



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 02/14/2023

**REQUESTER:** Kellee Robertson, Manager, Animal Welfare Division

**PRESENTER:** Kevin Foster, Chief of Police

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2223-95: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$11,037 FROM THE ANIMAL WELFARE DONATION ACCOUNT TO BE USED TO PURCHASE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR THE 2023 ANIMAL WELFARE EXPO SPAY/NEUTER AND VACCINATION CLINIC.

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Norman Animal Welfare Center often receives general, unsolicited donations for unspecified uses. These donations are accepted and deposited within a dedicated account, where they are maintained until requested and appropriated by the City Council for use within the facility. This item is being brought forward for that purpose.

The Norman Animal Welfare Center ("Shelter"), built in 2016, has space for 92 dogs and 68 cats. Animal capacity is highly dependent upon the age of housed animals, health conditions requiring quarantine, the specific needs of animals within the facility, and staffing levels. The Shelter was over capacity for eleven (11) months in 2022 for dogs and at risk for euthanizing adoptable animals for the first time in ten (10) years. The Shelter has 57 kennels for large dogs and, at times, has had over 75 large dogs. Dogs are often housed in employee offices, intake rooms, and sally ports, or two dogs are placed in one kennel. The owner surrender list is consistently more than 125 owners.

Since 2016, Hands Helpings Paws, Inc., ("HHP") a local non-profit cat organization that focuses on Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) of community cats has hosted a community-wide event at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds to offer the public a variety of animal welfare experiences that focuses on education and outreach. Some of the past activities have included: informational and animal-related product booths; volunteer and foster recruitment; neonate and kitten foster care training, adoptable animals from Norman Animal Welfare; kids activities such as face painting and balloon animals; guest instructors and entertainers such as "The Kitten Lady" (Hannah Shaw) and "Moshow The Cat Rapper" and a vaccine clinic, microchipping and pet tags.

On March 25, 2023, the Animal Welfare Expo at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds will focus on a high volume spay/neuter and vaccination outreach for dogs and cats.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The mission of the Animal Welfare Expo Spay/Neuter and Vaccination Clinic is to serve as many pets as possible to keep unwanted litters entering the City Shelter or the abandonment of animals on the streets and to provide affordable and accessible care to low-income residents and their pets. It has been statistically shown that one female/one male cat could produce 420,000 cats in seven (7) years. One female/one male dog could produce 67,000 dogs in seven years.

There are often barriers to accessible veterinary care among pet owners. Socioeconomic and financial factors are significant barriers to accessing veterinary care along with transportation challenges, not having appropriate equipment (e.g., carrier), geographic barriers, and not knowing where to get care. The event will provide services for the Norman community cats and dogs and low-income families.

Seven (7) veterinarians, ten (10) RVT/vet tech/assistants and experienced rescue volunteers are donating their medical and surgical skills and time.

HHP is currently seeking sponsorship for the event for equipment and supply needs. HHP has raised enough funds at this time to purchase two tabletop portable anesthesia with vaporizer machines and an autoclave (\$9,000) along with disposable supply items (\$3,000). HHP is expecting to receive funds to purchase an additional anesthesia with vaporizer machine (\$3,600). Other anticipated expenses are drugs for surgery (\$500), surgical instruments (75 surgical instrument packs), and administrative supplies and equipment.

On January 19, 2023, the Norman Animal Oversight Committee recommended allocating approximately \$10,000 from the Animal Welfare Donation Account for the purchase of additional surgical instruments and supplies.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that \$11,037 be appropriated from the Other/Animal Control account (10-22431) into the Animal Welfare Other Supplies/Materials-Medical account (10660270-43117) to purchase items for the 2023 Animal Expo (supply/equipment list is attached).