



ANIMAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Public Works Department

City Council
November 18, 2025

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BACKGROUND

1. Riverside County's Department of Animal Services (DAS) has provided animal control field, shelter and intermittent licensing services to the City since 1995.
2. On April 15, 2010, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the 20-year Shelter Service Agreement between the County of Riverside and City of Riverside.
3. Together, both agencies work to promote animal welfare, public health and safety, and quality of life within the City of Riverside.
4. On September 16, 2025, the City Council received an update on the Riverside County Department of Animal Services Field and Sheltering Agreement and authorized an increase to the Purchase Order.



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DISCUSSION

1. DAS disclosed that they were working with a consultant to develop a Cost-of-Service Study to ensure the appropriate rate is charged to its member agencies.
2. In May 2025, the Study was published and indicates that the Shelter has been partially subsidizing service costs for its City partners.
3. DAS disclosed the need to enhance lifesaving programs to improve the shelter's live rate.
 1. In 2023, the Riverside County Animal Shelter euthanized 37% of dogs and cats and activists claim that this is the highest euthanasia rate in the United States.
 2. DAS will hire 38 additional staff members to improve lifesaving measures.
 3. County shelter costs increased from \$14.9M in FY2024 to \$28.1M in FY2026.



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DISCUSSION

4. From July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024, the City of Riverside accounted for 24.6% of impounds in Riverside County.

- a. DAS developed hybrid cost recovery pricing.
 1. Baseline Costs for County Operations Removed from the Total Shelter Costs, and Remaining Costs Distributed Between Contract Cities.

Total # of Animals Impounded in 30 Months July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024				
Jurisdiction	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Unincorporated Co.	11,457	4,312	1,442	17,211
Riverside	6,543	6,003	1,087	13,633
Jurupa Valley	4,443	3,017	481	7,941
Perris	2,141	1,634	65	3,840
Hemet	1,352	735	115	2,202
Indio	1,054	876	133	2,063
San Jacinto	1,150	497	93	1,740
Coachella Valley	829	448	35	1,312
Cathedral City	782	437	86	1,305
Blythe	542	565	0	1,107
Eastvale	393	270	161	824
Palm Desert	295	222	132	649
La Quinta	264	170	165	599
Other	326	130	67	523
Rancho Mirage	83	101	46	230
Desert Hot Springs	42	18	7	67
Calimesa	50	6	10	66
Indian Wells	8	13	22	43
Grand Total	31,754	19,454	4,147	55,355



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DISCUSSION

5. The new agreement integrates the Animal Control Agreement and Sheltering Agreement.
 - a. Field labor rates - 5% annual increase for FY25/26 - FY27/28
 - b. Sheltering Fee –
 1. 17% increase in FY25/26
 2. 44% increase in FY26/27
 3. 20% increase in FY27/28
6. Staff met with the County Executive Office and the County agreed to re-evaluate the contract price if the City achieves a substantial reduction in the number of animals housed.



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DISCUSSION

7. City staff are implementing an Animal Community Program to reduce the number of stray animals in Riverside.

New Community Animal Program Initiatives:

- 1 – Engage with Community Partners
- 2 – City Increase Community Events to Decrease Shelter Intake
- 3 – Marketing and Communication
- 4 – Help reduce animal intake at the Shelter through Policy Reform

Planned Community Program:

- Letter of Intent with the Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center
 - Providing animal microchip scanners at City libraries and fire stations
- October 2nd – Animal Adoption Center at City Employee Appreciation Event
- Project Paw-Some: Helping to Spay and Neuter One Riverside Animal at a Time
 - Sending letters to local veterinary offices and asking for a pledge to provide free spay/neuter to 2-3 pets a month
- Home “Fur the Paw-lidays” Pet Adoption Pop Ups at vacant storefronts
 - Festival of Lights



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve the Agreement for Animal Field and Shelter Services with the County of Riverside, Department of Animal Services, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$16,804,518 for a term through June 30, 2028;
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Agreement for Animal Field and Shelter Services with the County of Riverside, Department of Animal Services, including making minor and non-substantive changes and contract extensions; , subject to the availability of budgeted funds;
3. Approve the Amendment to terminate the Agreement for Animal Shelter Services with the County of Riverside, Department of Animal Services through June 30, 2035;



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

4. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Amendment to terminate the Agreement for Animal Shelter Services with the County of Riverside, Department of Animal Services, including making minor and non-substantive changes; and
5. With at least five affirmative votes, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to record a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$816,000 available General Fund Reserves to the Non-Departmental, Public Works, Animal Control, Riverside County Animal Control Account.



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