



Marcia Mayeda, Director

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

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JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE CONTRACTING WITH A VETERINARIAN
FOR AS-NEEDED ON-SITE VETERINARY SERVICES
(ALL SUPRVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Animal Care and Control (Department) requests approval based on special circumstances to contract with a veterinarian who, within the past 12 months, was employed with the Department in a position of substantial responsibility in the area of service to be performed by the contract.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve the Department of Animal Care and Control contracting, based on special circumstances, with a veterinarian who was employed with the County within the past 12 months in a position of substantial responsibility in the area of service to be performed by the contract.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On November 14, 2018, the Department initiated a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) to engage qualified vendors capable of providing on-site veterinarian services as and when required. Services may include high-volume spay and neuter surgeries, treatment for various medical conditions, and emergency veterinary care. Subsequently, on May 21, 2019, the Board conferred the authority upon the Director of Animal Care and Control or designated representatives to execute contracts with eligible veterinarians identified through the active RFSQ.

The Department has encountered a shortage of veterinarians willing to offer after-hour services, compounded by a severe shortage within the veterinary community. This has resulted in minimal response from external vendors to our solicitation. The veterinary shortage has also led to a loss of County veterinarians to private clinics that provide more flexible hours and, often, higher compensation. Although the Department is working on amending its active contract to increase its hourly rates for contracted veterinarians, competing with the additional perks offered by private clinics remains a challenge. Without the availability of this contract, our low staffing level will significantly and negatively impact our ability to provide medical treatment for animals in our care and sterilization surgeries required to exit dogs and cats from our care centers—likely increasing avoidable euthanasia.

Due to the Department's severe veterinary staffing shortage, there's a critical need to contract with Dr. Bijula Yusin, a veterinarian who was employed with the Department and exited County service on January 19, 2024. This contract offers an opportunity to re-engage with Dr. Yusin who is willing to provide part-time relief work for the Department. Additionally, Dr. Yusin's degree in forensics enables her to provide valuable assistance to the Department in handling humane cases. Los Angeles County Code Section 2.180.010.(A) mandates Board approval in special circumstances when contracting with a veterinarian employed by the County within the past 12 months.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the proposed action aligns with County Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy II.2, "Supporting the Wellness of our Communities." By endorsing this action, we reinforce our commitment to bolstering the capacity of our veterinary team. This ensures comprehensive care for both owned and unowned animals within our communities, thereby minimizing undue suffering among these animals. Further, this step enables us to secure the essential staffing required to perform spay/neuter procedures for adopted animals, in accordance with State law.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact from the implementation of this special circumstances contract. The departmental total cost for professional veterinary services will remain within the current adopted budget. There is no change to the Net County Cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Certification of No Conflict of Interest policy states the County shall not contract with, and shall reject any bid or proposal, submitted by persons who within the immediately preceding 12 months was employed in positions of substantial responsibility in the area of service to be performed by the contract unless the Board finds that special circumstances exist which justify the approval of such contract.

These services are exempt from the requirements of County Code Sections 2.121(B)(2), (3) and (4) because the service cannot be performed adequately, competently, or satisfactorily by civil service employees and it is impossible to recruit such personnel to perform such service for the period of time such service is needed; the service is of an extraordinary professional or technical nature and the services are of a temporary nature; and the services are needed on a part-time, intermittent basis.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This agreement makes significant progress in our ability to maintain current service levels and avoid unnecessary euthanasia. It empowers the Department to provide vital veterinary care to a larger population of both owned and unowned animals within our serviced communities. By avoiding the anticipated reduction of our capacity to provide veterinary services, we contribute significantly to controlling animal populations, addressing the suffering of vulnerable animals, and ensuring their overall welfare. This effort aligns with our commitment to responsible animal care and underscores our dedication to fostering healthier communities for both humans and animals alike.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,



MARCIA MAYEDA

Director

MM:DU:WD:BK:cg/rke

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office