



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 No.:	041
Agenda Date:	December 16, 2025
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 Department
Contact: Sarah Aguilar, Animal Services Director
SUBJECT: Acceptance of \$25,000 Grant Award from Maddie's Fund

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the County Health Department, or designee, to accept a grant award received by the Santa Barbara County Animal Services in the amount of \$25,000 from Maddie's Fund to fund veterinary care;
- Approve and authorize the Director of the County Health Department, or designee, to make any certifications and assurances that may be required by the grant agreement;
- Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010892 in the amount of \$25,000 for unanticipated revenue for use in the Animal Services FY 2025-26 budget; and
- Determine that the recommended actions are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt per CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), because the recommended actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board to approve, ratify, and authorize the County Health Director, or designee, to accept a grant award from Maddie's Fund in the amount of \$25,000 to fund veterinary care, and to approve a budget revision request to incorporate the funds into the FY2025-26 Animal Services program budget (Attachment B).

Discussion:

Foster50 is a national initiative dedicated to expanding pet fostering opportunities across the United States. The program unites shelters, rescues, and animal welfare advocates in all 50 states to raise awareness about the transformative impact of pet fostering—demonstrating that even one hour outside the shelter can change a dog’s life. Foster50 coalition members include the PEDIGREE Foundation, Maddie’s Fund, Adopt a Pet, Mutual Rescue, Petco Love, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement, and Outcomes for Pets Consulting.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) identifies fostering as a core operational priority. Fostering reduces animal stress, optimizes shelter resources, and deepens community engagement in animal care and placement. Maddie’s Fund recently announced that SBCAS has been selected as a recipient of the Foster50 Trailblazer Award, presented to two animal welfare organizations nationwide for demonstrating exceptional creativity, resourcefulness, and measurable impact in fostering. The award recognizes SBCAS’s transformative commitment to innovation and growth that sets the standard for what is possible in animal fostering.

The application included submission of foster-related data for calendar year 2024 and the first half of 2025. As a condition of the award, SBCAS will participate in a virtual “Foster50 Huddle” to share results and impact data from 2025. There are no other contractual obligations or financial encumbrances associated with this recognition.

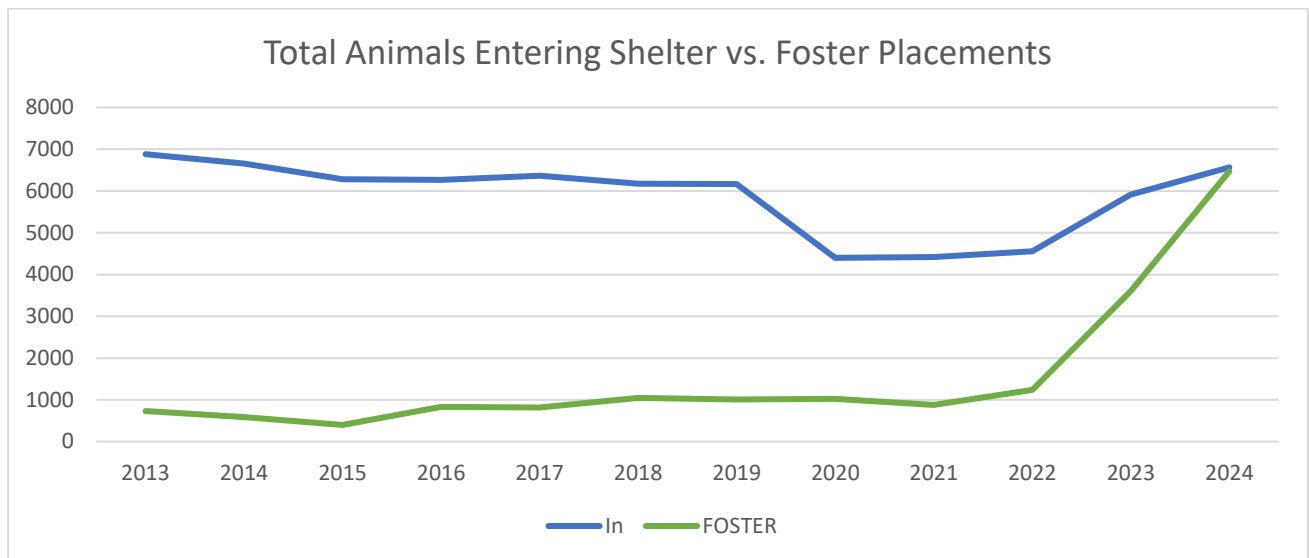
Background:

Over the past three years, SBCAS has undergone a strategic shift from reliance on in-shelter housing toward a community-based model that prioritizes foster care. Historically, the majority of animals entering the County’s shelters remained on-site for the duration of their stay. While this model ensured immediate housing, it also placed significant strain on staff, space, and resources, often leading to higher stress levels for animals and longer lengths of stay.

Beginning in late 2022, SBCAS intensified its investment in foster programming as a means of improving animal welfare outcomes, expanding community engagement, and reducing operational pressure on shelter facilities. The impact of this shift is reflected in the accompanying chart, which shows the number of animals placed into foster homes through day trips and traditional placements has increased dramatically.

In 2024, foster placements nearly matched the number of animals entering the shelter system, signaling a transformative evolution in how the County provides care. Through targeted recruitment, training, and support, SBCAS has built a robust network of foster caregivers capable of housing animals recovering from illness, injury, or behavioral challenges, as well as those simply needing a break from the shelter environment.

This transition to foster-centered care aligns with national best practices and has produced measurable benefits—reducing length of stay, lowering disease transmission, improving behavioral outcomes, and enhancing live-release rates. More importantly, it has created deeper partnerships between Animal Services and the residents of Santa Barbara County, empowering community members to play an active role in lifesaving work.



Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Accepting the grant award from Maddie's Fund in the amount of \$25,000 does not impact mandates, service levels, or general fund contribution. The grant is expected to fund veterinary care. A budget revision in the amount of \$25,000 is necessary to amend the adopted FY 2025-26 Animal Services budget to reflect the unanticipated revenues and expenditures.

Fiscal Analysis:

The Maddie's Fund grant is expected to be one-time in nature.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
Private Grant	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total		\$25,000

Special Instructions:

Request the Clerk of the Board to email a copy of the Minute Order to the County Health Department, Attention: PHDGROUPEContractsUnit@sbcphd.org when available.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Maddie's Fund Application and Award Notification

Attachment B – Budget Revision BJE Number 0010892

Contact Information:

Sarah Aguilar, CAWA, CACO
 Animal Services Director
saguilar@sbcphd.org