

City of Hesperia

STAFF REPORT



DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Nils Bentsen, City Manager

BY: Mike Blay, Assistant City Manager
Don Riser, Animal Services Manager

SUBJECT: Hesperia Veterinary Services Contract

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a five-year agreement with Dr. Joseph Velasco, DVM in an amount not-to-exceed \$710,000 to provide on-site veterinary services.

BACKGROUND

Starting in FY 2011-12, the City contracted with Dr. William Connelly, DVM for veterinary services during normal operating hours. The City agreed to pay a \$10,000 stipend for spay and neuters, as well as lease office space at the Animal Control facility. This arrangement reduced veterinary related costs, as well as staff costs for transporting animals to offsite practices. For example, the City utilized a number of veterinarians during FY 2010-11 and paid approximately \$137,000; additionally, one Animal Control Officer was required daily to transport all of the animals. For comparison, during FY 2018-19, the City paid \$144,226 for animal care, of which \$137,831 to Hesperia Veterinary Services (Dr. Connelly) and \$6,396 to an afterhours practice. More importantly, since Hesperia Veterinary Services leases office space at the Animal Control building, an Animal Control Office was not needed to transport animals. It should be noted that of the \$137,831, \$120,000 was the monthly stipend for spay and neuters, while the \$17,831 was for other veterinary services allowed within the contract.

In addition to treatment of animals, Hesperia Veterinary Services provides the City with the following services:

- Administer rabies vaccinations to comply with state licensing laws.
- Conduct weekly lost-cost vaccination, micro-chip, spay/neuter clinics for Hesperia residents.
- Assist Animal Control Officers with documentation of animal abuse and cruelty cases and testify in court or administrative hearings as necessary.
- Veterinary authorization on owner requested euthanasia.

Since the City elected for an onsite veterinary, annual surgeries have increased, as California State law, Food & Agriculture §30521 (dogs) and §31760 (cats) states no public animal control agency shall sell or give away any cat or dog that has not been spayed or neutered. The following is the spay/neuter statistics for the past four fiscal years.

2016 – 2017	1,806 Surgeries
2017 – 2018	2,014 Surgeries
2018 – 2019	2,377 Surgeries
2019 – To date	2,077 Surgeries with a year-end estimate of 3,100

ISSUES/ANALYSIS

The current Animal Shelter veterinarian, Dr. William Connelly, DVM is in the process of retiring and will be selling his practice, Hesperia Veterinary Services to Dr. Joseph Velasco, DVM. With the transfer of ownership, the City will be required to enter into a new agreement.

With the increase of surgeries, Dr. Joseph Velasco agreed to increase the weekly spay/neuter surgeries, which is currently set at 70 to 80 for an additional \$1,000 monthly (monthly stipend of \$11,000). Dr. Velasco has also agreed to perform all other services that are currently provided by Dr. Connelly.

FISCAL IMPACT

With the increase to the monthly stipend for additional surgeries, the annual cost of Hesperia Veterinary Services for spay & neuters will be \$132,000 and total \$660,000 over five-years (\$132,000 annual x 5-years). Additionally, Hesperia Veterinary Services will provide additional services, which would be included in the contract. For these services, an additional \$50,000 will be included for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$710,000.

Should the City Council approve the contract with Dr. Velasco, the annual cost of \$132,000 will be included in the annual budget.

ALTERNATIVE(S)

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.