Animal Care of Davis County

1422 East 600 North – Fruit Heights, Utah 84037
Telephone: (801) 444-2200 – TDD: (801) 451-3228 – Fax: (801) 444-2212

To: Davis County Budget Committee

From: Director Rollin Cook

Date: May 28, 2021

Re: Feasibility Study for Animal Care Facility and Services

Summary:

The Davis County Commission is considering the relocation and building of a new animal shelter, as well as, the level of animal care services needed today and in the future. It has become clear that the current facility is antiquated and failing to provide our citizens and the animals we serve the proper and progressive care required in today's world. These challenges reach beyond the facility and include the animal control operational responsibilities we have in our community.

Proposal:

Due to the complexities of such decisions, I am recommending and requesting the procurement of a feasibility study that would provide professional information necessary to do a project (planning, siting and constructing a new animal care facility) of this magnitude. An objective study is critical to ensure the new building and our animal care operations will effectively meet the needs and expectations of Davis County far into the future.

We currently occupy approximately 6 acres of 16.7 acres identified on the Davis County website. Additionally, the buildings are approximately 9,900 square feet. The size of the new campus would certainly be influenced by the need for additional outdoor space including recreation yards, pasture space, out buildings, storage, kennels, parking and the overall facility footprint.

It is very difficult to know how much land and square feet of the building is needed to have an efficient operations that will effectively provide services for Davis County over the next 25-30 years. For example, one of the locations we researched was Larimer Humane Society in Loveland, CO. It sits on a 30 acre campus and has 39,000 square feet. The other was Pocatello, ID that sits on approximate 3.5 acres and is 15,000 square feet. The first one listed was extravagant and the second is too small considering the number of services Animal Care of Davis County provides as compared to Pocatello, ID.

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Costs of the proposal:

This has been difficult to gauge as few animal care facilities have recently been built and those that have were done without proper vetting of the future impacts. We recently participated in a webinar that highlighted a non-profit facility that was newly built in Jacksonville, FL. The total cost to build the 15,000 square foot facility was around $5 million and the feasibility study conducted prior was $27,000.

The investment to accurately evaluate the needs of the County regarding a new facility and future services is critical to cost containment and project creep. I believe an investment of $25-$30,000 would provide the essential detailed report that would effectively inform and guide decision makers.

Benefits of the proposal:

The information contained above is evidence of the need to do a proper feasibility study and ensure Davis County builds the right facility, on the right site, with the right equipment and for the right price. It will also ensure that we continue to deliver effective animal care services in the neighborhoods and communities we serve.

Other considerations, if applicable:

I am happy to answer any questions you might have and appreciate your consideration of this proposal. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Animal Care Director