

**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2003 November 24  
**FROM:** DIRECTOR FINANCE **FILE:**  
**SUBJECT:** ANIMAL CONTROL - SPCA CONTRACT  
**PURPOSE:** To obtain Council approval for a contract renewal with the SPCA for the provision of animal control services.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. **THAT** the contract with the SPCA be renewed for the term 2004 January 1 to 2006 December 31 at a cost of \$451,415 for 2004 with a provision for an annual increase in the two subsequent years based on the Consumer Price Index for Vancouver.

**REPORT**

The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is a charitable organization incorporated in 1895 by a Provincial Act now called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Operating throughout the province, the Society helps prevent cruelty to animals, investigates and prosecutes incidents of animal cruelty, provides education to the public on humane treatment of animals, delivers medical and clinical animal health care and provides animal control services to cities.

There has been significant change within the SPCA over the past year. As reported to Council 2003 June 3, the Society adopted a strategic plan to establish a new organizational governance and operational structure that included recommendations to guide its future operations. Since that time, there has been an adjustment to operational aspects of the strategic plan and the SPCA is prepared to continue to perform all of its current contractual duties.

The SPCA held its annual general meeting in October. At the meeting, the Society's members were presented with a financial report for 2002 which identified an operating deficit of \$4.5 million for the year. While Society revenues remain flat, the costs associated with the administrative re-organization and the implementation of strategic plan recommendations have had significant effect on financial results. The Society is taking steps to bring expenditures under control and the Board of Directors are seeking a balanced budget for 2004.

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**Proposed Contract**

The current animal control contract with the SPCA expires on 2003 December 31. A proposed contract extension has been negotiated with the SPCA. The proposed contract covers a three year period with annual increases equal to the Vancouver Consumer Price Index for the previous year and includes the following changes:

	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>2003</b>
Base contract cost increase of 4.8%	\$ 409,565	\$ 390,805
Staff changes to add receptionist and p/t staff	\$ 16,160	
Designated parks patrol reduced from 8 to 2 months	\$ 11,690	\$ 27,337
Commission of dog licence sales increase 35 - 50%	\$ 14,000	\$ 11,000
<b>Total cost of contract</b>	<b>\$ 451,415</b>	<b>\$429,142</b>

The total cost of \$451,415 represents a 5.1% increase over the current contract. The contract designates the SPCA as the City pound keeper (shelter operator) and provides for the following service provisions.

- Enforcement of the Animal Control Bylaw
- Investigation of animal neglect and abuse
- Investigation of reported animal bites and attacks
- Administration of the animal shelter
- Care and disposition of impounded animals
- Care of injured animals and removal of dead animals from street and public areas
- Sale of dog licences
- Door to door licence canvass

Basic services maintained under the contract include providing animal shelter operations and community patrols. Hours that the shelter will be open to the public are:

Monday to Friday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Twenty-four hour emergency service is provided for injured animals, pickup of dead animals, investigation of animal attacks and assistance to the Burnaby Fire Department and the RCMP. A designated park patrol program will be provided in coordination with the Parks Department from July 1 to the Labour Day weekend.

*City Manager*  
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**Conclusion**

The SPCA continue to provide effective animal control and shelter service to the community. The contracted service is provided with the benefit of the SPCA's humanitarian mandate, comprehensive expertise and broad organizational functions relating to animal care. Approval of the proposed contract is recommended. Funds are included in the 2004 Provisional Operating Budget to cover the costs of the contract.

  
for Rick Earle  
DIRECTOR FINANCE

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cc Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
City Solicitor

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