



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

Date: March 13, 2012

From: Gina Schwin-Whiteside, Manager
Animal Services

Item No: 13

Subject: VOLUNTARY SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

T.M. Approval: _____

Budgeted Item: Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct staff to implement the proposed program as an incentive to encourage voluntary spay/neuter of animals residing within the Town of Apple Valley.

SUMMARY:

As directed, Animal Services is proposing a Voucher Incentive Program to encourage participation in the voluntary spay/neuter of animals residing in Apple Valley. A successful voluntary spay/neuter program will result in an increase in the numbers of altered animals within our community and a decrease in unwanted animals relinquished to the Apple Valley Municipal Animal Shelter.

BACKGROUND:

On April 12, 2011, Animal Services staff presented incentive programs designed to increase voluntary participation in a spay/neuter program, permitting of Animal Foster Homes, Trap Neuter Release, and streamlined processes for the Rescue of shelter animals written in compliance with State laws. After receiving the report, there was Council consensus for staff to bring back options to implement the proposed programs.

This proposal is for a Voluntary Spay/Neuter Program and the first in a series of programs geared toward promoting responsible pet-ownership. All proposals will focus on increasing live release rates, animal health, and community support of spay/neuter options.

VOLUNTARY SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM:

Studies show that “the only method of population control that has demonstrated long-term efficacy in significantly reducing the number of animals entering animal shelters is

the voluntary sterilization of owned pets (Clancy & Rowan 2003; Levy et al., 2003; Lord et al., 2006; Natoli et al., 2006) *Source: ASPCA*. Therefore, staff is proposing a townwide voluntary spay/neuter voucher program. The goal is to issue:

- Five-hundred (500) unaltered dog licenses to Apple Valley residents at a reduced rate of \$65.00, which will include a microchip. The dog owner will then be given a voucher good for a free spay/neuter at a participating Apple Valley veterinarian or animal hospital. The current fee for an unaltered dog license is \$75 without a microchip. This proposal will result in a temporary \$10 dollar reduction and a free microchip (\$20 value). *This is a \$15,000 savings for Apple Valley Residents.*
- Five-hundred (500) unaltered cat licenses to Apple Valley residents at a reduced rate of \$35.00, which will include a microchip. The cat owner will then be given a voucher good for a free spay/neuter at a participating Apple Valley veterinarian or animal hospital. The Town does not currently offer cat licenses. Due to local veterinarian support, grants, and voucher purchase, this proposal will not result in any increased costs. *This is a \$10,000 savings for Apple Valley Residents .*
- Staff has received commitments from Dr. Jessen, Apple Valley Animal Hospital and Dr. Velasco, Bear Valley Animal Hospital to honor spay/neuter vouchers at a fixed rate of \$60 for dogs and \$30 for cats. *This is a \$7,500 savings for Apple Valley Residents.*
- Staff has submitted a grant to Boehringer Ingelheim for the donation of 1000 Rabies vaccinations to be used for all animals in this voucher program. *This is a \$6,000 savings for Apple Valley Residents.*
- Staff has signed up for a special program through 24-Pet Watch to receive microchips at a reduced rate of \$5.95. This is a savings of \$4,000 for Apple Valley Animals Services.
- Staff has submitted a grant to the PetSmart Foundation for funding the cost of a spay/neuter of pets owned by households defined as low income. This would be an additional discount offered to qualifying individuals on the reduced rate for an unaltered license.
- Staff has and will continue to submit grant applications to cover the net cost of the program and offset estimated loss of revenues. Based on successful grant awards, staff may increase the number of vouchers offered through this program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This proposal provides an incentive for voluntary participation in a townwide spay/neuter program and ensures a fiscally responsible approach to anticipated expenditures. Staff has structured the program to maximize expected revenues and reward Apple Valley residents taking positive steps to support in reducing companion animal overpopulation.

The total cost for the proposed program, including the loss of estimated revenue would be \$10,000. Fees for this program would be absorbed into the department's current spay/neuter voucher program budget. Due to savings in department expenditures (reduced cost of microchips, rabies vaccinations, and spay/neuters) for this program, the budget will not be significantly impacted. Staff has and will continue fundraising efforts and submitting grant applications to offset all costs.
(Fiscal Impact continued)

PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF VOLUNTARY SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM:

Revenue Estimate for proposed Voluntary Spay/Neuter Program

Unaltered dog license with microchip/voucher = 500 x \$65 = \$32,500

Unaltered cat license with microchip/voucher = 500 x \$35 = \$17,500

Total Estimated Revenue = \$50,000

Expenditure (Cost) Estimate for proposed Voluntary Spay/Neuter Program

Microchip cost (discounted bulk/does not include staff time) = (\$5,950)

Spay/Neuter cost dogs (500 @ \$60) = (\$30,000)

Spay/Neuter cost cats (500 @ \$30) = (\$15,000)

Rabies Vaccination (donation) = (\$0)

Total Estimated Expenditures = (\$50,950)

TOTAL PROPOSED PROGRAM (950.00)

There are no deductions for staff time included with these estimates. Results in spay/neuter of 1000 animals including microchip, which increases the return-to-owner statistics and decreases number of days owned animals are held at the shelter.

CURRENT STRUCTURE OF SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM:

Revenues (Current Fee Schedule)

Unaltered dog license fee/voucher \$75.00 - 500 x \$75.00 = \$37,500

Unaltered cat license fee (N/A) = \$0

Microchip revenue (includes staff time) \$20.00 = 1000 x \$20.00 = \$20,000

Total Revenue = \$57,500

Expenditure (Cost) Estimate (Based on 100% vouchers used)

Spay/Neuter cost dogs (average) = (\$35,000)

Microchip cost (purchased bulk/does not include staff time) = (\$10,000)

Total Estimated Expenditures = (\$45,000)

TOTAL CURRENT PROGRAM \$12,500

There are no deductions for staff time included with these estimates. The current voucher program would result in spay/neuter of 500 dogs, and voluntary microchipping 1000 animals. This increases the return-to-owner statistics but does not minimize the numbers of unaltered cats within town limits.



Town of
Apple Valley

Town of Apple Valley

14955 Dale Evans Parkway • Apple Valley, California 92307

February 24, 2010

Dr. Jaime Velasco
Bear Valley Animal Hospital
20991 Bear Valley Road
Apple Valley, CA 92308

RE: PROPOSED 2012/2013 VOLUNTARY SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

Dear Dr. Velasco:

Thank you for your sponsorship of our Voluntary Spay Neuter Program and your continued dedication to promote activities of the Town of Apple Valley Animal Services Department. Your commitment to partner with our department in a community wide spay/neuter program provides a valuable resource that will make a difference in our town.

The following is the breakdown of our proposed program structure including fees. **Prior to implementation, approval of this program will be obtained from the Town Council.**

Dog Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

Apple Valley residents will be permitted to license their unaltered dogs at a reduced rate for one year. The license will include a package deal that includes, a spay/neuter voucher, microchip, rabies vaccination, and one-year license. We are continuing to solicit grant funds to lower the cost of the unaltered dog license for the pet owner as much as possible, while ensuring our fixed-costs are covered. **You have agreed to alter 250 dogs through this program.** Pending successful grant awards and/or additional sponsorship, the number of spay/neuter vouchers issued for dogs may be increased based upon mutual agreement of both parties.

Spay/Neuter \$60.00 (fixed rate provided by Bear Valley Animal Hospital) x 250 = **\$15,000**

Payment for this agreement will begin the month vouchers are issued at the rate of **\$1250 per/month**

Estimated start date is April 1, 2012 and will end when all 250 dog spay/neuter vouchers have been redeemed. (This represents a reduction in our current agreed fee structure and a maximum donation of \$15 per dog or \$3,750 by your facility)

Microchip (\$20.00 value - provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Rabies Vaccination (\$10.00 value - donation request submitted to Boehringer Ingelheim)

One (1) year Apple Valley license (\$12.00 value – provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Total Value of Unaltered Dog License Package purchased by dog owner = \$102.00

Cat Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

Apple Valley residents will be permitted to license their unaltered cats at a reduced rate for one year. The license will include a package deal that includes, a spay/neuter voucher, microchip, rabies vaccination, and voluntary one-year license. We are continuing to solicit grant funds to lower the cost of the unaltered cat license for the pet owner as much as possible, while ensuring our fixed-costs are covered. **You have agreed to alter 250 cats through this program.** Pending successful grant awards and/or additional sponsorship, the number of spay/neuter vouchers issued for cats may be increased based upon mutual agreement of both parties.

Spay/Neuter \$30.00 (fixed rate provided by Bear Valley Animal Hospital) x 250 = \$7,500

Payment for this agreement will begin the month vouchers are issued at the rate of **\$625 per/month**

Estimated start date is April 1, 2012 and will end when all 250 cat spay/neuter vouchers have been redeemed. (This represents a reduction in our current agreed fee structure and a maximum donation of \$10 per cat or \$2,500 by your facility)

Microchip (\$20.00 value - provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Rabies Vaccination (\$10.00 value – donation request submitted to Boehringer Ingelheim)

One (1) year Apple Valley license (\$12.00 value – provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Total Value of Unaltered Cat License Package purchased by cat owner = \$72.00

We are looking forward to working with you on this innovative program. A successful voluntary spay/neuter program will result in an increase in the numbers of altered animals within our community and a decrease in unwanted animals relinquished to the Apple Valley Municipal Animal Shelter. A final copy of this fee structure will be provided to you after Town Council approval.

I have read the above fee structure for the proposed Voluntary Spay/Neuter Voucher Program. It accurately reflects the agreed upon sponsorship level.



Gina M. Schwin-Whiteside
Town of Apple Valley



Dr. Jaime Velasco
Bear Valley Animal Hospital



Town of
Apple Valley

Town of Apple Valley

14955 Dale Evans Parkway • Apple Valley, California 92307

February 24, 2010

Dr. Cliff Jessen
Apple Valley Animal Hospital
18107 Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA 92307

RE: PROPOSED 2012/2013 VOLUNTARY SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

Dear Dr. Jessen:

Thank you for your sponsorship of our Voluntary Spay Neuter Program and your continued dedication to promote activities of the Town of Apple Valley Animal Services Department. Your commitment to partner with our department in a community wide spay/neuter program provides a valuable resource that will make a difference in our town.

The following is the breakdown of our proposed program structure including fees. **Prior to implementation, approval of this program will be obtained from the Town Council.**

Dog Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

Apple Valley residents will be permitted to license their unaltered dogs at a reduced rate for one year. The license will include a package deal that includes, a spay/neuter voucher, microchip, rabies vaccination, and one-year license. We are continuing to solicit grant funds to lower the cost of the unaltered dog license for the pet owner as much as possible, while ensuring our fixed-costs are covered. **You have agreed to alter 250 dogs through this program.** Pending successful grant awards and/or additional sponsorship, the number of spay/neuter vouchers issued for dogs may be increased based upon mutual agreement of both parties.

Spay/Neuter \$60.00 (fixed rate provided by Apple Valley Animal Hospital) x 250 = **\$15,000**

Payment for this agreement will begin the month vouchers are issued at the rate of **\$1250 per/month**

Estimated start date is April 1, 2012 and will end when all 250 dog spay/neuter vouchers have been redeemed. (This represents a reduction in our current agreed fee structure and a maximum donation of \$15 per dog or \$3,750 by your facility)

Microchip (\$20.00 value - provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Rabies Vaccination (\$10.00 value - donation request submitted to Boehringer Ingelheim)

One (1) year Apple Valley license (\$12.00 value – provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Total Value of Unaltered Dog License Package purchased by dog owner = \$102.00

Cat Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

Apple Valley residents will be permitted to license their unaltered cats at a reduced rate for one year. The license will include a package deal that includes, a spay/neuter voucher, microchip, rabies vaccination, and voluntary one-year license. We are continuing to solicit grant funds to lower the cost of the unaltered cat license for the pet owner as much as possible, while ensuring our fixed-costs are covered. **You have agreed to alter 250 cats through this program.** Pending successful grant awards and/or additional sponsorship, the number of spay/neuter vouchers issued for cats may be increased based upon mutual agreement of both parties.

Spay/Neuter \$30.00 (fixed rate provided by Apple Valley Animal Hospital) x 250 = **\$7,500**

Payment for this agreement will begin the month vouchers are issued at the rate of **\$625 per/month**

Estimated start date is April 1, 2012 and will end when all 250 cat spay/neuter vouchers have been redeemed. (This represents a reduction in our current agreed fee structure and a maximum donation of \$10 per cat or \$2,500 by your facility)

Microchip (\$20.00 value - provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Rabies Vaccination (\$10.00 value – donation request submitted to Boehringer Ingelheim)

One (1) year Apple Valley license (\$12.00 value – provided by Apple Valley Animal Services)

Total Value of Unaltered Cat License Package purchased by cat owner = \$72.00

We are looking forward to working with you on this innovative program. A successful voluntary spay/neuter program will result in an increase in the numbers of altered animals within our community and a decrease in unwanted animals relinquished to the Apple Valley Municipal Animal Shelter. A final copy of this fee structure will be provided to you after Town Council approval.

I have read the above fee structure for the proposed Voluntary Spay/Neuter Voucher Program. It accurately reflects the agreed upon sponsorship level.



Gina M. Schwin-Whiteside
Town of Apple Valley



Dr. Cliff Jessen
Apple Valley Animal Hospital