



Jackie Rose
Director

Donna Gillesby
Deputy Director

January 24, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Animal Services Director or Designee to Sign the Shelter Collaboration Program Agreement with Best Friends Animal Society, a Utah Non-Profit Corporation, to be a Peer Mentor to Kern County Animal Services to Reduce Animal Shelter Euthanasia Rates in Kern County; Approval of, and Authorization for the Animal Services Director or Designee to Accept Best Friend Animal Society Grant Funds in the Amount of \$30,000; Waive the Standard Contract Provisions in the Ventura County Administrative Policy Manual that Indemnity Obligations Must be Limited to Claims by Third Parties, that California Law Shall Apply and that Venue Shall be in California; 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 and authorize the Animal Services Director, or designee to sign, the Shelter Collaborative Service Agreement with Best Friends Animal Society (Exhibit 1).
2. Approve and authorize the Animal Services Director or designee to accept Best Friends Animal Society grant funds in the amount of \$30,000.
3. Waive the standard contract provisions in the Ventura County Administrative Policy Manual that indemnity obligations must be limited to claims by third parties, that California law shall apply, and that venue shall be in California.
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 2860-2861: Administration

INCREASE	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$30,000	
INCREASE	Salaries and Benefits		\$15,000
INCREASE	Services and Supplies		\$15,000

Fiscal Impact:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: Best Friend Animal Society
Funding Match Required: No
Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:

	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenue:	\$30,000	\$0
Direct Costs:	\$30,000	\$0
Indirect Costs:	\$0	\$0
Net Revenue (Cost)	\$0	\$0

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS:

2860 - Animal Services				
	FY 2023 Adopted Budget	FY 2023 Adjusted Budget	Estimate to Year-End	Savings/ (Cost)
Expenditures	\$10,555,641	\$10,963,648	\$0	\$10,963,648
Revenue	\$7,150,862	\$7,406,537	\$0	(\$7,406,537)
Net Cost	\$3,404,779	\$3,557,111	\$0	\$3,557,111

Discussion:

To decrease the euthanasia of dogs and cats in America's shelters, Best Friends Animal Society, a Utah non-profit corporation ("Best Friends"), has created a nationwide Shelter Collaborative Program. Through this program and by using the latest evidence-based data, Best Friends identifies and strategically pairs shelters that have obtained and sustained a 90% or higher Live Release Rate (LRR) with shelters that need help in reaching this threshold.

In May 2022, Best Friends contacted Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) to inquire as to our interest in being a Mentor agency. After numerous discussions regarding the program, there was agreement to further explore the possibility of VCAS assisting Kern County Animal Services (KCAS). As such, in September 2022, VCAS Director (Jackie Rose) and Deputy Director (Donna Gillesby) visited KCAS to meet the staff, briefly evaluate their services, and assess what assistance would be most beneficial to their team. We quickly identified several areas of operational opportunities for which VCAS is nicely positioned to provide peer mentor guidance and support. The one-time \$30,000 grant funds awarded to VCAS under the Shelter Collaboration Program Agreement ("Agreement") will compensate VCAS for resources expended in mentoring KCAS to help KCAS increase its LLR.

As VCAS enters our 10th year of life-saving programming, we are committed to helping other agencies achieve this same goal and are honored to have been asked to participate in this program. VCAS is very excited to have the opportunity to be part of this nationwide initiative as an identified local innovator and leader.

In the event any portion of the potential \$19,500 bonus reference in the agreement is awarded to VCAS, a subsequent request will be submitted to your Board for authorization to accept any awarded bonus amount.

Ventura County Administrative Policy Manual, Chapter VI-1, County Contracts, provides that indemnity obligations must be limited to claims by third parties, that contracts must apply California law, and that legal venue shall be in California. Section 6 of the Agreement provides for the County's indemnification of Best Friends under specified circumstances. Section 10 of the Agreement provides that Utah law shall apply and that disputes between the parties to the Agreement shall be resolved in Utah State court. Considering the public benefit from promoting best practices to help reduce shelter euthanasia rates for dogs and cats in Kern County, and of fostering coordination among public animal shelters on matters of common interest, your Board is requested to waive these provisions of the County Administrative Policy manual.

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 Jackie Rose, Animal Service Director at 805-388-4355.



JACKIE ROSE
Animal Services Director

Exhibit 1: Shelter Collaboration Program Agreement