



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: October 15, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Sarah Aguilar, CAWA, Animal Services Director (805-698-0212)
SUBJECT: Animal Services Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Accept and file the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Report (Attachment A) summarizing operational levels of Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) and highlighting the accomplishments of those engaged in the support of animals and people across the county; and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not a Project within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to summarize and highlight the essential operations of SBCAS during Fiscal Year 2023-24 in support of pets, animals, and people across the county. The Annual Report provides an at-a-glance overview of animals brought into care within the county, highlights the increase in adoption and foster placements during this past year, and commends the significant volunteer efforts and partnering organization support that has been provided to assist with animal welfare and sheltering countywide.

Background:

Beginning in FY 2022-23, Santa Barbara County entered into new five-year, fair-share (per capita) contracts with each of the seven city partners and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians with a goal of reducing General Fund subsidy by year five for animal services within the cities and unincorporated county. This report provides an overview of the operational highlights and achievements of SBCAS during the second year of those contracts. The annual report focuses on three key areas: sheltering summary, foster programming, and community engagement, with strategic planning updates for each of these focus areas.

The number of animals entering the sheltering system has increased year-over-year for the previous five-years (with the exception of during the Covid-19 pandemic where lower numbers were experienced overall). However, even with the increase in animals sheltered during FY 2022-23, foster placements and adoptions have also increased correspondingly thanks largely in part to our non-profit partners and generous volunteers.

Below is a summary of key statistics highlighted in the attached SBCAS Annual Report (Attachment A), for FY 2023-24:

- SBCAS brought 5,589 animals into care, an increase of 400 over the prior fiscal year, and 939 more animals than in FY 2021-2022.
- Adoptions surpassed 2,900, an increase of approximately 600 over the prior fiscal year, and 1,085 more than FY 2021-2022.
- Traditional foster placements increased by 48% over last year, with over 2,800 pets spending time out of the shelter during recovery from a medical condition, while awaiting alteration surgery, or for a short break.
- The Doggy Day Trip fostering program facilitated over 2,400-day trips for sheltered dogs, demonstrating significant community involvement.
- Over 20,000 volunteer hours were generously provided by individual community members; far more than pre-pandemic. This was an additional 36% increase in volunteer hours from the prior fiscal year.

SBCAS will continue to publish monthly data and narrative reports online (at <https://www.countyofsb.org/1434/Statistics-Reports>), and will provide your Board an annual report following the close of each fiscal year of the five-year contracts to share updates on strategic directives, accomplishments, and the scope and scale of animal services countywide.

Fiscal Analysis: The acceptance of this report does not result in financial or staffing impacts.

Special Instructions: Please email the minute order to the Public Health, Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org

Attachments:

- A. Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023-24 for Animal Services

Authored by:

Sarah Aguilar, CAWA, Animal Services Director