



City of Independence
City Council
MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager
DATE OF MEETING: September 11, 2023
SUBJECT: Agreement for Feral Cat Sterilization and Rabies Vaccination Services

BACKGROUND:

In August of 2020, the City entered into an agreement for Feral Cat Sterilization and Rabies Vaccination Services with Pipestone. Due to Pipestone no longer accepting small animals for veterinary services, Staff reached out to Premier Animal Wellness and Surgery (PAWS) to see if they would be interested in performing these services for the City.

DISCUSSION:

This was discussed during the September 5th Council Work Session. While the services shown in the agreement for sterilization and rabies vaccination are equal to the cost of euthanasia, and there was some discussion about only euthanizing and not sterilizing or vaccinating animals during the work session, Staff believes that having the agreement in place showing both options will allow the City the most flexibility moving forward. It is recommended that Staff ask the surrounding property owners when picking up a feral animal if they would like the animal returned to the area as the agreement states. If no owners wish for the animal to be returned, and it's clear that the animal is not a pet, then euthanasia would be the course of action. Otherwise, the animal would be returned to the area as stated in the agreement.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Developing and Reviving Independence. This item helps achieve that vision by removing or at the minimum slowing and reducing the spread of feral cats in the City.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There is \$2500 included in the annual budget within the Animal Control Department for this item. Funds would be taken from that account as needed, until exhausted. At exhaustion, the program would cease until the next budget cycle.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement with Premier Animal Wellness and Surgery for Feral Cat Sterilization, Rabies Vaccination, and Euthanasia Services.