



**CITY OF PALM DESERT**  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: July 11, 2025  
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers  
From: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk  
**Subject: City Council Meeting of July 10, 2025**

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Below you will find questions received from the Mayor or Councilmembers and answers provided by City staff regarding tonight's City Council meeting:

**ITEM 2a: STUDY SESSION - OVERVIEW OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES – PROPOSED CONTRACT AND COST RECOVERY MODEL**

**Q1: What is the City of Palm Springs' animal services delivery model, and what are its associated annual costs?**

**A1: In response to the City's inquiry, Dan Rossi, Executive Director of Greater Palm Springs Animal Allies, provided the following information:**

The City's multi-year contract (which is about to expire and will be renegotiated) is at an annual cost of \$1.3 million. The actual costs to run the shelter are about \$5.8 million. Currently, the difference is made up by our nonprofit fundraising, the balance (events, donation appeals, and grants). So, 22% city and 78% fundraising. The City of Palm Springs will need to pay more of this difference, as we cannot continue to fundraise at this level.

Our costs have significantly increased post-COVID-19: food, medicine, liability insurance, etc. The other issue is the cost of operating a shelter running at over 200% capacity. We had to increase staffing to about 55 FTEs, including a 2nd vet and additional vet techs (which cost a lot these days). We increased our entry-level wage to \$20 an hour to attract and keep staff. We have also had to increase marketing & advertising costs and pay fees to transfer animals in order to keep our shelter at a no-kill rate per the requirement in our contract.

From an operational standpoint, we purchase and take care of equipment (laundry systems, x-ray & other medical equipment, IT, etc.) The city takes care of items such as maintenance of the HVAC and other major systems. It's a bit complicated on who does what!

It costs a lot to operate a well-run shelter at a no-kill level these days!