

CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES

THIS CONTRACT, entered into by and between the County of San Luis Obispo, a public entity in the State of California, ("County") and, the City of Atascadero, an incorporated city in the State of California, ("City").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, County has established the Division of Animal Services to provide animal care and control functions including the enforcement of the ordinances of San Luis Obispo County Code Title 9 and of California state codes pertaining to the care, keeping, and management of animals; and

WHEREAS, County through Animal Services, maintains and operates an animal shelter and a humane education program; and

WHEREAS, City is desirous of contracting with County for the provision of such services;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, conditions agreements and stipulations set fourth herein, the parties hereby agree that to the following terms and conditions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Exhibits.** The contract consists of the terms and conditions as set forth in the following exhibits:
 - a. Exhibit A – Scope of Services
 - b. Exhibit B – Compensation
 - c. Exhibit C – Duration of Contract
 - d. Exhibit D – General Conditions

2. **Notices.** Notices required in this contract shall be provided to:

COUNTY:

Eric Anderson, DVM
Animal Services Manager
865 Oklahoma Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

CITY:

Dan Suttles
Chief of Police
5505 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, County and Contractor have executed this Contract on the day and year set forth below.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

CITY OF ATASCADERO

By: _____
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Jim Lewis / City Manager

Date: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST:

MATT PONTES
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

JON ANSOLABEHERE
County Counsel

By:  _____
Deputy County Counsel

Dated: February 18, 2026

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ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES**

EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF SERVICES

1) County Obligations. The County shall perform the following duties:

a) Shelter Services

- i) Maintain, or cause to be maintained, an animal shelter whereat stray, owner surrendered, confiscated, quarantined and custodially impounded household pets are received and provided with appropriate care, housing, and shelter services in accordance with state regulations, local ordinances, and policies governing the humane treatment of such animals.
- ii) Provide services allowing sheltered animals to be returned to their owners, adopted into new homes, or to be humanely euthanized.
- iii) Provide for the receipt and publication of lost and found animal reports.
- iv) Provide services for the humane euthanasia of household pets and for the disposal of their remains.

b) Field Services

- i) Receive and respond to public calls for service related to alleged violations of local or state codes pertaining to the care, keeping, treatment, and management of animals.
- ii) Provide for the response to any of the following circumstances 24 hours a day, seven days a week:
 - (1) Domestic animals posing an active and present threat to public safety
 - (2) Domestic animals which are severely injured, sick, or in eminent risk and whose owner is unknown or unavailable.
 - (3) Domestic or wild animals demonstrating signs of possible rabies infection.
 - (4) Calls for assistance from law enforcement or emergency response personnel.
 - (5) Reported animal bites where the animal remains in the area unconfined and whose owner is unknown or unavailable.
 - (6) Loose livestock roaming on roadways or other public areas.
- iii) Provide for the response to any of the following during Animal Services' normal business hours:

- (1) Pick-up and impoundment of unlimited numbers of stray confined domestic animals.
 - (2) Pick-up and disposal of unlimited numbers of dead domestic animals from roadways, parks, and other public areas.
 - (3) Pick up and transfer to shelter of owned animals for surrender or euthanasia.
 - (4) Pick up of dead owned animals for disposal.
- iv) Provide for the necessary medical treatment and emergency care for domestic animals picked up by Animal Services personnel and for those domestic animals presented directly to veterinarians by private citizens and emergency response personnel.
 - v) Provide for the receipt, processing and investigation of animal bite reports as well as the subsequent quarantine of animals in accordance with state codes pertaining to rabies control.
 - vi) In the event that an animal responsible for causing serious bodily injury (as defined by Penal Code 243(f)(4)) or death to a person dies in the custody of, or is euthanized by, Animal Services, County shall preserve the bodily remains of that animal until such time as City has been consulted and approves of their disposal. Nothing in this requirement shall be interpreted to prevent Animal Services from collecting and processing any tissue or body samples required to comply with legally mandated rabies testing requirements or other public health needs.
 - vii) Request assistance from the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations when an animal bite results in significant injury causing death or likely to cause death or in any case Animal Services believes may require significant criminal investigation beyond the experience of Animal Services Officers.
 - viii) Receive and respond to reports of animals, domestic or wild, which are suspected to be rabid or to have been exposed to rabies infection and attempt to affect their capture. Captured animals will be processed in accordance with state codes pertaining to rabies control.
 - ix) Receive and process all applications related to the keeping and sale of household pets; inspect and regulate permitted operations in accordance with local and state codes.
 - x) Provide for the recording, investigation, administrative hearings, and issuance of findings and orders related to animal nuisances, animal seizures or confiscations, and dangerous or vicious animals. Nuisances which remain

unresolved following the issuance of an abatement order will be processed to court through the District Attorney's office.

- x) Assist in the preparation and filing of court documents related to the civil and/or criminal prosecution of cases involving violation of municipal codes pertaining to the care, treatment, and keeping of domestic animals.
- xii) Provide for the preparation, filing and civil or criminal prosecution of cases involving violations of California state codes pertaining to the care, treatment, and keeping of domestic animals.
- c) Reporting: Provide to the City bi-annual service activity and financial reports reflecting field services, licensing, and shelter operations, programs. Reports will detail this information for both the individual quarter and year-to-date.
- d) Collaboration: Participate collaboratively with the City regarding matters impacting the provision of animal care and control services. County shall not append or modify the provisions of Title 9 of the San Luis Obispo County Code without having first consulted with the City.

2) City Obligations. The City shall perform the following duties:

- a) Ordinance Conformity: City shall adopt by reference Title 9 of the San Luis Obispo County Code.
 - i) In the event that City does not desire to incorporate specific provisions of Title 9, those provisions may be individually exempted from adoption.
 - ii) In the event that City desires to incorporate additional provisions related to the care and keeping of animals which are not established by Title 9, those provisions may be added and individually specified within City's municipal code. Animal Services will not be responsible for enforcing any added provisions which are substantially outside of the Animal Service Division's normal scope of operations.
- b) City shall immediately notify the County upon determining that any animal in the custody of Animal Services is believed to have caused serious bodily injury (as defined by Penal Code 243(f)(4)) or death to a person and request that the body of that animal be preserved in the event that it dies or is euthanized while in custody.
- c) Assistance: Provide such assistance and support to Animal Services personnel as may be reasonably necessary to safely and effectively execute the operations required by this contract within the City limits.
- d) Collaboration: Participate collaboratively with the County regarding matters impacting the provision of animal care and control services. City shall not append or

modify the provisions of its municipal code related to animal care and control without having first consulted with County.

- 3) Animal Care and Control Coordination Group: The County and City agree that Animal Services is a shared interest of all parties and that all participating jurisdictions will share in the cost and revenue generated based on actual costs and fees generated in each jurisdiction. Further, policy-setting, procedural changes and ordinance development will happen in a collaborative manner, with all participating jurisdictions having input into the best way to conduct these services in San Luis Obispo County.
 - a) To coordinate efforts, the participating jurisdictions, including the City and County agree to meet and confer periodically to discuss current issues as they relate to the fiscal and practical application of this contract, along with other potential items identified by the group. Such meetings shall be coordinated by the County Animal Services Manager from time to time as necessary, but no less than twice yearly.
- 4) As part of this commitment, the County agrees to develop performance benchmarks and communicate them quarterly to the group on the following:
 - a) Cost of Services/per Capita (by City) overtime.
 - b) Cost of services/per City over time.
 - c) Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions within Animal Control over time.
 - d) Number of field FTE within Animal Control over time.
 - e) Geographical Information Service (GIS) heat maps of calls for service over time by City (requested development from County IT Department, maps to be provided when available).
 - f) Average response times for priority calls over time by City.
 - g) Percentage of animals licensed by the City over time.
 - h) Other data points charted out over time that were used to spread out the Animal Shelter costs.

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EXHIBIT B – COMPENSATION

- 1) First Year Service Fee: The City agrees to pay to the County the amount of \$396,974 for services provided under this Contract during the first year of service.
- 2) Subsequent Years' Service Fee: The County shall compute on an annual basis a service fee assessed to the City for services provided under this Contract.
- 3) Timing of Service Fee: The County shall calculate annual service fees and provide them to the City prior to April 15th of each year, with service fees becoming effective on July 1st of that year. No further action by either party is necessary to implement new fees in subsequent years.
- 4) Service Fee Methodology: The County shall use a service-based methodology for determining city service fees. The service-based methodology shall be based on three key facets of Animal Services' operations:
 - Field Service
 - Shelter Services
 - Licensing & Permits
 - a) *Determination of Cost of Service* - The cost of providing services to the City will be calculated by determining the average percentage of service allocated to the City over the preceding three years for each of the three facets of operations and multiplying this percentage against Animal Services operational budgeted expense for each facet. Combined, this then represents the City's total service cost in proportion to the County and all other contracting parties.
 - b) *Credit for Fees* - The average annual revenue generated from fees or fines assessed directly to residents of the City by Animal Services over the preceding three years will be applied against the City's total service cost.
 - c) *Determination of Service Fee* - The fee assessed to the City for provision of services outlined in this contract shall be determined by subtracting the average revenue as determined by item 4b of this exhibit from the average cost of service as determined by item 4a of this exhibit.
- 5) Billing: County shall bill City for contracted services in quarterly increments. City shall remit payment to the County within thirty (30) days of receipt of billing.
- 6) Year End Variance – In the event that Animal Services' net operational costs for any fiscal year are less than projected in the calculation of the service fee methodology (Item 4 of

this exhibit), the City's proportionate share of that savings shall be applied as a credit against the calculated service fee for the subsequent fiscal year.

In the event that Animal Services net operational costs for any fiscal year exceed projections in the calculation of the service fee methodology (Item 4 of this exhibit), the City's proportionate share of the overage shall be added to the calculated service fee for the subsequent fiscal year.

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ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES**

EXHIBIT C - DURATION

- 1) Effective Date: This contract shall be effective July 1, 2025, or fifteen (15) days following of the date of the signature of the County, whichever is later. The County shall be the last to sign this contract.
- 2) Service Date: City and County acknowledge that the services provided under this contract are a continuation of those established during the preceding contract term and that these services may have been provided continually and without interruption between July 1, 2025, and the date of execution by the County in order to ensure the interest of public service.
 - a) Both City and County expressly and retroactively authorize the provision of these services.
 - b) For the purposes of billing and determination of the First Year Service Fee as provided in Exhibit B, the first year of service will be presumed to have begun on July 1, 2025.
- 3) Duration: The term of this Contract shall expire June 30, 2030, unless terminated sooner as provided in Exhibit D.

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ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES**

EXHIBIT D – GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1) Termination: Either party may terminate this contract at any time by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice of termination. Termination for convenience shall have no effect upon the rights and obligations of the parties arising out of any services provided occurring prior to the effective date of such termination. County shall be paid for all work satisfactorily completed prior to the effective date of termination. In the event that the contract is terminated prior to the conclusion of a quarterly billing cycle, the City shall remit to the County a prorated amount based upon the number of days of service relative to the total number of days in the billing cycle.
- 2) Indemnification: Nothing in the provisions of this Contract is intended to create duties or obligations to, or rights in third parties not party to this contract or affect the legal liability of either party to contract, by imposing any standard of care respecting the regulation and enforcement of laws regarding animals different from the standard of care imposed by law.
 - a) It is understood and agreed that neither City, nor any officer or employee thereof is responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by the County under or in connection with any work, authority or jurisdiction delegated to the County under this Contract. It is also understood and agreed that pursuant to Government Code 895.4, County shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the City, all officers, and employees from all claims, suits or actions of every name, kind, and description brought forth or on account of injuries or death of any person or damage to property resulting from anything done or omitted to be done by the County under this Contract except as otherwise provided by Statute.
 - b) It is understood and agreed that neither County nor any officer or employee thereof, is responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of anything done or omitted to be done by the City under or in connection with any work, authority or jurisdiction delegated to the City under this Contract. It is also understood and agreed that pursuant to Government Code Section 895.4, the City shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the County, all officers and employees from all claims, suits or actions of every name, kind and description brought forth on account of injuries or death of any person or damage to property resulting from anything done or omitted to be done by City under connection with any work, authority or jurisdiction delegated to the City under this Agreement except as otherwise provided by Statute.

3) Notices: Any notice, payment, statement, or demand required or permitted to be given hereunder by either party to the other shall be affected by personal delivery in writing or by mail, postage prepaid. Mailed notices shall be addressed to the parties at the addresses appearing below, but each party may change its address by written notice in accordance with this section. Mailed notices shall be deemed communicated as of three days after mailing.

COUNTY

Eric Anderson, DVM
Animal Services Manager
865 Oklahoma Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

CITY

Dan Suttles
Chief of Police
5505 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422

4) Status of the Parties' Officers/Employees/Agents: Neither party's officers, employees, agents, partners, other contractors or subcontractors shall be deemed to be employees of the other party at any time. Nothing in this contract shall be construed as creating a civil service employer - employee relationship or a joint venture relationship. No officer, employee, agent, partner, other contractor or subcontractor of the other party shall be eligible for membership in or receive benefits from any plan for hospital, surgical, or medical insurance, or be eligible for membership in any retirement program, paid vacation, paid sick leave, other leave, with or without pay, collective bargaining rights, grievance procedures, appeals to the Civil Service Commission or any other benefits which inures to or accrues to an employee of the other party. The only performance and rights due the other party are those specifically stated in this contract.

5) Governing Law and Venue: This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. Additionally, this contract has been formed and shall be performed in San Luis Obispo County; the venue for any legal action on the contract shall be in San Luis Obispo County.

6) Entire Agreement: This Contract embodies the complete agreement of the parties hereto, superseding all oral or written previous and contemporary agreements between the parties relating to matters herein; and except as otherwise provided herein, cannot be modified without the prior written agreement of the parties.

7) Severability: In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Contract shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Contract shall be considered as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained in this Contract.

8) Successors and Assigns: This Contract shall be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and, except as otherwise provided in this Contract, their assigns.

- 9) Captions: The captions to the various clauses of this Contract are for information purposes only and shall not alter the substance of the terms and conditions of this Contract.
- 10) Authorization: Each of the parties represents and warrants to the other that this Contract has been duly authorized by all necessary corporate or governmental action on the part of the representing party and that this Contract is fully binding on such party.