



STAFF REPORT
9/10/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: William B. Pattison, City Manager

SUBJECT: Approve Agreement for Animal Control Field and Shelter Services Between the City of Coachella and the County of Riverside Department of Animal Services

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Agreement for Animal Control Field and Shelter Services Between the City of Coachella and the County of Riverside Department of Animal Services.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Coachella collaborates with the Riverside County Department of Animal Services (RCDAS) for local animal control services. Through the agreement, RCDAS enforces local licensing requirements, investigates situations of animal neglect, shelters and cares for lost and abandoned animals, and promotes responsible pet ownership through public outreach. The existing contract expired at the end of the fiscal year 2024-2025, terminating on June 30, 2025. Animal field services provided under the agreement include the following activities:

- Responding to calls for field service assistance
- Impounding animals found at large
- Providing humane care and treatment of stray or abandoned animals
- Investigating reported bites by animals
- Quarantining animals suspected to be rabid
- Responding to and processing nuisance complaints
- Removing deceased animals from the public right-of-way
- Encouraging the return of any lost or stray animal
- Inspecting and issuing permits for dog kennels and catteries
- Enforcing appropriate provisions of ordinances

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

On May 27, 2025, RCDAS provided an updated Agreement (Attachment 1) to the City illustrating new rates and new rate methodology.

Below are the RCDAS proposed rates for Fiscal Years 2025/26, 2026/27, and 2027/28:

| City of Coachella 3 year Rate sheet Sheltering charges to increase by 49.52% at end of three-year period | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | Year One Rates | | | | Year Two | | Year Three | |
| Category | Current Charges | Annual Adjustment | 7/1/25 thru 12/31/25 | 1/1/26 thru 6/30/26 | 7/1/25 thru 6/30/26 | Percentage Increase | 7/1/26 thru 6/30/27 | Percentage Increase | 7/1/27 thru 6/30/28 | Percentage Increase |
| Shelter | 317,474 | 52,409 | 158,737 | 184,941 | 343,678 | 8.25% | 422,292 | 33.02% | 474,700 | 49.52% |
| Field | 286,790 | 0 | 143,395 | 150,565 | 293,960 | 2.50% | 316,186 | 10.25% | 331,996 | 15.76% |
| Total Charges | 604,264 | 52,409 | 302,132 | 335,506 | 637,638 | | 738,478 | | 806,696 | |

NOTES:

Annual adjustment will only be charged for the last 6 months of FY 25/26, a 50% reduction in FY 25/26 increase.

First six months of FY 25/26 will be based on current new rates methodology.

Last two years increase is based on full charge from FY25/26 new rates methodology

City currently contracts for 1 Animal Control Officer.

Any Overtime for ACO's will be charged at 1.5 per hourly charges.

The new agreement is significantly the same, but does incorporate changes in the compensation paid to the County, as highlighted in the Total Charge section above.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Recommend denial of Agreement.
2. Continue this item and provide staff with direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Overall, the annual cost for services for Fiscal Years 2025/26 – 2027/28 is estimated to total \$2,182,812, but actual costs will vary depending on field- service personnel overtime, animal calls, and the number of licenses issued.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Agreement for Field Animal and Shelter Services
2. RCDAS Rate Methodology Presentation