

# City of Hesperia

## STAFF REPORT



**DATE:** August 1, 2017

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Nils Bentsen, City Manager

**BY:** Mike Blay, Director of Development Services  
Don Riser, Animal Services Manager

**SUBJECT:** Hesperia Veterinary Services Contract

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended the Mayor and City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with William Connelly, DVM in a not-to-exceed amount of \$423,000 for On-Site Veterinary services for Fiscal Years 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20.

### BACKGROUND

As part of its operations, the Animal Control Division currently takes all animals needing medical care (spay/neuter, injured, sick, vaccination, diagnosis, and after hours euthanasia) to Hesperia Veterinary Services, for care.

Staff believes that it would be economical and practical to continue utilizing on-site veterinary services with Hesperia Veterinary Services, instead of paying increased veterinary costs, using staff time to transport animals to off-site veterinarians, increased wear and tear on vehicles, increase in gasoline costs, and clerical invoicing of paperwork.

The Animal Control facility leases a suite next to the animal shelter which was designed for use as an on-site veterinary clinic and is currently being used by Hesperia Veterinary Services.

### ISSUES/ANALYSIS

California State Mandated Spay/Neuter Laws, Food and Agriculture Codes 30521 (dogs) and 31760 (cats) states that no public animal control agency shall sell or give away any dog or cat that has not been spayed or neutered. Animal Control staff is working very diligently to adopt out as many animals as possible. Currently the shelter is offering, buy one get one free adoptions, Pets & Vets adoptions, advertising weekly on Y102 radio and Kat Country radio, participating in Clear the Shelter event (sponsored by NBC4), emailing local rescue groups, and posting pictures to Petharbor.com on a daily basis.

Over the past five years the City has contracted with Hesperia Veterinary Service for spay/neuter services and treatments of sick or injured animals. Hesperia Veterinary Services has been exceptional in meeting the needs of Hesperia Animal Shelter.

The following services will be provided by Hesperia Veterinary Services:

- Oversee the care and treatment of all sheltered animals;
- Perform spay/neuter surgeries on adoptable animals and mandatory spay/neuter on animals returned to owners;
- Administer rabies vaccinations to comply with state licensing laws;
- Conduct weekly low-cost vaccination, micro-chip, spay/neuter clinics for Hesperia residents, (this will help decrease animal over-population problem in Hesperia) ;
- Assist Animal Control Officers with documentation of animal abuse and cruelty cases and testify in court or for on-site Hearings, if needed; and
- Veterinary authorization on owner requested euthanasia.

Staff estimates that sterilization and the guarantee of a maximum 60 weekly spays/neuters will increase adoptions and adoption revenues, which in turn will increase the spay/neuter fund account, (the spay/neuter account receives \$50 for every dog adopted and \$35 for every cat adopted). Statistics from the last two years shows that animal adoptions have increased from previous years.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Currently Hesperia Veterinary Services is paid a monthly stipend of \$10,000 monthly for spay/neuter services of all shelter animals and up to \$1,750 monthly for the treatment of sick or injured shelter animals. This amount is significantly less than if the City would have to outsource to other local veterinarians.

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, Hesperia Veterinary Services provided 1,806 spay/neuter surgeries. If this service was outsourced it would have cost a minimum of \$190,000 annually, \$570,000 for three year contract, for just the spay/neuter services, thus saving the City \$70,000 annually, \$210,000 over the three year contract.

\$141,000 was included in FY 2017-18 budget under account 100-29-305-5000-7500 Contract Services for contracted vet services. Funding of \$141,000 will be included in subsequent fiscal years if approved.

### **ALTERNATIVE(S)**

1. Do not award a contract with Hesperia Veterinary Services and utilize off-site veterinarians for animal care services at an increased expense.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

None