



Marcia Mayeda, Director

January 13, 2026

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

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR
MASTER AGREEMENTS FOR
AS-NEEDED ONSITE VETERINARIAN SERVICES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to request approval to utilize additional funding for the Master Agreements for As-Needed Onsite Veterinarian Services.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve and authorize the Director of Animal Care and Control, or designee, to work with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to allocate and utilize additional funding for the Master Agreements for As-Needed Onsite Veterinarian Services for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY 2025-26) and upcoming fiscal years through the remainder of the contract including FYs 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Your Board authorized the Department of Animal Care and Control (the Department) to enter into Master Agreements for As-Needed Onsite Veterinarian Services (Master Agreements) on April 9, 2024, at an annual aggregate cost of \$150,000. Due to the ongoing veterinarian shortage, the Department has required services under these Master Agreements at a much faster rate than initially anticipated and is projected to reach the approved annual limit for FY 2025-26 earlier than expected. Increasing the annual funding authority is necessary to ensure continuity of veterinary medical services across the Department's seven animal care centers. The Department estimates the

aggregate cost for the Master Agreements for FY 2025-26 to be \$510,000, representing an increase of \$360,000.

The Department's ability to provide timely medical care is directly dependent on supplemental veterinary capacity. These contracted veterinarians are essential to carrying out basic veterinary medicine, including examinations, treatment of illness and injury, and State-, mandated spay/neuter surgeries—particularly when full-time staffing is insufficient to meet the volume of medical need at our care centers. Without this supplemental support, the Department's ability to provide timely and legally mandated medical treatment would be significantly compromised.

Given current service utilization rates, the Department anticipates that the need for contract veterinarian services will remain consistent in future fiscal years.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action supports the County Strategic Plan: North Star 3, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, by leveraging external partnerships and community-based service delivery models to improve efficiency and equity. These contracts provide the Department with the flexibility to rapidly scale veterinary services and improve outcomes for animals in the Department's care. Leveraging qualified contract veterinarians expands access to essential services without the delays associated with veterinary shortages, ensuring continuity of care and supporting the County's commitment to high-quality, responsive, and humane service delivery.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Department and CEO have designated the necessary funding for FY 2025-26 by utilizing salary savings from vacant veterinarian positions and will continue to request funding for the Master Agreements in future budget cycles.

Upon Board approval, the Department will proceed with increasing funding for the Master Agreements to meet the increased need for veterinarian services.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

These Master Agreements were procured in compliance with all applicable County policies. Contractors are required to maintain appropriate licensure, insurance, and professional standards while performing services on behalf of the Department. The increased funding will allow the Department to sustain essential veterinary operations and ensure that care centers remain adequately staffed to perform both legally mandated routine and urgent procedures necessary to safeguard animal health and welfare.

County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office have reviewed and approved the proposed increase in funding authority and all related documentation.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of additional funding for these services will ensure the Department is able to continue

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providing the necessary level of veterinary medical care to the animals in its care.

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:jl

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office