

## D. LOW OR NO COST SPAY NEUTER PROGRAM PROPOSALS

### Introduction

- With the help of Vera from TREAT, I have drafted up some initial procedures to assist in the development of a program to present to the Kern County Board of Supervisors, as part of the *Proposed Ordinance and Program Changes*.
- Knowing that the Commission has had some initial interest in utilizing the HOPE Foundation to administer a spay neuter program, I have provided information on the HOPE Foundation program as it is available at this time.
- As well, I have provided information on a Voucher program, which is the option endorsed by TREAT. It is also, in my opinion, the better over all option.
- It is my hope that the Commission will request a minimum of \$250,000 from the BoS to start up and run a program for one year. For comparison, the state of New Hampshire has altered an average of 2,966 animals per year, for an average annual cost of \$123,682,

### Areas to Address for Either Program

- Publicity and media involvement (bilingual).
- Start up costs.
- Documentation: Applications, Financial Statement, etcetera.
- Low Cost guidelines and verification process.
- County resident verification process.
- Inclusion of licensing as part of process.
- Process for receiving and processing applications.
- Include vaccinations and or microchipping.
- Get local volunteers trained to help with administration.

The HOPE Foundation Program  
A High-volume, Low-cost spay/neuter clinic.

- Animals will be transported by HOPE to their facility in Fresno from Bakersfield. Minimum of 25 animals per weekly trip. Van will hold between 25 and 38 animals per trip depending on size of animals.
- Transport cost: 75cents / mile (124.8 miles one way = \$187.20 / trip)
- Altering costs in a KC contract would be:
  - Male cat \$25
  - Female cat \$35
  - Male dog \$45
  - Female dog \$55
  - Over 65 pounds \$10 additional

Areas to Address Specific to the HOPE Foundation Program

- Ways to instill feeling of safety for animal owners participating.
- Insure that animals are not exposed to other sick animals.
- Concerns from local vets - business being sent out of town.
- Concerns from the community - tax dollars being sent out of town.
- A written contract would have to be completed with HOPE.
- All animals must be crated.
- All animals must be rabies vaccinated.
- Any additional charges.

### The Voucher Program

- Animal owners complete application at one of the local rabies clinics or with required license and rabies fee. Or obtain an application by mail or at pre-identified locations and return by mail or in person, along with appropriate fees and documentation.
- A one year "Pending Alter" license is issued at the alter rate.
- Once application is approved, voucher (specific to animal on application) and list of participating vets and other necessary information is given or mailed to animal owner.
- Animal owner arranges for procedure at vet of their choice from the list.
- One year later, license bill requires copy of sterilization document, or unaltered license fee is due.

### Areas to Address Specific to the Voucher Program

- Obtain buy in and agreements from local vet community (included is preliminary list of local vets willing to alter at a reduce rate of \$100.00 per animal).
- Insure process is user friendly for owners, and simple for vets.
- Staff will be needed on a regular basis for both the community access and assistance to veterinary offices.

### Areas to Evaluate at One Year

- Program access for non-profit groups.
- Broadening the income guidelines.
- Rural areas: use of mobile unit or contract with SPCA's mobile unit.
- Funding sources for program expansion.
- Feral cats.
- Education in areas of high need and low utilization.
- Other and/or additional types of program administration.
- Review of euthanasia and impoundment statistics.
- Community perception.
- Transportation needs (elderly or housebound).
- Status of AB1634.
- If appropriate, consider contracting the administration of the program out to an existing animal welfare organization such as Spay USA, Best Friends, Maddie's Fund, or SPCA.
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### Conclusion

- Considerable research has gone into these drafts. Much more information is available on all topics mentioned.
- All research and sample programs are included in your folder and on the accompanying CD.
- I would be happy to assist with the development of a successful program.
- Finding lots of volunteers would be a cinch!