



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

July 13, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Amelia Funghi, Manager, Animal Services
Subject: Animal Care Commission 2021/2022 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

In a general meeting held on April 21st, 2021 the Animal Care Commission adopted a work plan for fiscal year 2022 which is presented below. The work plan was submitted to Council for approval on June 15th and was missing several sentences. The corrected work plan is included here.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The top priorities of the Animal Care Commission (ACC) for fiscal year 2022 are as follows:

- A. Help keep people with their pets. Continue to support Animal Services and City efforts to ensure that wanted and well cared for pets are not separated by adverse circumstances from their humans. Assist in making available pet food and other pet supplies to enable all (responsible) Berkeley residents to keep and care for their pets particularly during times of stress. Prioritize low income, elderly and unhoused individuals.
- B. Help promote pet-friendly housing. Make available informational resources on finding and keeping housing for people with pets. Also make available informational resources to landlords on the advantages of renting to responsible pet-owners. Posting such informational resources on the Animal Services webpage and possibly the City office of housing services and/or other appropriate City divisions; including links to other organizations that have successful/robust pet-friendly policies or programs (an example being SFSPCA).
- C. Increase Berkeley residents' awareness of urban wildlife and promote knowledge of means of coexistence. Assist Animal Services in making urban wildlife awareness and means of coexistence available to the general public in Berkeley. This can be done by continuing and expanding on the information posted on the Animal Services webpage and on-going partnering with other urban wildlife awareness/co-existence organizations. Cross posting information and/or links on the City webpages of Vector Control and Public Health could also reach a wider

group of Berkeley residents seeking information on or assistance in living with our resident urban wildlife.

- D. Actively support and promote increased and on-going adequate City funding of Animal Services and its vital programs supporting the Berkeley community, many of which are unrecognized by both the general public and by the City administration and elected officials.

Animal Services provides extensive community services to Berkeley including maintaining the municipal animal shelter and the animals housed there, reuniting lost pets with their people, providing animal related infrastructural support services, follow-up training for dogs adopted out, animal related advice and information to the public, assistance to low income residents with pets and pet and animal related community outreach.

Additionally, approximately 25-35% of BACS field service calls are assistance to other City departments; public safety/mental health/public health/vector control/etc field service calls and City code enforcement field service calls. This interdepartmental infrastructural assistance by Animal Services is NOT reimbursed by the other City departments/divisions resulting in an on-going funding short-fall in the Animal Services budget.

The ACC will work with other commissions, including Parks & Waterfront Commission, the Public Works Commission, and non-profit organizations involved in these issues in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

The Animal Care Commission meets six (6) times per year with the mission of overseeing the treatment of animals in all shelters established within Berkeley. The ACC advises the council on the care, treatment and control of animals.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The ACC and the Animal Services Manager will research options and associated costs to establish an area suitable for training and exercising shelter dogs. The ACC will research ways to assist homeless pet owners to secure housing. The ACC will also research and implement practical means to increase pet-friendly housing in Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The ACC will research information regarding the cost of establishing an area suitable for training and exercising shelter dogs as well as possible sources of funding.

CONTACT PERSON

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