



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: May 12, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Mouhanad Hammami, County Health

Contact: Sarah Aguilar, Animal Services Director, 805-698-0212

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donations to Santa Barbara County Animal Services from the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation in the Amount of \$118,920

Signed by:
Mouhanad Hammami
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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and ratify the acceptance of a donation of \$79,920 to Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) from the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation (SBCACF) to fund two Animal Shelter Attendant Extra Help (EXH) positions (Classification 008316) full-time from mid-March 2026 to December 2026;
- b) Approve and ratify the acceptance of a donation of \$39,000 to SBCAS from SBCACF to fund contract veterinarians for the reopening of public veterinary services at the Santa Maria shelter from February 2026 to June 2027;
- c) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010999 in the amount of \$118,920 for unanticipated revenue for use in the Animal Services FY 2025-2026 budget; and
- d) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and are exempt pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, since the recommended actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to accept two generous donations of \$79,920 and \$39,000 to Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) from the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation (SBCACF) for the purpose of funding two (2) full-time Extra Help Animal Shelter Attendants to enable Animal Services to reinstate license canvassing and to pay Contract Veterinary hours in order to resume public services such as spay/neuter and vaccine administration at the Santa Maria Animal Clinic.

Discussion:

Animal Services revenue generated through licensing and public veterinary services has declined since the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing two historically reliable funding streams that support ongoing operations. In response, Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) has partnered with Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation (SBCACF) to strategically reinvest philanthropic funding from the Tails of Hope event into programs designed to restore these revenue sources while improving community access to services.

The first component of this effort is the reinstatement of field-based license canvassing. Canvassing has historically been an effective tool for increasing compliance with state and local licensing requirements while also connecting residents to available services such as low-cost vaccinations, microchipping, and spay/neuter resources. Funding will support two (2) full-time Extra Help Animal Shelter Attendants, allowing existing staff to be temporarily reassigned to canvassing activities without disrupting daily shelter operations.

The second component is the phased reopening of public veterinary services at the Santa Maria Animal Center. Funding will support additional contract veterinary hours, enabling SBCAS to begin offering an expanded schedule of public vaccine clinics and spay/neuter services. This pilot approach allows SBCAS to evaluate demand, refine workflows, and ensure operational sustainability prior to full program expansion.

Together, these efforts are designed as pilot projects to assess the County's ability to reestablish sustainable, revenue-generating programs that simultaneously improve public health, increase compliance with animal care laws, and reduce shelter intake. If successful, these programs are expected to offset operational costs, reduce reliance on General Fund support, and expand access to critical services for underserved communities.

Background:

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, SBCAS maintained active license canvassing efforts that contributed to annual licensing revenues exceeding \$900,000. In recent years, licensing revenue has declined to an average of less than \$700,000 annually. While multiple factors influence compliance rates, canvassing represents a potential strategy to increase licensing participation and associated revenue while improving public safety and pet identification outcomes.

Similarly, the public veterinary clinic at the Santa Maria Animal Center historically generated revenue through spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and basic veterinary services, while also serving as a critical access point for low-cost care in North County. Clinic operations were largely paused in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related operational constraints.

Through funding raised by SBCACF via the Tails of Hope event, SBCAS is able to relaunch these services through a structured pilot model, initially offering a limited schedule of approximately three vaccine clinics and one spay/neuter clinic per month. This phased approach allows SBCAS to rebuild capacity, evaluate community demand, and ensure long-term sustainability of services.

SBCACF is a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, dedicated to promoting animal welfare and improving the quality of life for animals in Santa Barbara County. As a committed partner of SBCAS, SBCACF continues to identify and fund opportunities that enhance service delivery, expand access to care, and strengthen the County’s animal welfare system.

SBCAS is continually grateful to SBCACF for their ongoing partnership and commitment to improving outcomes for animals and the community.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No.

Accepting two donations from SBCACF in the total amount of \$118,920 does not impact mandates or General Fund contribution.

The \$79,920 donation is expected to fund two (2) full-time extra help staff to perform routine, daily activities at animal shelters while regular shelter staff are temporarily redirected to canvassing activities from mid-March 2026 to December 2026.

The \$39,000 donation is expected to fund contracts for outside veterinarians to provide routine, daily veterinary services for County animals at the Santa Maria shelter while the County Veterinarian is occasionally redirected to public veterinary clinics from February 2026 to June 2027.

A budget revision in the amount of \$118,920 is necessary to amend the adopted FY 2025-2026 Animal Services budget to reflect the unanticipated revenues and expenditures, and to designate a portion of the donations to be used in FY 2026-2027.

Fiscal Analysis:

These SBCACF donations are expected to be one-time in nature.

Funding Source	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	Total
Donations	\$42,900	\$76,020	\$118,920
Total	\$42,900	\$76,020	\$118,920

Staffing Impacts:

Two unfunded Animal Shelter Attendant EXH (Classification 008316) will be funded by this donation. After the term, the positions will be ended.

Special Instructions:

Please email one Minute Order to the CHD Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org when available.

Attachments:

Attachment A –Budget Journal Revision No. 0010999

Contact Information:

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 Animal Services Director
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