

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: MADDIE'S FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING AND CONTROL

BACKGROUND:

Maddie's Fund is a private family foundation established in 1999 to support animal shelters and animal programs across the country. Specifically, Maddie's Fund promotes the ideal of a "no-kill nation where healthy and treatable sheltered dogs and cats are guaranteed a loving home". To achieve that goal, the Fund has invested resources in community collaborations and in national strategies to collect and disseminate animal shelter statistics. In February of 2009, Maddie's Fund notified Ames Animal Sheltering and Control that they were eligible for \$20,000 to support the collection and publication of animal shelter statistics and for other activities on behalf of lost, stray or homeless dogs and cats.

To be eligible for the funds, the Ames Animal Shelter must complete a form provided by Maddie's Fund concerning the animal shelter's statistics for the calendar years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The form requests information regarding dogs and cats only and requests information concerning intakes, adoptions, transfers and euthanasia. Reports for 2007 and 2008 are due by May 1, 2009. Reports for 2009 and 2010 are due by March 1 of the following year. In addition, the Ames Animal Shelter must consent to the publication of these statistics on the Maddie's Fund webpage and at least one other major publication (at Maddie's Fund expense).

Ames Animal Shelter and Control maintains the statistics requested and reports them to the public regularly through the City Council budget process and by other means. Although adapting the statistics to the Maddie's Fund format is required, Animal Sheltering and Control does not anticipate that doing so will require a significant investment of staff time.

Proceeds of the grant would be used to improve and upgrade the facilities at the shelter that relate to the care of dogs and cats including items such as upgrading and repairing kennels, rust removal and repainting and (pending some further review) possible improvements to ventilation systems in the kennels. There is no match requirement with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Animal Sheltering and Control's application to and participation in the Maddie's Fund grant program.
2. Do not approve Animal Sheltering and Control's application to and participation in the Maddie's Fund grant program

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Animal Sheltering and Control regularly maintains and disseminates statistics related to intake, adoption, transfer and euthanasia of animals in the shelter's care. Those statistics have been and are publicly available. Adapting those statistics to the format required by the grant will not be a burden. Proceeds from the grant will allow the shelter to make several valuable improvements.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving application to and participation in the Maddie's Fund grant program.