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**From:** Astrid Dahlman <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:32 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** October 4, 2022, Board of Supervisors Meeting, Public Comment, Item C46

ATTENTION SUPERVISORS

John Gioia  
Candace Andersen  
Diane Burgis  
Karen Mitchoff  
Federal Glover

I am writing to urge you to approve and authorize Beth Ward, Director of Animal Services, to apply for grant funding from California For All Animal Program to increase spay/neuter services for Contra Costa County. This is imperative and urgent. As a rescue person who has done TNR ( and fostering and adoptions) for over 10 years in Richmond, the number of unfixed stray cats has skyrocketed these past couple of years, especially this last one. I have trapped 100's of cats in the Santa Fe and Iron Triangle neighborhoods and feel like I have made great strides in reducing the homeless cat population....That is until the past year or so. With the reduction of spay/neuter services, I am seeing an even greater number of unfixed stray cats than when I first started. I know of at least 20 cats/kittens that need to be fixed within a 2 mile radius from where I live. Go further out and the number greatly increases. I have an appointment for 2 cats with CC4C October 19th. The wait list for CCAS for 2 cats is at least a month. By that time even more kittens will have been born. Life on the urban streets is very challenging and stressful for these strays. In addition, many people do not want them. Decreasing not increasing the stray cat population is the only humane thing to do. This truly needs to be a comprehensive community effort at every level and one that includes much more public outreach and education than currently exist.

Thank you.

Astrid

October 2, 2022

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

The Animal Rights Coalition (ARC) supports Contra Costa Animal Services' (CCAS) authorization request for the Cal For All Animals grant to increase spay and neuter services. We greatly appreciate Director, Beth Ward, for pursuing this generous grant from Governor Newsome's "No Kill California" being administered by UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine with the implementation of the Cal For All Animals program. <https://www.californiaforallanimals.com/>

Our question is, how will the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, CAO, Monica Nino and CCAS Director, Beth Ward achieve Governor Newsome's goal as stated in 2020? "We want to be a no-kill state," Newsom said during a press conference where he presented his 2020-21 budget".



January 10, 2020, Twitter [@GavinNewsom](https://twitter.com/GavinNewsom) dedicated \$50 million to the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program to give CA's animal shelters the training and resources they need to meet the state's no-kill goal in 5 years. [#CaliforniaForAll](https://twitter.com/CaliforniaForAll)

According to Petpedia.com's February 18, 2022, article, California takes second place to Texas for the highest number of animals euthanized in Shelters. "Texas tops the list with around 125,000 animals killed in shelters. **California is second with 110,000**, followed by Florida with 66,000, and North Carolina with 62,000 euthanized animals. According to the Georgia animal shelter statistics, the state follows with 43,000 killed shelter animals round out the five states".

CCAS's shift to community sheltering relies on rescue partners, rescue groups, community volunteers, TNR'ers and residents to compensate for the reduction of community-based services, such as spay, neuters, TNR, and vaccinations. Many of these rescue groups and community volunteers are not funded through CCAS's Animal Benefit Fund. The Cal For All Animals grant is so important to help the underserved communities with affordable spay and neuters; a S/N voucher program with private vets would benefit so many people in need. A high-volume TNR clinic and mobile S/N vaccine clinics will help control the pet population, prevent illness and the spread of diseases. The TNR rescues and community volunteers need to

keep surgeries free at CCAS for community cats. Out of pocket expenses are unsurmountable for many of us. The focus on limited mandated services at the Shelter is not working. The 18 Contra Costa Cities that contract for CCAS's services are paying higher fees and the fees will increase again next year. Will these Cities be willing to pay more to increase services? What is being done to address this?

Rescue groups and community volunteers are afraid to speak up or advocate for services or program changes and risk retaliation or loss of funding. Many animal advocates have given up due to trying so hard and not seeing progress. The smaller rescues are overwhelmed and struggling to remain open. Their homes have turned into shelters. They need more fosters and spaces for community cats. There are rescue groups that don't meet the criteria of the Animal Benefit Fund. Rescues and residents continue to go outside Contra Costa for vetting services due to long waitlists and the high price of vetting. The larger rescue groups are having similar issues with keeping up with the demands for help.

The photo is an example of a typical rescuers' plea on social media, for help to save dogs on CCAS's euthanasia list. Dog groups are having difficulty keeping up with the number of dogs needing to be saved. Fortunately, for these 5 dogs, CCAS agreed to hold them longer, so rescuers could figure out a plan. They were successful! We are grateful for this positive outcome and hope that it will continue.

**SOS WE WILL DIE IF NOT RESCUED BY 10/01 SOS**

Royal #A0987273

Novak #A0987894

Peekaboo #A0983890

Rose #A0988018

Ann #A0988019

**SISTERS 1 year old**

ANN, ROSE, PEEKABOO, ROYAL AND NOVAK ARE ALL SAFE!!!!

The Shelter agreed to hold Ann, Rose, Peekaboo, Roal and Novak until Tuesday so we can figure out the best plan for them. THANK YOU SO MUCH SHAWN COFFMAN AND DR. MILLS.

WAIT, IT GETS BETTER.....  
Jenifer Alcorn has agreed to take Ann and Rose. We will need to board them for her for a week or do, but that is a small price to pay to save their lives.

AND, EVEN BETTER... Martina Animal Rescue has agreed to help Novak, Peekaboo and Royal.

WE WILL NEED MORE PLEDGES FOR THE DOGS TO HELP PAY FOR BOARDING, SO ANYTHING YOU CAN DONATE WILL HELP.

THANK YOU EVERYONE for making this the best birthday ever.

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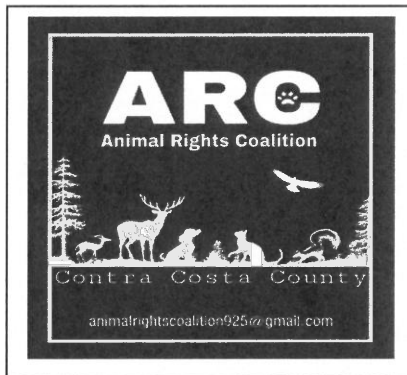
West County has a remarkable resource, Animal Fix Clinic, (AFC) for low cost spay/neuters and TNR surgeries. Although the services are exceptional, and the price is excellent, \$45. it is often not affordable for residents and TNR'ers helping communities fix community cats. We do not own these cats and are literally supporting the County's restrictive policy on the intake of healthy cats and kittens over 2 pounds. Berkeley and Oakland fund their residents. We really need Contra Costa to provide more funding to AFC and make TNR free, as it was previously. AFC is phenomenal; however, their wait list is between 2-3 months and closed when it's at capacity. This is a result of the overpopulation of cats and dogs and not a criticism of AFC. East and Central Counties do not have a clinic like AFC.

On behalf of the rescue community and Contra Costa residents, ARC is appealing to the Board of Supervisors and Monica Nino to prioritize and effectively fund Contra Costa Animal Services and meet the needs of the animal population and your communities/constituents. Animal welfare and the overpopulation of cats and dogs must be a priority to bring positive changes. We would appreciate a response to our letter from the Supervisors and Director Beth Ward.

Thank you for authorizing CCAS the opportunity to apply for the Cal For All Animals grant. CCAS should make funding and services equitable to all. It's essential for CCAS to collaborate with your community, rescue groups, community volunteers and Contra Costa County City Officials for CCAS's Community Sheltering plan to be successful.

Sincerely,

Laureen Lober  
Director, ARC



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**From:** Lisa Kirk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Cc:** Monica Nino; Adam Nguyen; John\_Gioia; SupervisorMitchoff; Supervisor\_Burgis; Vincent Manuel; Supervisor Candace Andersen  
**Subject:** Public Comment Consent Item C 46  
**Attachments:** Screenshot\_20221003-195750.png; Screenshot\_20221003-200055.png; Screenshot\_20221003-200015.png

Good Morning Board of Supervisors.

Below is the Cal Animal grant for spay and neuters.

The deadline is October 15th.

I have been trying to obtain a copy of the grant to see the specifics. I received two emails the first from Beth Ward stating that she is on vacation from 9-30 to 10-14.

I contacted the Public relation person at CCAS and received the second email stating that there is apparently no completed copy of the grant.

As most of you are aware, animal non-profits have come to not only the County Board of Supervisors, the City Managers Association and the Mayor's Conference to inform that Contra Costa County is in a domestic animal overpopulation crises.

There is no Grant attached to today's agenda for the public or transfer partners or nonprofits to review.

Nor is there anyone from Animal Services to do a presentation on how they are going to accomplish this.

If you actually read this grant there are several different proposals on how to accomplish spay neuters within a community.

Contra Costa County does not have a high volume low cost spay and neuter clinic.

Fix Our Animal Clinic in Pinole has limited services utilized by West County residents. Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek is a private nonprofit that has never expanded their spay and neuter clinics for the public much less for all of us nonprofits that are out in the field doing the actual work.

Community Concern for Cats in Concord does have a spay neuter clinic for the animals within their systems. And East Contra Costa County has no services even though we have two members of this board that represent the area.

If these non-profits do not want to partner with CCAS for whatever reason, there will be no additional spay and neuter s provided to the public through the grant, unless these services are provided at CCAS.

Sacramento county has 2 low cost high volume non-profits that provide spay and neuters not only to the public but to those of us that are in animal nonprofit rescues. They have been providing these services for over 20 years. Even through this difficult time, not only did Sacramento non profits, but their county facility has had adequate veterinarians and and rvts. Because of the lack of high volume low cost spay neuters in this County, we are now 20 years behind.

This is root of the problem for CCAS and the hundreds of volunteers in this County assisting the public with spay and neuters.

**WE HAVE NO APPOINTMENTS TO OFFER!**

As I am writing this, kittens and puppies are being born because we could not offer any appointments.

This Grant was funding through AB 132. If it is to be utilize in this County a clear and concise plan needs to be presented.

The question right now is if the other brick and mortar small spay neuter clinics that are privately run do not want to partner with CCAS what is the plan?

Can your animal service department provide additional spay and neuters considering that they are just providing mandated services at this point. Additional staff would have to be hired does the county allow positions that are grant funded? Can the existing facility provide additional spay and neuters without expansion.

The Measure X proposal written by CCAS stated that they were going to provide additional spay and neuters four times a month through a mobile clinic. Is this written into the grant?

None of these questions can be answered today because there is no presenter from CCAS or a completed Grant.

I am asking that the board of supervisors approve the grant concept today but bring this back with a completed Grant. I'm also asking the County administrator and the director of finance to ensure that this grant is submitted by October 15th.

Thank you Lisa Kirk

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**From:** Christine Kiernan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 3:26 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** Please remember to vote and support Cat Rescue and Spay Clinics and organizations

Board of Supervisors:

The money is there, so please fund efforts to support cat rescue and spay organizations.

Thank You,  
Christine Kiernan

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)