 Pursuant to the Second Amendment; Adoption of a Resolution to Create One Fixed-Term Position of Program Administrator I in the Animal Services Division, from March 11, 2025, through March 11, 2026; and Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to Process Necessary Budgetary Transactions (RECOMMENDATION NO. 4 REQUIRES 4/5ths VOTE).

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve the Second Amendment to the Pets for Life Mentorship grant agreement between the Humane Society of the United States and the County of Ventura ("Grant Agreement") and authorize the Animal Services Director to sign the Second Amendment on behalf of the County of Ventura. (Exhibit 1.)
2. Authorize the Animal Services Director to accept grant funding in the amount of \$289,000 pursuant to the Second Amendment.
3. Adopt a resolution to create one fixed-term position of Program Administrator I in the Ventura County Animal Services Division from March 11, 2025, through March 11, 2026. (Exhibit 2).

Class Code	Classification Title	FTE	Range (Biweekly)	Annual Salary
00622	Program Administrator I	1	\$2,771.066320 - \$3,879.874080	\$72,047.72 - \$100,876.73

4. Authorize the Auditor Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to increase appropriations and revenue (requires 4/5ths vote).

**Fund G001- ANM**

**Budget Unit 2860-2863: Shelter Operations**

INCREASE	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$289,000
INCREASE	Salaries and Benefits	\$128,000
INCREASE	Services and Supplies	\$161,000

**Fiscal Impact:**

Source of Funding: Humane Society of the United States  
Funding Match Required: No

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Revenues	\$ 72,250	\$ 216,750
Costs	\$ 72,250	\$ 216,750
Net County Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0

**Discussion:**

It is estimated that twenty-three (23) million pets live in poverty in the country and lack access to critical veterinary care and wellness resources and less than 20% of these pets are spayed/neutered. To address this need, the Humane Society of the United States, a Delaware not-for-profit corporation (HSUS) launched its Pets for Life Program (PFL) in Philadelphia PA in 2011. This program model was founded on a philosophy driven by social justice with the goal of closing the gap that exists for people and pets in underserved communities. The key component of the PFL program is to increase equity in access to pet resources, such as spay/neuter surgeries, veterinary care and other services and supplies, for those who live in areas with high rates of poverty. Since that time, HSUS has established a second core program service area (funded and operated by HSUS) in Los Angeles, CA and has assisted thirty-eight (38) cities across the nation to implement this model by establishing a Mentor Partnership with local animal welfare organizations.

On March 22, 2022, and with the previous generous support of the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) as a donor source, your Board previously authorized entry into a grant agreement between the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the County of Ventura to implement the HSUS' Pets for Life Program (PFL) in the County of Ventura, with an initial one-year term, and up to two successive one year extension periods ending during 2025.

Through the continued partnership between VCAS, HSUS and VCCF we are proud to inform your Board, that pursuant to the Second Amendment to the Grant Agreement, a further distribution of \$289,000 from The HSUS to VCAS has been approved for continued provision of PFL services through March 11, 2026. This distribution is provided through the auspices of the VCCF as a donor source.

The HSUS will continue to be the lead fiscal agent with VCCF and will partner with VCAS for the programming. As the mentor agency, HSUS has and continues to assist VCAS by providing the following supportive functions: developing a comprehensive program strategy; thorough onboarding and training process; weekly guidance via phone calls; data management and report development utilizing system designed for this project; and coordination and collaboration with other PFL mentorship partners across the country.

Through this grant, VCAS worked in partnership with HSUS to identify a targeted area to provide outreach services to pet owners who will benefit from this program model (Oxnard's La Colonia neighborhood). VCAS has been responsible for the implementation of the program. The grant will provide for the County of Ventura to create one new full-time, fixed-term position established as a Program Administrator I classification, funded through the further distribution of \$289,000 from The HSUS to VCAS under the Second Amendment to the Grant Agreement, with a working title of Pets for Life Coordinator in VCAS. The proposed Resolution for your Board's approval is attached in Exhibit 2. Additionally, the grant continues to fund all services to be provided including, but not limited to, veterinary care, spay/neuter surgeries, supplies, behavioral training, boarding and other identified needed services. There will be no charge for any services to pet owners who participate in this program. All funding will be provided to VCAS by HSUS.

### **Impact Statement: Pets for Life Program in Oxnard**

Over the past two years, the Pets for Life program has become a cornerstone of support for the La Colonia neighborhood in Oxnard, directly assisting two hundred seven (207) families and three hundred ninety-seven (397) pets. By addressing systemic barriers to veterinary care and pet ownership resources, this program is transforming the lives of underserved families and their pets.

### **Breaking Barriers to Care**

- **Veterinary Access:** 59% of participating families had never seen a veterinarian before, and 91% had never engaged with Animal Services. Through this program, one hundred thirty-nine (139) pets have been spayed or neutered, with all families receiving transportation assistance to and from clinics.
- **Essential Services:** A total of seven hundred twelve (712) medications and veterinary services—including vaccines, treatments, and surgeries—have been provided, along with six hundred fourteen (614) vital supply items such as food, leashes, crates, and baby gates.

### **Creating Community Connections**

In a neighborhood with only one low-cost clinic—consistently booked months in advance—the Pets for Life program fills a critical gap. By offering translation services for veterinary care instructions and assisting with transport logistics, the program ensures families understand and can follow through on care plans.

## **Preventing Shelter Surrenders**

Through proactive measures like implanting over one hundred (100) free microchips, repairing fences, and building dog runs, the program has prevented many pets from entering the shelter system, avoiding the emotional and financial strain of surrender. These efforts have also reunited families with their lost pet.

## **A Lifeline in Crisis**

Beyond practical assistance, the program provides emotional support to families facing difficult situations, from costly medical emergencies to housing instability. By offering a compassionate hand during these times, the program has become a trusted resource for pet owners, ensuring they never feel alone.

## **Transforming the Future**

The Pets for Life program is not just addressing immediate needs—it is fostering long-term change. By educating and empowering families, the program is building a compassionate, sustainable support network that strengthens the bond between pets and people in the community.

This program demonstrates the power of tailored, community-focused initiatives to create meaningful and lasting impact in the lives of both pets and their families.

VCAS is very excited as a result of the generosity of the Ventura County Community Foundation to be able to continue to bring this exemplary national model to our County and partner with Humane Society of the United States to offer these services to the community

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and the County Executive Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Esteban Rodriguez, Animal Service Director at 805-388-4355.

  
Esteban Rodriguez  
Animal Services Director

Exhibit 1: Grant Agreement

Exhibit 2: Resolution