



Office of the City Manager

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: Friends of Berkeley Animal Care Services Grant Acceptance

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a \$60,000 grant from the Friends of Berkeley Animal Care Services (FoBACS) and to execute any necessary agreements and amendments required to implement this funding.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Adopting this resolution will result in the addition of \$60,000 to the FY27 Berkeley Animal Care Services budget and will be deposited into fund 336.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS) relies on contracted veterinary services provided by Dr. Orsolya Kuti to deliver essential medical care for shelter animals, including examinations, treatment of illness and injury, surgical procedures, and urgent clinical decision-making. These services are a core component of daily shelter operations and are necessary to maintain humane care standards for animals entering and residing in the facility.

On January 2026, the City Council ratified a recess action taken by the City Manager to amend BACS' existing contract with Dr. Kuti to account for recent large increase in the cost of providing veterinary care, resulting in an increase to Dr. Kuti's hourly costs from \$85/hour to \$105/hour.

Acceptance of the \$60,000 grant from FoBACS will directly offset a portion of the costs associated with Dr. Kuti's contract. These funds will help preserve baseline medical and surgical capacity for shelter animals, ensuring continuity of care and reducing the risk of avoidable deterioration or euthanasia for medically treatable conditions.

The shelter continues to serve a high volume of animals each year, many of whom require timely veterinary assessment and intervention upon intake. Maintaining consistent veterinary capacity is essential to ensuring appropriate medical response, supporting shelter flow, and sustaining the level of care required for safe and humane operations.

BACKGROUND

Friends of Berkeley Animal Care Services (FoBACS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2012 by a dedicated group of volunteers committed to raising funds in support of Berkeley Animal Care Services. FoBACS provides financial support to help the shelter deliver humane, ethical, and compassionate care to Berkeley's homeless animals by funding medical care, enrichment programs, adoptions, equipment, training, and other essential services.

FoBACS is a fully volunteer-run organization with no paid staff or officers, and all contributions directly support animal welfare programs and services at the shelter. Since its formation, FoBACS has been a consistent partner to BACS, providing an average of more than \$10,000 annually in medical support that enhances the shelter's ability to meet the needs of the animals in its care.

For FY27, FoBACS has approved \$60,000 in funding to support BACS's contracted veterinary services with Dr. Orsolya Kuti. This funding is intended to supplement City resources and help maintain continuity of veterinary medical care during a period of increasing budget constraints.

On January 20, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 72,079–N.S., increasing the contracted amount for veterinary services with Dr. Orsolya Kuti.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or climate impacts associated with this action.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Acceptance of this funding will help maintain continuity of veterinary services provided by BACS' contracted veterinarian, Dr. Kuti, during a period of reduced City funding. These services are critical to sustaining humane care standards, supporting timely medical intervention, and ensuring the shelter can continue to operate safely and effectively.

Without this funding, BACS will experience a reduced capacity to provide veterinary care at current levels, requiring significant changes to medical decision-making and treatment priorities, and increasing the likelihood of preventable suffering among shelter animals.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If this funding is not accepted, BACS would need to reduce Dr. Kuti's contracted hours to remain commensurate with available City funding. This would significantly reduce the shelter's ability to provide necessary veterinary care and limit the medical and surgical services we can offer.

With reduced veterinary capacity, the shelter would experience delays and gaps in treatment, and some conditions that were treated in previous years would no longer receive care. This would likely result in an increase in euthanasia for animals with medical concerns that are otherwise treatable under current standards.

CONTACT PERSON

Mike St. Pierre, Animal Services Manager, 510.981.6603

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

ACCEPTANCE OF A \$60,000 GRANT FROM FRIENDS OF BERKELEY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES (FOBACS) TO SUPPORT CONTRACTED VETERINARY SERVICES AT BERKELEY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS, Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS) provides shelter, medical care, and humane treatment for animals entering its care; and

WHEREAS, BACS relies on contracted veterinary services to provide examinations, treatment of illness and injury, surgical procedures, and other essential medical care for shelter animals; and

WHEREAS, sharp increases to the costs of veterinary care have recently required BACS to increase the value of an existing contract with Dr. Orsolya Kuti for veterinary medical services; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Berkeley Animal Care Services (FoBACS), a nonprofit organization established to support Berkeley Animal Care Services, has approved a grant in the amount of \$60,000 to support contracted veterinary services; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of this grant funding will help maintain continuity of veterinary services and support humane care standards for animals housed 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 accept a \$60,000 grant from Friends of Berkeley Animal Care Services (FoBACS) and to execute any agreements, amendments, and other documents necessary to implement the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the grant funds shall be appropriated to Berkeley Animal Care Services and deposited into Fund 336 for the purpose of supporting contracted veterinary services.