From:	Clerk of the Board
To:	Supervisor John Gioia; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Supervisor Burgis; Supervisor Carlson; Supervisor Federal Glover
Cc:	Monica Nino; Adam Nguyen; Chrystine Robbins; Jason Chan; June McHuen
Subject:	FW: Public comment: animal benefit fund
Date:	Tuesday, November 5, 2024 8:22:36 AM

The email below was received in the Clerk of the Board's office.

Regards,

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Lisa Kirk <kirklisa07@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 7:37 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>; Ben Winkleblack <Ben.Winkleblack@asd.cccounty.us>
Subject: Public comment: animal benefit fund

Good Morning,

These comments are focused on adequate funding on of community cats. Mainly through Trap, neuter and release because funding for 2425 was cut to a quarter of what they received in 2324.

I'm not sure if the five member board of supervisors is aware that since 2020, CCAS has been turning away healthy cats and kittens and shut down the return to field program, cut the county TNR program .This has increased the population of community cats in this county.
The Measure X report done by Beth Ward estimated the indoor outdoor Community cat population at 450,000 in 2021. This presentation states that only 1,555 spay and neuters of indoor outdoor Community cats. The County's inhouse TNR program did approximately 832,. A total of 2,387.

This is a needle in a haystack,

This extreme policy was enacted without a hearing or resolution, with the expectation

that small non profits would fund this activity of assisting the public with spay and neuters of community cats. Per the grand jury report of 2021. If you are going to turn the situation over to small nonprofits it has to be adequately funded, especially since the public is not allowed to bring healthy cats and kittens into the shelter and are turned away with unaltered cats that are still producing.

Small animal rescues are having to pay $100 to $200 per cat at non-profit clinic

Joy Bound, who this year received $250,000 from the Measure X fund do not use that money for Community cats.
Only for own pets.
Joy bound is currently charging non-profit TNR groups $100 to $150 per cat. Most of the colonies we assist in project management in Contra Costa County now have an average of 20 cats per site

This report states that there is amount given to Animal Fix Clinic, they are charging non-profit TNR groups $150 to 250 a cat
And the public $45 per cat, so I'm going to assume that they do use any of the funding given to them from the ABF fund to subsidize trap neuter and return of community cats.

It is my understanding that the animal benefit fund for 2425 has cut the funding for TNR to a quarter of what it was previously. Is that correct?

Also why and when was the decision made not to put in a dollar per licensing fee into the ABF fund?

The last assessment I saw of licensing in Contra Costa county was 72,000 animals, which would give the ABF fund at least 72,000 if not more.
I am asking that the pet license fee be reinstated for allocation into the animal benefit fund for groups performing trap neuter and return of the estimated 450,000 indoor outdoor cats.
Is there a way to appeal this decision?

I do not think the board of supervisors understand the three factors here that is increasing the cat population.
First turning away of healthy cats and kittens, second CCAS cutting programs and third the illusion that non-profit groups are be able to spay neuter the expanding population without adequate funding .

There is a $900,000 bequest pending.
This was from an estate and a property in Knightsen, that many TNR groups assisted this woman Julie Bates in spaying and neutering her multiple cats at her home over a 10 year period..

I want you to all be aware of this because this is a major discussion between trap neuter and return groups that assisted this woman. She was dependent upon all the groups in East County that do trap neuter and return to keep the population at her home to a minimum.
It is through the efforts of the TNR volunteers that she appreciated and unfortunately she should have donated to one of the TNR groups but the money has now been forwarded to CCAS.

We are very concerned on how this money is going to be allocated to prevent further overpopulation of the 450,000 indoor outdoor cats in this County..

I'm asking that when that bequest comes through to Contra Costa County that it go to the internal operations committee for input from the small nonprofits that are actually performing the service.

The euthanasia rate at Contra Costa county for cats is higher than the dog euthanasia, And that is simply because of the overpopulation, even though you're turning away healthy cats and kittens. Not to mention those that are dying of the in the streets of Contra Costa County.

The only way to alleviate the problem is to provide adequate funding for those small nonprofits that are actually performing the services.

Lisa Kirk
Fix Our Shelters
935-382-5249

,