Minutes – Council – February 27, 2025

Minute No. 171
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – February 5, 2025

Item No. 2 Service Agreement between The City of Winnipeg and The Winnipeg Humane Society

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and adopted the following:

1. That, subject to annual budget approval by Council, the Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) be approved to provide general animal services to the City at the level of $587,500, plus the provision of a subsidized spay and neuter program at the level of $400,000, with total annual payments to the WHS in 2025 in the amount of $987,500 (collectively, the "Amounts").

2. That, subject to annual budget approval by Council, the Amounts be provided to the WHS in 2026 and 2027, with the following adjustments:

    A. Commencing with the year 2026, the Amounts shall be increased each year by the same percentage rate as approved by the City's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) annually in the City of Winnipeg's Fees and Charges By-Law No. 196/2008, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

3. That the City proceed with entering into, executing, and delivering a Service Agreement with The Winnipeg Humane Society, along with any other agreements deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to carry out the intent of the above (the "Ancillary Agreements").

4. That authority be delegated to the General Manager of the Animal Services Agency to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Service Agreement and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

5. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – February 5, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be adopted by consent.

Carried

Councillor Wyatt was absent for the vote on the above motion.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 18, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 5, 2025, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Service Agreement between The City of Winnipeg and The Winnipeg Humane Society

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Harrower	C. Fernandes	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Winnipeg offers animal-related services for its large pet population. The City's Animal Services Agency (ASA) works in partnership with the Winnipeg Humane Society, (WHS), to provide these services.

The WHS, through an agreement with ASA, is the service provider for housing stray cats. WHS also provides complete veterinary care services and a subsidized spay and neuter program.

The WHS Service Agreement expired on December 31, 2024. To continue this partnership, the Public Service seeks approval to enter into a new service agreement with WHS. The amounts recommended are subject to Council approval of the Preliminary 2025 Budget Update.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, subject to annual budget approval by Council, the Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) be approved to provide general animal services to the City at the level of $587,500, plus the provision of a subsidized spay and neuter program at the level of $400,000, with total annual payments to the WHS in 2025 in the amount of $987,500 (collectively, the “Amounts”).

2. That, subject to annual budget approval by Council, the Amounts be provided to the WHS in 2026 and 2027, with the following adjustments:

    A. Commencing with the year 2026, the Amounts shall be increased each year by the same percentage rate as approved by the City’s Chief Financial Officer (CFO) annually in the City of Winnipeg’s Fees and Charges By-Law No. 196/2008, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

3. That the City proceed with entering into, executing, and delivering a Service Agreement with The Winnipeg Humane Society, along with any other agreements deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to carry out the intent of the above (the “Ancillary Agreements”).

4. That authority be delegated to the General Manager of the Animal Services Agency to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Service Agreement and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

5. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required for the City to enter into a Service Agreement with the Winnipeg Humane Society.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2025 Animal Services Agency Business Plan and the Preliminary 2025 Budget Update includes funding for the Service Agreement by way of an annual grant in the amount of $987,500.

The proposed Service Agreement is for the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027, subject to further Council approval of funds in future budget years. The agreement may be terminated by either party without cause upon providing 90 days’ notice in writing.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) has been supporting dogs and cats in Winnipeg since 1894. The organization cares for owner-surrendered and stray dogs and cats, primarily from Winnipeg residents. The WHS is the only animal welfare organization in the city that operates its own comprehensive internal veterinary clinic.

Animal Services responds to an average of 8,500 incidents each year involving animals and people. This includes, but is not limited to; stray dogs, dogs involved in attacks, livestock, and exotic animals. The Animal Services facility, built in 1994, was designed without dedicated areas for cat care.

A team of Animal Services Officers assists Winnipeg residents in resolving neighborhood disputes and animal-related incidents. This includes a 24/7 emergency response to house fires and emergency incidents involving animals with the Winnipeg Police Service.

Animal Services also runs innovative programs such as adoption/foster, volunteering, education, and Doggie Dates. We have also begun conducting our own spay and neuter

surgeries on-site, with the support of a local veterinarian. We also have a strong presence on multiple social media platforms, with great, engaged followers on each.

The City of Winnipeg had a Service Agreement with the WHS, which expired December 31, 2024. The General Manager of Animal Services is the Contract Administrator for the agreement. In 2024, the WHS received at total of $968,273 in funding from the City. The Preliminary 2025 Budget Update includes $987,500 in funding, an increase of $19,227 (or approximately two percent).

The recommended Agreement with the WHS for the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027, includes the following two components:

General Services - $587,500
The Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) will be authorized to provide comprehensive care for impounded, stray, trapped, surrendered, sick, or injured cats. Additionally, the WHS will be approved to offer other services to the Agency, such as care for sick or injured dogs, puppies, advanced diagnostics, behavioral support for impounded dogs, dental procedures, and assistance with excess cat removals.

Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) – $400,000
The SNAP program is a collaborative effort between the City, the WHS, and the pet owner. The program is designed to help Winnipeg residents living on low income get their pets fixed. Animal Services also provides a complimentary one-year pet license with each completed spay/neuter surgery.

The Service Agreement further accounts for necessary insurance and reporting requirements, and provides that either the City or the WHS may terminate the agreement for any or no reason upon providing 90 days' notice.

A more detailed framework for the proposed services and payments under this agreement is set out in Appendix A to this report. Although this framework is the result of extensive collaborative discussions between the Public Service and WHS, the final version of the service agreement will continue to be subject to such other terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City (as set out in Recommendation 4 above).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: January 21, 2025

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2025**

Service Agreement Between the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Humane Society

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 987,500	$ 1,007,200	$ 1,027,300	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 987,500	$ 1,007,200	$ 1,027,300	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	987,500	1,007,200	1,027,300	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Direct costs represent the value of the service agreement with the Winnipeg Humane Society for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027. Existing budget represents the amounts included in the 2025 Animal Services Agency Business Plan and Preliminary 2025 Budget Update totalling $987,500 in 2025. The amounts in 2026 and 2027 increase by an estimated rate of inflation of 2% per annum for illustration purposes (the actual rate of inflation will be confirmed each year).

Ozzy Garrett - January 21, 2025

Ozzy Garrett CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services Department (as to legal issues)
- The Winnipeg Humane Society

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The Service Agreement with the WHS aligns with the Quality of Life 03-2 Vitality Direction of Our Winnipeg by maintaining the health and safety of neighborhoods.

The Enabling Strategies are to provide animal care facilities coupled with spay/neuter efforts to help control over-population and to work with existing community animal welfare organizations to develop a shared vision and expand educational outreach efforts.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 6 – All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services
Division: Animal Services
Prepared by: Jennifer Harrower
Date: January 21, 2025
File No: CMS-2025-12

Appendix A – Framework of Terms and Conditions – WHS/Animal Services 2025-2027: