



Memorandum

November 8, 2021

To: Mayor and Council

From: Chief Antoine

Re: Animal Control Services Contract

Dear Mayor and Council,

In 2018 the City Council approved a contract with Dover Kennel/Animal Control and Impound Services in Andover, MN. After checking with other agencies our contract is written similar to those agency contracts except for the individual fees charged by the city.

Since my time with the Spring Lake Park Police Department our animal control has been very limited and is usually reserved for injured or dangerous animals. The policy and standard operating procedure for any animal call other than listed above are to instruct the caller to either let the animal go or drop the animal off at the Humane Society. Over the last few years, we have had animal bite calls one of which the police department had prior contact with a caller who had the dog contained. The dog was released and bit another animal and its owner. No serious injuries occurred during that incident.

As stated above I have spoken with other police departments and with the owner of Dover Kennel's Mark Anderson and I believe that we should make changes to our Animal Control to take liability off of the city if another incident occurs like the one above.

After speaking with Mark Anderson our current contract allows for us to have Dover Kennel's take care of our contained dog calls and other misc. animal calls. Mark Anderson stated that he finds the majority of the animal owners. The owner then picks up the animal from Mark Anderson and any fees are charged to the owner.

If the animal is not picked up the city is then charged the fees allowed in the contract. Mark Anderson has advised that generally the cities that he contracts with will receive a credit back at the end of the year rather than pay into his business for services rendered. I have spoken with the Blaine Police Department as well as the Fridley Police Department who contract through Dover Kennels and they have confirmed that they usually receive a credit rather than pay in at the end of the year.

I have attached the existing contract for your review. Our policy and standard operating procedures will remain very similar to what they are now. Officers will take the initial call and will assess whether animal control will need to be called out. If the officer can find an owner animal control will not be called. If they can't find an owner then animal control will be contacted. Anoka County Dispatch will contact Dover Kennel's and the call will be turned over to animal control.

It is my recommendation to expand the use of animal control to include contained dogs and other misc. animal calls. Our current contract will not need to be changed since the contract is already written in a way to allow for the recommended changes. I am requesting the city council approve the changes and I will resign the contract for the year 2022.

If there are any questions please feel free to ask.

Thank you,

Chief Josh Antoine