

City Council Regular Meeting

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Meeting Date: 07/19/2021

Recommended Mark McCrory, Police Chief

by:

Prepared by: Scott Sjerven, Police Commander

Finance Angele Ozoemelum

Director

Review:

Approved July 19, 2021

City Attorney Brett Wallace

Review:

Approved by: Larry Rains

Date 06/17/2021

Submitted:

Type of Resolution

Action

Requested:

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**SUBJECT:**

Request for authorization to accept grant funding from The Rachael Ray Foundation Best Friends Save Them All, in the amount of \$28,500.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Mayor and City Council authorize acceptance of grant funding from the Rachael Ray Foundation Best Friends Save Them All, in the amount of \$28,500., and to execute all grant and contract documents, disburse funds, and perform necessary budget transfers.

**DISCUSSION:**

In March the Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center met with Jessica Gutmann with Best Friends, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving animals, and to provide grants to animal welfare organizations working to save animal lives by providing an unfunded or underfunded need in the areas they serve. As a result, The Rachael Ray Foundation Best Friends Save Them All, has made \$28,500.00 available to the Casa Grande Police Department/ Animal Control Division for the purpose of a TNR (trap-neuter-release) RTF (return to field) program. The program includes the purchase of various equipment (\$4,540.00), and the cost of 600 spay or neuters of stray cats (\$23,960.00).

The due date for the acceptance of the grant was June 25, 2021. Staff recommends the Mayor and City Council authorize the City Manager or his designee to ratify the execution of the Rachael Ray Foundation Agreement

The Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center will use the funding for twelve (12) cat traps, twelve (12) transfer cages, A freeman cat net, 40 kitten kits, cat deterrents, and 600 spay or neuters for stray cats.

The cat traps, transfer cages, and freeman net will be used to safely and humanly capture and transport stray cats from the community to the shelter, Veterinary office, and release.

The Kitten kits will be made available to citizens who find neonates and wish to care for them preventing them from entering the shelter.

The deterrents will be used to assist citizens who wish to prevent free-roaming cats from entering their yards, providing an alternative to the remove and euthanize practice.

The 600 spay or neuter surgeries will provide a huge step towards the status of a No-kill shelter for the Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center. They will provide us the opportunity to work to educate our community regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats.

## Council Focus Areas

### Fiscal Responsibility:

The Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center is fully aware that budgets are tight and alternate funding sources should be sought out to fund projects such as this. With that in mind, staff is continuously looking for ways to partner with other like-minded agencies that can share the costs in the purchase of equipment, medical expenses, and animal care to fulfill the stated goals.

### Quality of Life:

The Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center is committed to the continuous effort of reducing the euthanasia of stray animals. Impoundment of healthy cats reduces the likelihood of reuniting families with pets. Impoundment also fails to resolve the inciting factors for nuisance situations, TNR programs that leave cats where they are, have been associated with significant reductions in nuisance complaints.

### Healthy and Safe Community:

In our community, there are several colonies of community cats. The citizens who feed and care for these colonies chose to keep the information about these colonies anonymous

due to them believing the community cats will not have a safe outcome if they notify Animal Control, leaving unaltered cats that increase the cat population. By offering to spay and neuter these community cats to their caregivers, it reduces unwanted litters, helps to eliminate the noise of mating and fighting, it stops male cats from spraying. These cats are also rabies vaccinated making a safer healthier environment for caregivers and the public.

By returning healthy altered cats to their neighborhood of origin whenever possible the capacity for care remains the same and prevents migration of new cats.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no matching funds required for this grant.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not accept the grant funding. Continue remove and euthanize practice.

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