



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** March 11, 2014

From: Gina Schwin-Whiteside
Animal Services Department **Item No:** 7

Subject: ANIMAL SERVICES UPDATE

T.M. Approval: _____

Budgeted Item: Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That Town Council receive and file the Animal Services Update after presentation.

SUMMARY:

As requested, staff has prepared an Animal Services Update to provide an Overview of the 2013 Animal Sheltering Agreement with the County of San Bernardino and the impact to our animal population, Procedures for the intake of sick animals, and Services provided by AVAS during holiday closures and after-hours.

BACKGROUND:

Animal Sheltering Agreement with the County of San Bernardino

The Apple Valley Animal Services Department began providing sheltering services to the residents of the unincorporated High-Desert Victor Valley Region of San Bernardino County in January 2013. This agreement provides a central facility for County residents and their pets living within the high-desert region and takes advantage of the Town's animal sheltering capacity.

The Town's Municipal Shelter was built with a 20-year sheltering capacity including 78 indoor/outdoor dog kennels, 4 small dog isolation (nursery) runs, 8 small dog adoption runs, 116 cat cages, and 5 cat colonies. As a result of the new San Bernardino County Animal Sheltering Agreement, funding was included for capital improvements in our small dog adoption and cat isolation rooms to increase holding capacity. The capital improvements were made in Fiscal Year 2013, which increased small dog adoption from 8 to 20 holding areas and modified cat receiving and holding areas that resulted in an additional 12 holding areas for cat isolation. Conservatively, the Town's Municipal

shelter has the capacity to house 220 dogs and cats on a daily basis (Based on single occupancy).

In 2012, Apple Valley Animal Services housed 3070 live dogs and 2110 live cats. These numbers were prior to the Sheltering agreement with the County.

In 2013, the combined Town and County numbers for housed live dogs was 4471 and 2696 live cats. This represents a 46% increase in dogs and 28% increase in cats housed at our facility as a result from the County Animal Sheltering Agreement.

Animal Intake Procedures

Staff works closely with our supervising veterinarian to monitor, review and update animal medical procedures as needed. All animals entering the Town's shelter receive an Intake Health Exam from the Town's Registered Veterinarian Technician or Animal Health Assistant. The routine health evaluation helps identify obvious signs or indicators of illness. Any animal showing signs of illness are kept in isolation and treated as directed by the Town's contracted veterinarian.

Vaccination protocols are updated as needed and take into consideration the health concerns within our community at large and within our shelter. All animals are vaccinated upon intake in accordance with our supervising veterinarian's direction.

After examination, routine vaccinations are as follows (changes to these protocols may occur based on observed health of the animal):

- All dogs (4 months or older) are given a rabies vaccination prior to leaving our facility.
- All dogs (6 months or younger) receive a Da2pp and Bordatella vaccination at intake.
- All dogs (over 6 months) receive a Bordatella vaccination at intake and a Da2pp when leaving.
- All cats (over 8 weeks) receive a FVRCP vaccination at intake.

After-Hours Response (Holiday Closures)

The Town's Animal Services Department provides after-hours emergency service, which includes Holidays. Examples of emergencies are sick or injured animals (when injuries are life threatening), dog bites, loose livestock (such as horses and cattle), vicious stray dogs, animals locked in a car when the temperature is over 75 degrees (windows rolled up), or rattlesnakes/wild animals inside habitable portions of residences.

The Apple Valley Municipal Shelter is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00am – 4:00pm. Closed: Sunday/Monday

The Animal Services Department remains open through Town Holiday closures. The only week days Animal Services was closed in 2013 were Thanksgiving Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All other holidays fell on a Monday, when the shelter was already closed.

FISCAL IMPACT: The monthly fee paid by San Bernardino County for Animal Sheltering Services in 2013 was \$24,812.50 (Jan-June) and \$25,054.67 (July-Dec 14).