

# PET ADOPTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

City Council Meeting  
April 23, 2026



PALM DESERT



# BACKGROUND

- Expand Public Access to Animal Services Programs
- Spay/Neuter Partnership with Animal Samaritans
- Demonstrates Clear Community Need for Animal Care Resources



# HOMeward PAWS ADOPTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (PILOT PROGRAM)

## Intent:

- Incentivize adoption of Palm Desert animals
- Reduce shelter overcrowding and length of stay
- Lower long-term shelter expenditures
- Help families with upfront pet costs



# PROGRAM FUNDING

- Reinvest documented shelter cost savings into adoption incentives.
  - Shelter cost savings for fiscal year 2025–2026 (Q1–Q2) is



# HOMeward PAWS ADOPTION STARTER GIFT CARD



Initial Set Up Costs \$125

Dogs:

- 2 bowls, collar, leash, waste bags, dry food, bed, toys.

Cats:

- 2 bowls, collar, litter box, scoop, clumping litter, carrier, dry food, bed, toys

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligibility requirements**

- Be a Palm Desert Resident
- Adopt from the Riverside County Animal Campus
- Provide proof of adoption
- License the animal with the City if required
- Limit: Two incentives per household per calendar year

- **Eligible adoptions**

- Species: Dogs and cats
- Shelter: Coachella Valley Animal Campus through Riverside County Animal Services
- Must be identified as originating from Palm Desert

# HOW THE PROGRAM PAYS FOR ITSELF

Animals Adopted	1 Day Shelter Savings (\$35.81)	\$125 Incentive Equivalent
50 Dogs/Cats	-\$1790	14
100 Dogs/Cats	-\$3,581	28
126 Dogs/Cats (Current)	-\$4,512	36

- To date 126 Palm Desert animals have been adopted at CVAC
- The average shelter stay is 13.2 days per cat/dog





# PILOT PROGRAM AND METRICS

## **PROPOSED LENGTH**

One year pilot program

## **SUCCESS METRICS**

Number of Palm Desert origin  
adoptions

Reduction in length of stay

Net shelter costs savings

# TRAP-NEUTER-RELEASE (TNR) MOBILE CLINIC

## RCAS TNR Clinic:

- Due to veterinary understaffing, RCAS has experienced clinic cancellations and limited capacity

## Potential Option:

- Convert one mobile spay/neuter clinic to a dedicated TNR event

## Fiscal Impact

- No additional funding required

## Consideration:

- Dedicated TNR transport bus for Palm Desert cats may be operationally challenging



# RECOMMENDATION

Staff presents the following options for the City Council's consideration:

- Allocate Animal Services budget savings from Q1-Q2 to establish a pilot one-year adoption incentive program for Palm Desert residents.
- Convert one budgeted mobile spay/neuter clinic to a Trap-Neuter-Release clinic for fiscal year 2025-26.

# THANK YOU

Richard Cannone  
Assistant City Manager  
Email: [rcannone@palmdesert.gov](mailto:rcannone@palmdesert.gov)

Erika Castellano  
Assistant to the City Manager  
Email:



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