



City Manager's Office

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 28, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Peter Radu, Neighborhood Services Manager

Subject: Contract No. 32100053 Amendment: Dr. Orsolya Kuti for Veterinary Medical Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any necessary amendments with Dr. Orsolya Kuti to provide in-house veterinary medical services at Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS), increasing the contract amount by \$103,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$376,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds are available in the Animal Services baseline budget. The increase in the not-to-exceed amount is required to support continued contracted veterinary services at the revised hourly rate. The adjustment reflects a market-aligned increase in the contractor's hourly rate and rising costs of veterinary care.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

BACS currently contracts with Dr. Kuti to provide veterinary services on a part-time basis to support shelter medical care, including surgeries, examinations, treatments, and urgent medical decision-making for animals entering and residing in the shelter. BACS serves approximately 1,500 animals annually, many of whom require immediate or ongoing veterinary attention. Dr. Kuti's services are particularly critical given limited on-site veterinary staffing capacity, as contracted support ensures continuity of care and timely response to both routine and urgent medical needs.

The current not-to-exceed (NTE) amount is insufficient to cover projected veterinary service expenditures at the revised hourly rate and anticipated service levels. Without an increase to the NTE, BACS risks interruptions in contracted veterinary coverage, which would directly impact the shelter's ability to provide timely medical care, perform necessary surgeries, and maintain appropriate standards of animal welfare. Increasing the NTE will ensure uninterrupted access to essential veterinary services and continued operational stability.

Effective January 1, 2026, local agencies are required to satisfy noticing requirements for certain contracts for services that meet the criteria outlined in Government Code

Section 3504.1 as amended by AB 339. This project does not meet the criteria in Government Code Section 3504.1 and is exempt from the noticing requirement.

BACKGROUND

Since 2020, BACS has contracted with Dr. Kuti to provide in-house veterinary services. Over the course of the contract, Dr. Kuti has become an integral resource for the shelter, providing a broad range of medical and surgical services that support both individual animal care and overall population health management.

Her work has contributed to improved medical outcomes for shelter animals through timely diagnosis and treatment of illness and injury, as well as facilitating surgical interventions that would otherwise be delayed or unavailable. This capacity is especially important in a shelter environment where animals may present complex or urgent medical needs upon intake, and where access to consistent veterinary care directly influences length of stay, adoptability, and humane outcomes.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or climate impacts associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Kuti is well qualified and fully capable of continuing to provide the veterinary services outlined in the Scope of Services. Increasing the not-to-exceed amount will ensure the City can maintain uninterrupted access to these essential services at the revised hourly rate and anticipated level of demand.

If this funding is not authorized, BACS risks disruption in contracted veterinary capacity, which would directly impact the shelter's ability to provide timely medical care and perform necessary surgical procedures. This could result in delays in treatment and increased strain on shelter operations, affecting animal health and welfare outcomes.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

An alternative to increasing the not-to-exceed amount for contracted veterinary services would be to rely more heavily on external veterinary clinics for medical and surgical care. However, this option is not feasible due to the rising cost of veterinary services, limited availability of affordable providers in the surrounding area, and extended wait times for appointments.

Local veterinary clinics often charge rates that are significantly higher than current contracted services, and scheduling delays can extend several weeks to months. As a result, relying on external providers would likely lead to delays in treatment, increased length of stay for shelter animals, and reduced ability to provide timely medical interventions, which could in turn increase the risk of preventable suffering and result in higher rates of euthanasia for medically treatable animals.

CONTACT PERSON

Michael St. Pierre, Animal Care Services Manager, (510) 981-6603

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 32100053 AMENDMENT: DR. ORSOLYA KUTI FOR VETERINARY
MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS) provides sheltering, medical care, and humane treatment for approximately 1,500 animals annually entering its care; and

WHEREAS, BACS relies on contracted veterinary services to provide examinations, treatment of illness and injury, surgical procedures, and urgent medical decision-making for shelter animals; and

WHEREAS, in-house contracted veterinary services are essential to ensure timely medical care, maintain animal welfare standards, and support efficient shelter operations in the absence of full-time on-site veterinary staffing; and

WHEREAS, since 2020, BACS has contracted with Dr. Orsolya Kuti to provide veterinary medical services, including examinations, treatments, surgeries, and other essential clinical care for shelter animals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kuti's services have become an integral component of shelter operations, supporting both individual animal health outcomes and overall population management; and

WHEREAS, the current not-to-exceed contract amount is insufficient to support continued services at the revised hourly rate and anticipated level of service demand; and

WHEREAS, failure to increase the contract not-to-exceed amount would risk interruption of veterinary services, resulting in delays in medical care, reduced surgical capacity, and negative impacts to animal health and welfare outcomes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the Animal Services baseline budget to support the proposed contract amendment; and

WHEREAS, increasing the contract amount will ensure uninterrupted access to essential veterinary services and continued humane care for animals at Berkeley Animal Care Services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to amend Contract No. 32100053 with Dr. Orsolya Kuti for veterinary medical services at Berkeley Animal Care Services, increasing the contract amount by \$103,000 for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$376,000.

July 28, 2026

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to take actions necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution, including execution of related documents and amendments.

