

AGENDA



Thursday, August 27, 2009

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 14**

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$19,997 in grant funds from TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, ZOONOSIS BRANCH, and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Health and Human Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$19,997 to conduct spay and neuter activities.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from Texas Department of State Health Services, Zoonosis Branch. The grant period is September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Dorinda Pulliam, HHSD Asst. Director for Animal Services, 972-6088; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

The City's Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) was recently notified that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Zoonosis Branch, was awarding the City \$19,997 through the Animal Friendly Spay/Neuter Grant Awards program. The awards are made possible by the Animal Friendly license plate program; however, applications must be submitted to receive any portion of the earmarked proceeds.

Since August of 2000, the Animal Services Division of HHSD has worked diligently to decrease the number of euthanized adoptable dogs and cats by funding a free mobile spay/neuter clinic service for low-income families residing in the following East Austin zip codes: 78702, 78721, 78722, 78752, 78723, 78741, and 78744. Spay/Neuter services are available to any resident who can show proof of residency in one of the target zip codes. The City contracts with Emancipet, Inc. on an annual basis and sterilizations are performed by a licensed veterinarian. Emancipet, a local nonprofit organization, is the only mobile service provider that offers professional veterinary services targeted to low-income pet owners in the Austin area. The per animal surgical cost is well below the average market cost.

The City will match the grant funds dollar-for-dollar using Animal Services Donations Fund for a total additional spay/neuter program investment of \$39,954. The project is expected to provide the following performance:

Spay 700 cats owned by residents of the targeted zip codes
Neuter 702 cats owned by residents of the targeted zip codes

Statement Required by Corporate Budget Office: All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City.