

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

SPAY DAY USA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Summary Statement:

The 16th annual Spay Day event takes place on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, with events and activities in honor of Spay Day taking place throughout the month of February. Spay Day is America's first and only national day of action to promote the spaying or neutering of pets. During Spay Day USA's first fourteen years, participants spayed or neutered more than 1,400,000 animals! When you consider how prolific animals are, and that the average cost for shelters to handle each homeless animal is estimated to be \$ 176.00, it is clear that Spay Day USA participants have, potentially, prevented millions of surplus births and saved millions of taxpayers' dollars.

The Humane Society of the United States is asking all animal welfare organizations to support this nationwide campaign to reduce pet overpopulation by organizing an event or activity. This year, we have partnered with Bear Valley Animal Hospital to host Apple Valley Animal Services 1st Annual Spay Day event scheduled for February 13, 2010. Our goal is to provide 50 free spays or neuters to low-income animal guardians. Animals Services will also provide pet taxi services for those individuals unable to transport their animal to and from the hospital.

Dr. Velasco has agreed to perform the surgeries at a flat rate of \$55.00 each which covers the cost of the anesthesia, surgeries, hospital staffing, and post operative medicines. The total cost of this event is estimated to be \$3,300.00 including necessary staff overtime, and will be paid using grant funds from Handsel Foundation, shelter donations and salary budget. From now through the end of February the Shelter will be asking for donations from the community to help fund an additional spay/neuter event planned for later this year.

The Spay Day event is a positive program that will raise awareness about the tragedy of pet overpopulation problems in our community. Additionally, this event will potentially prevent hundreds of unwanted animals from being born while assisting citizens who are financially unable to have their animal sterilized.

Recommended Action:

1. Authorize staff to implement Spay Day event on February 13, 2010, and approve expenditure of Handsel Grant funds, shelter donation and salary budget fund in an amount not to exceed \$3,300.00.

Proposed by: Animal Services **Item Number** _____

T. M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item** Yes No N/A