

Lisa Driscoll

From: Susan Mulloy <susanmulloy58@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Contra Costa Animal Services proposal for Measure X funding

Dear Ms. Driscoll and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in support of some allocation of Measure X funding to help reduce animal suffering in our county. We can do so much more to help control the population of unowned animals and owned pets by funding free and low-cost spay and neuter services for dogs, cats, and rabbits. Right now most low income families cannot afford to fix their pets. And people who care for unowned animals, such as community cats, are facing huge costs to spay and neuter animals if they can even find the vet care to do this.

I answer calls from the public to our hotline at Community Concern for Cats. In the past year of 2021, we had 1,640 calls from the public for help. Many of these calls are from people who have found cats and kittens in their yards and who don't know how to help the animals. There are two main causes of these heartbreaking situations.

1. People have to abandon their animals because our shelter does not take in any healthy cats or kittens. They have no options for rehoming their pets when they are evicted, when elders have to move into assisted living, or when people have died. These abandoned pets turn up in neighbors' yards to find food and shelter.
2. Kittens, puppies, and baby rabbits are born to unfixed and unowned animals. Our shelter has stopped providing trap/neuter/return services to the public and to rescues. Right now they offer 4 appointments a day for free s/n for feral cats and there is a long waiting list to be served. Pet Fix Clinic in Richmond (the former Fix Our Ferals clinic) has no appointments available until May, 2022. CC4C's cat hospital in Clayton is just coming out of a long backlog of kittens in our adoption pipeline who need to be fixed before being adopted. We work with rescue organizations and not the general public. The people who call our hotline say that they are quoted prices of \$400 and up to spay or neuter a feral cat, and much more for a pet cat. It is a tragic situation.

As a long time community cat volunteer (since 2000) I ask that the Board allocate some Measure X funding to our shelter so we can help our communities deal with the tragic situation of abandoned animals and unfixed animals.

Thank you,
Susan Mulloy
CC4C hotline volunteer