

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Animal Care and Control Services Update

STAFF CONTACT

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POLICY ISSUES

The development of options for the provision of animal care and control services for City residents.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

- Action
 Discussion
 Information

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

King County Animal Care and Control (KCACC) currently provides animal care and control services for Bellevue, most cities in King County and unincorporated areas in the County. Through interlocal agreements and contracts, the County provides animal related field services to 32 cities (excluding Seattle, Renton, Medina, Milton, Skykomish, Des Moines and Normandy Park) and sheltering services to 34 cities (excluding Seattle, Renton, Medina, Milton and Skykomish). Cities provide no direct payment for basic field services or sheltering because the County collects and keeps 100% of the pet license fees. Revenue to support the County's services comes primarily from pet licensing fees from residents and the County's General Fund. A small percentage of expenditures are covered by user fees, including pet adoption fees and impound fees. In 2009, the County's General Fund contributed \$1.5 million out of a total budget of approximately \$5.5 million.

In November, the County Council passed a motion establishing new policy parameters for the provision of animal care and control services that included the following:

- Ended the provision of shelter services by King County no later than January 31, 2010.
- Established a goal of April 1, 2010 and a deadline of June 30, 2010 to end field control services and licensing services unless cities entered into full cost recovery contracts with the County.

Since November, cities have been working together and talking extensively with the County and shelter service providers in the area. In addition, new King County Executive Dow Constantine has taken office and assigned a new staff person to work with the cities on the animal services issue. Executive Constantine recently announced that he will ask the Council for more time to develop a regional plan for handling animal services in the County.

In addition, City staff has been meeting with potential shelter providers and other cities that provide field control services on their own. Staff has also been researching alternative models for providing licensing services. In the meantime, cities are waiting for the County to present a proposal that would allow the County to continue providing all or some services for cities, if cities choose that option.

Staff will provide a brief update at the Council meeting on the current status of these efforts and next steps.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A