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**From:** COLLEEN COLL [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 8:25 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** Public Comment, Consent Item #108

Attention:

It is imperative that the Board of Supervisors adhere to the recommendations of their Grand Jury report strongly advocating Contra Costa Animal Control the opportunity to submit an application for Measure X funding. The issue is insufficient services. The new contracts signed by the (18) municipalities will cover the costs of the 5% employees contracts, only.

Colonies of stray cats are roaming in Central, East and West Contra Costa cities and volunteers are breaking their backs weekly trying to mitigate this "growing problem." The solution is your authorization to allow the Director of Animals Service to submit the application for additional revenue of Measure x. monies.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in advance.

Colleen Coll  
Pet Owner  
Former, Mayor of Concord

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jc [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 11, 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** 9-13-22 BOS Agenda, Public Comment, Consent Item #108, CCAS Contract 18 Cities

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a cat rescuer in Contra Costa County. I pay taxes. I am constantly overwhelmed, especially during "kitten season" by the lack of county services for dumped and homeless cats. We can't trap and fix them fast enough with so few options for spay and neuter and NO county help for abandoned pets.

I haven't followed all the issues but I do know we need your help BADLY.

Please support shelter availability for abandoned pets and free spay-and-neuter services for feral and homeless cats.

Janet Van Wicklen  
Richmond resident

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sandra Tarbet [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 11, 2022 11:01 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Cc:** John\_Gioia  
**Subject:** 9-13-22,BOS Agenda, Public Comment, Consent Item # 108, CCAS Contract, 18 cities

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We oppose this inhumane and unfair contract. Animals are suffering and dying while rescuers are trying their hardest, volunteering, trying to save the overwhelming number of puppies and kittens being born, abandoned, with stray dogs and homeless cats all over our communities.

The increased city fees, as you all know, will not bring increased city services.

We urge the County to have CCAS submit a proposal for Measure X Advisory Board Committee funds. We voted for this measure!!!

We need the county to increase spays, neuters, vaccinations, TNR, outreach and mobile clinics.

And as you all know, the injured/sick/wildlife services has been discontinued with NO response from CCAS or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

We urge you to reconsider this contract. Our animals are suffering and dying due to this reduction in services!!!!!!!

Thank you  
Sandra Tarbet

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Laureen Lober [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:11 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS, 9-13-22, BOS AGENDA, CONSENT ITEM #108, CCAS CONTRACT 18 CITIES

Dear Board of Supervisors: Chair Karen Mitchoff, Candace Andersen, Diane Burgis, Federal Glover and John Gioia,

The Animal Rights Coalition and In Defense of Animals has a campaign to Improve Contra Costa Animal Services and we strongly oppose the City-County Agreement that has now been signed by the 18 Cities. Our petition has over 1,200 signatures to date.

ARC's concern is that the City fees did increase beginning July 1, 2022, but services have not improved. There are many animal welfare issues in the Agreement that should be explored and scrutinized. We have highlighted some of our key concerns.

We believe the Agreement is not in compliance with Senate Bill SB1785 (Hayden's Bill) by omitting spay and neuter surgeries and outreach for those services on the Agreement. S/N are mandatory and a detailed outline should be included in the Agreement. Per the Hayden Bill:

**" (3) Shelters should aggressively promote spay and neuter programs to reduce pet overpopulation.**

**(4) Shelters should not adopt out animals that are not spayed or neutered"...**

This Food and Agriculture code mandates S/N of cats:

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE - FAC**

**DIVISION 14.5. REGULATION OF CATS [31751 - 31765]**

**31751. For the purposes of this division, each member of a litter of kittens, weaned or unweaned, shall be treated as an individual animal.**

**(Amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 253, Sec. 6. Effective January 1, 2005.)**

**31751.3. (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away to a new owner any cat that has not been spayed or neutered.**

Since CCAS's policy restricts the intake of healthy free-roaming cats, this leaves more abandoned, homeless, unaltered cats and kittens in our communities. **Trap/neuter/return (TNR) surgeries should be included in the Agreement. A robust, high volume clinic is necessary to tackle the explosive population growth.** Rescue groups, volunteer trappers and citizens are overwhelmed with the burden of providing vetting, fostering, adoption services and quite frequently, long term care of these felines. Food, litter, medication, bedding, gasoline, etc. is expensive. It costs \$45 for TNR through a private clinic and \$200. plus at private vets. Many of the rescue groups rely on donations and volunteers pay out of pocket.

It's disturbing that Animal Services would write this language and consider that community cats are not endangered **"due to being at large, it is at risk of starvation, being attacked by another animal or hit by an automobile".**

**" 7. Shelter Services...**

***"A community cat is considered endangered if it is in imminent risk of being killed, poisoned, or injured but not if, due to being at large, it is at risk of starvation, being attacked by another animal, or hit by an automobile"...***

The Agreement cites the following California Penal Code in #7, Shelter Services:

***"vii. Provide services as required by the California Penal Code Section 597.1 and other laws governing shelters for animal care, treatment, holding periods, placements, and dispositions".***

According to Penal Codes 594-625c, it is a crime to deprive an animal of necessary sustenance, drink or shelter. Citizens that commit this animal cruelty act are held accountable and prosecuted.

#### **TITLE 14. MALICIOUS MISCHIEF [594 - 625c]**

*( Title 14 enacted 1872. )*

597.

##### **PENAL CODE - PEN**

*(a) Except as provided in subdivision (c) of this section or Section 599c, every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal, or maliciously and intentionally kills an animal, is guilty of a crime punishable pursuant to subdivision (d).*

*(b) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (a) or (c), every person who overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, **deprives of necessary sustenance, drink, or shelter**, cruelly beats, mutilates, or cruelly kills any animal, or causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, **deprived of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter**, or to be cruelly beaten, mutilated, or cruelly killed; and whoever, having the charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, subjects any animal to needless suffering, or inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the animal, or in any manner abuses any animal, or fails to **provide the animal with proper food, drink, or shelter or protection from the weather, or who drives, rides, or otherwise uses the animal when unfit for labor**, is, for each offense, **guilty of a crime punishable pursuant to subdivision (d)**.*

Although it is a crime to deprive animals of food and water, some Contra Costa County Cities have been ticketing community cat caregivers for feeding cats. These residents were fined \$800-\$1,000. A citizen was sued by a neighbor for property damages caused by community cats and fined \$2,500 by our County Court. Why aren't there protections for these citizens? Why aren't we communicating and working together on this "community sheltering model"? This silent "partnership" isn't working so well for many of us dedicated to animal rescue.

Why are the words "impound", "lost", "reclamation" and "abandoned" included in these sentences of the Agreement when they contradict CCAS's free-roaming cat policy?

a. The County will provide the following services to City residents ("Shelter Services"):

i. **Impound and shelter lost or stray dogs, injured/sick, lost or endangered community cats**, and other small, domesticated animals that are brought to the shelter by County staff, residents of the County or cities that have contracts with the County for the provision of Animal Services.

ii. Impound and quarantine biting animals.

iii. Provide rabies testing of animals suspected of infection.

iv. Provide for reclamation of abandoned, **lost or stray domestic animals**.

On October 5, 2020, CCAS reduced many services to the contracted cities as a cost savings measure. Although the City fees have increased, the Department is not reinstating the wildlife services for injured, sick and orphaned animals. CCAS refers all wildlife calls to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or Lindsay Wildlife Experience, except if rabies exposure is reported.

Per Beth Wards', September 13, 2022, agenda memorandum, citizens were concerned about "sick or injured wildlife": *April 28, 2021, the Department also met with the Chief's Association on their areas of concerns around the Department's services level impacts, which were:*

- 1. Lack of appropriate staffing for deceased animal pick-ups*
- 2. Citizen complaints around lack of response for sick or injured wildlife.*

Why is CCAS referring callers to CDFW when they do not have the staff to respond to these calls and refer them to CCAS? This is disingenuous to leave people without the needed help and causes injured and sick wildlife more suffering and death. An indicator of this problem are the pleas for help from people all over social media sites. It's basically up to the citizens to save these animals and they are putting themselves at risk of injury or rabies exposure. According to a statement by Beth Ward, she has talked with CDFW about training citizens to respond to the injured wildlife calls. Is anyone concerned about this? Public Information Officer, Steve Burdo, stated to the Hercules City Council, that field officers aren't trained to handle injured wildlife calls. Later, Mr. Burdo stated that if the Cities wanted to have these wildlife services, CCAS could provide them, but it would cost the Cities more money.

Field officers indeed are experienced at handling sick and injured wildlife. For decades they transported wildlife to Lindsay Wildlife. The staff knew the officers by name and all of us relied on them and appreciated their dedication and commitment to saving these animals. We have heard that this was a very rewarding part of their job.

It's perplexing that deceased animal pick up service is being reinstated when it is not a mandatory service. We believe that live wildlife and deceased wildlife services should be implemented as they both present public health and safety matters as well as, protecting wildlife from suffering and death.

CCAS's current staffing level of field service officers seems to be inadequate to meet the needs of our vast population of nearly 1.2 million and our animal residents. According to the January 14, 2022, staff organization chart, there are 13 field officers, 4 sergeants and 3 lieutenants. A few months ago, Director Ward stated that several field officers have been out on leave. We have heard from reliable sources that there aren't enough field officers and they are working mandatory overtime, including double-shifts.

CCAS should be held to a higher standard and uphold their Mission Statement by protecting "the health, safety and well-being of all people and animals in our community". "We will shelter homeless, abandoned and lost animals, work to keep and place animals in safe, caring homes, and provide education and services to enhance the lives of people, their animal companions, and to strengthen the human-animal bond.

This County Administration has justified providing limited mandatory and discretionary services to Contra Costa Citizens, our animals and the 18 Cities that have contracted for services. CCAS has shifted to a community sheltering model. This model relies heavily on rescue groups and community members to fill the void in services: spay/neuters, vetting, fostering, adoptions, saving abandoned and stray cats and dogs. We cannot keep up with the number of animals on the streets that need rescuing and services. Dog rescue groups are struggling to keep up with the Shelter's euthanasia list. Foster homes are maxed out for both dogs and cats.

Animal shelters are working toward Governor Newsome's "No Kill California Movement". In order to succeed, Shelters must focus on their Capacity for Care and Live Release Rates. This means keeping animals out of the Shelter. When statistical data improves for these 2 categories, it's not truly an accurate depiction of the animal welfare issues of the unsheltered animals being saved by rescue groups, volunteer rescuers and community members.

We urge you to have CCAS apply for Measure X funding for the desperately needed community-based services per Beth Wards' proposal that was drafted but not submitted as directed by the CAO. The proposal clearly shows the need for additional funding and services. (Proposal below).

Please understand that we are desperate for solutions and ask for your careful consideration of our animal welfare concerns in the Agreement and request for Measure X funding.

Respectfully yours,

Laureen Lober, Director  
Animal Rights Coalition (ARC)

Our Campaign to Improve Animal Services:

<https://www.idausa.org/campaign/wild-animals-and-habitats/latest-news/contra-costa-county-animal-services-agreement-disastrous-for-countys-animal-companions-community-cats-wildlife/>

.Beth Ward's, undated, unsigned MXCAB proposal:

*Financial Impact*

*Total Annual Cost Impact: \$875,000*

*Total Initiative Cost Impact for 5 years: \$4,325,000*

*Note that we would also be applying for and searching for collaborative partnerships and grants during the first 5 years and beyond to increase the reach of the initiative. Our goal would be to build a plan to reduce the financial impact for support from Measure X funding to allow the initiative to continue and potentially expand past the initial 5 years.*

*Background*

*Contra Costa County (CCC) has a population of about 1.165 million people. It is estimated that in our County our residents love and care for approximately 172,000 dogs, 69,000 rabbits and over 450,000 cats. The cat population estimates include indoor only, indoor/outdoor cats and outdoor "community" cats. In Contra Costa County we are experiencing a problem of pet overpopulation due to primarily two reasons: a lack of affordable, accessible spay/neuter and vaccine services across our county and people having to give up their pets or letting them go as strays.*

*The Pet Over Population problem is exacerbated due to the nation experiencing a veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) shortage that is being felt here in Contra Costa County and the impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic that leaves people losing jobs and homes. Local veterinarians are charging fees to cover their costs for elective procedures like spay/neuter surgeries and vaccines. This places those procedures out of reach financially for many of our residents who need their discretionary funds to be used for things that are needed to support their families. It also puts families in the difficult situations that may cause them to need to relinquish their pets. Some of those issues are around behaviors that could be addressed with spaying or neutering the pet, or even medical conditions that could have been prevented through regular vaccines. Even a rabies vaccine, to prevent a deadly zoonotic concern may be out of someone's price range, placing the pet, the family and the community at risk. We want Contra Costa County to be a caring community for our human population and the animals they love. This initiative would help provide for the well being of animals in our county and those animals in turn will continue to provide love and companionship for our residents to support their physical and emotional well-being.*

*Recommendation*

*Utilize Measure X Funding to help support a Five Year Spay/Neuter and Pet Health Initiative to benefit the residents, the animals in their lives, and the small businesses that support animals in Contra Costa County.*

*This proposal for a Five Year Spay/Neuter and Pet Health Initiative meets several of the goals of the Measure X Community Advisory Board:*

*o Goal #1: Mental Well Being. Supports the mental and behavioral health and well-being of all residents. There is mounting evidence that animals can enhance the health of their human caregivers and may this contribute to CCC residents short- and long-term health.*

*o Goal #2: Equity in Action. Prioritizes equity and removing barriers to receiving spay/neuter and vaccine services caused by economic and demographic challenges.*

*o Goal #3: Healthy Communities. All residents have access to affordable care for animals in their community. Animals that are in their homes and even those outside of their homes are family. People will often go without care and food to ensure that their animal family can receive appropriate care.*

*\$320,000 Additional staff needs per year to increase capacity and efficiency for the current CCAS medical center for surgery and vaccination services.*

*Total Staffing Costs: \$320,000 annually*

Annual Program costs: \$30,000 rescues with medical conditions  
 \$5,000 relocation  
 \$50,000 community education and marketing support  
 \$20,000 safety net program to help keep  
 pets in Homes  
 \$200,000 mobile clinics with non-profit  
 partner (4 per month)  
 \$250,000 grants for local non-profits for  
 targeted S/N and medical support  
 with local vet hospitals  
 \$200,000 Voucher Program with local  
 veterinarians

Total Annual Program Costs: \$555,000 annually

The Contra Costa County Spay and Neuter Pet Health Initiative would provide a multi-pronged effort that would include six key programs:

- \$320,000 annually to increase staffing at the Contra Costa Animal Services (CCAS) Medical Center to expand current public services for S/N and vaccines. A spay/neuter facility operated by Contra Costa Animal Services that provides services for animals owned by Contra Costa County residents, unowned community cats, as well as animals sheltered at the Martinez Animal Shelter. Procedures performed at the facility, including spays/neuters for dogs, cats and rabbits, vaccinations, micro chip implantations, ear tipping for community cat program participants and flea control treatment will be for Contra Costa County residents;
- \$30,000 annually for grants distributed by CCAS to subsidize costs incurred by registered non-profits when transferring animals with pre-existing medical problems (identified by CCAS Veterinarians) from CCAS into their facilities or networks;
- \$5,000 annually to support transportation costs for a relocation program to move animals from CCAS to rescues in communities where they will have better chances of being adopted;
- \$20,000 annually for grants distributed by CCAS to support Safety net programs provided by local nonprofits designed to keep animals in their homes by addressing the needs of those at the highest risk of relinquishment due to scarce resources and hindered access to critical services; and
- \$250,000 annually in grants to local current registered 501 c 3 partners, including funding for spay/neuter programs and medical care for animals in targeted areas.
- \$200,000 (\$100K Cats, \$75K Dogs, \$25K Rabbits) annually for a collaborative Spay and Neuter Voucher program through CCAS with a 501c3 to administer the program. This voucher program would support families in Contra Costa County to reduce the financial impact of having their pet (dog, cat, or rabbit) altered at a private Veterinary Clinic located in Contra Costa County. The program would not only support residents to bring S/N and vaccine costs into an affordable range, help to reduce pet overpopulation but also contribute to the financial support of small businesses in CCC.

We would also allocate \$50,000 per year to provide community education on these programs and marketing around the services provided by the Contra Costa County Spay/Neuter and Pet Health Initiative.

#### NOTES

##### Examples of Performance Measures

Number of altered dogs licensed in CCC increase by 10% first year and 5% each year afterwards Alter 1000 cats, 500 dogs and 250 rabbits each year through voucher program Provide a minimum of 4 mobile S/N and vaccine events per month  
 Maintain or exceed an 88% live release rate of animals at CCAS  
 Decrease the Average Length of Stay for animals at CCAS by 20%.



September 13, 2022

Re: PUBLIC COMMENTS, 9-13-22, BOS AGENDA, CONSENT ITEM #108, CCAS  
CONTRACT 18 CITIES

Dear Board of Supervisors: Chair Karen Mitchoff, Candace Andersen, Diane Burgis, Federal Glover, and John Gioia,

I'm writing to the Board of Supervisors to express my disappointment with the City - CCAS agreement. There have been considerable citizen and city council issues raised with the City - CCAS agreement, and the CCAS has disregarded their concerns.

CCAS eliminated live wildlife service in 2020 without any public announcement or a viable solution. These services included humanely euthanizing or transporting injured wildlife to Lindsey Wildlife Hospital.

We live in a unique area where wildlife needs have arisen due to our encroachment on their wild habitat. This has resulted in wild animals being injured by cars, spiked fences, etc. Allowing wildlife to suffer for hours or days without being euthanized is inhumane. Citizens often attend to injured wildlife as resources are unavailable. Contact with wildlife is a potential public safety risk (possible injury, exposure to diseases, etc.), and these interactions can be traumatic.

CCAS refers wildlife calls to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. CCAS states that wildlife is under the jurisdiction of the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is misleading the public, injured wildlife does not fall solely under the jurisdiction of the CA Fish and Wildlife. The CA Fish and Wildlife website directs people to call their local animal shelter. Many rescues and other counties' Animal Services assist injured wildlife. Asking citizens to handle wildlife or not providing a viable solution ignores the problem, the citizens, and the wildlife.

Here are a few Animal Services departments that attend to wildlife calls:

- City of Antioch
- Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter
- City of San Diego
- Palo Alto Animal Services
- San Francisco Animal Care & Control
- LA Animal Services

Many City Council members in the 18 cities are unhappy with the services CCAS provides and the new contract. CCAS intimidated the cities by stating that if you disagree with our terms, "then you are free to provide your own Animal Services", knowing full well that at this time, the cities were not in a position to create their own Animal Services Department. The cities have been paying for years towards the development of the Martinez Animal shelter. This does not seem like a partnership when the cities are funding 60% budget, and the County dictates the terms.

I am asking for more oversight from an outside agency for the CCAS budget. The cities are contributing the most significant amount, yet there is no oversight from the cities. Maybe the 13 million dollar CCAS budget can cover more services your community and animals need.

Why does our Animal Services Department have its own Public Information Officer costing over \$100,000 per year? What other Animal Services departments have their own PIO?

Why does our Animal Services need a social media contract for \$100,000? Can we eliminate these areas and hire more field officers and medical staff? Why were there millions of dollars of budget surplus for so many years that went back into the general fund?

Contra Costa County states that they are only mandated to provide animal services for the unincorporated areas. However, many California counties provide Animal Services for their county residents.

In closing, I'm asking the BOS to listen to their constituents and cities: Provide services for injured wildlife and animals. Provide outside oversight for the CCAS budget. Perhaps we already have the funding we need in the budget.

Sincerely,

Your constituent

This deer was still alive. Animal Services and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife was not able to come out euthanize the deer to end it's suffering.

