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From: Lisa Kirk [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: IC-44 Impacts of the epidemic on nonprofit animal rescues. Additional funding for the animal benefit fund

Good morning Board of Supervisors,

First I'd like to thank supervisor Mitchoff for acknowledging the need for additional funding for for animal nonprofits. Supervisor Mitchoff sent out an email blast to ask for donations to the animal benefit fund which helps support groups that do trap neuter and of Community cats in Contra Costa County.

When the epidemic hit in March of 2020 my concern was that the cat population would double because of the shutdown and that additional funding resources needed to be sought out by nonprofits to help us deal with the overpopulation.

In September of 2020, 4 nonprofit rescues met with our supervisor Ms Burgis. The purpose of that meeting was try to secure additional funding from the county to help nonprofits deal with the anticipated overpopulation.

I have previously addressed this board on trying to find an additional \$100,000 for the animal benefit fund. In 2016 this fund was at half a million dollars. Now only, hundred thousand is now in the fund.

Because of the epidemic in 2020 most groups did not provide spay and neuter services. Unfortunately because of this the cat population has doubled in Contra Costa County. Also affecting nonprofits were the lack of veterinarian services and the closure of the shelter to healthy kittens and cats. When the shelter made the decision not to take in healthy kittens and cats, the community turn to the nonprofit rescues. If we do not address this as nonprofits the cat population will triple. Nonprofits are trying to do the right thing and make sure these animals are spayed and neutered in Contra Costa County but we desperately need some financial assistance.

I would also ask the Board of Supervisors today to consider directing your community benefit funds to the animal benefit fund. Again this money will go to nonprofit rescue to help spay and neuter Community cats in this County. Sacramento County Board of Supervisors made this decision years ago. They also understood that nonprofits can accomplish services at a lower rate.

As we all know the shelter is in a financial crisis due to years of underfunding. They are doing 32 Community cats and are at capacity. As of 2021 I have dealt with over 800 cats medical.placement and rehoming. I have a funding source but this is what the community has presented to me and ask for help for.

Am asking you to find additional funding so that the animal benefit fund can continue to help other nonprofits with the overwhelming request from the public.

Thank you Lisa Kirk