



Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: 2/19/2025

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Alder Land, on behalf of the Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, from Matt Witte, from Wisconsin Humane Society, requesting to host a large scale pet vaccination event for cats and dogs that reside in the 53404 zip code, request includes temporarily suspending ordinance section 70-90 Animals prohibited, to be held at Lincoln Park on Saturday May, 3 2025, (rain date Saturday May 10, 2025), from 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)

PREPARED BY: Tom Molbeck, Director of PRCS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Recommend that the request to host a large scale pet vaccination event for cats and dogs that reside in the 53404 zip code, including temporarily suspending ordinance section 70-90 Animals prohibited, to be held at Lincoln Park on Saturday May, 3 2025, (rain date Saturday May 10, 2025), from 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. be approved, provided PRCS Administration is in agreement with specific location details and that approval is also granted by other impacted departments.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

Context about WHS and the medical services we offer: The Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) is the largest and oldest animal welfare organization in Wisconsin. We operate shelters in Milwaukee County, Ozaukee County, Brown County, Door County, and, of course, Racine County. We also operate a high-quality, low-cost spay neuter clinic in West Allis.

In all of communities we serve, including Racine, we offer low-cost medical services to owned animals, mostly dogs and cats. We offer spay/neuter surgeries and core vaccines (rabies and distemper/parvo) for dogs and cats. We regularly host vaccine clinics at our shelter locations; community members can make an appointment to get their dog or cat vaccinated. We also have hosted annual outreach events where we offer free vaccines for dogs at cats at the Franklin Square Playground within the Milwaukee Public School parks and recreation system. Franklin Square Playground is a park in Milwaukee's 53206 zip code, the zip code with the highest rate of poverty and least access to many community services, including veterinary care. We know residents in that zip code face many barriers to accessing services for the pets they love, and by hosting these large-scale events in the community with free vaccines, we're able to remove geographical and financial barriers.

WHS has been in conversation with Dottie-Kay Bowersox of the Racine Health Dept about hosting a similar event in Racine's highest-poverty zip code, 53404, this summer. She supports the event and knows we are actively seeking venues. (Ms. Bowersox is WHS's primary contact at the City for the contracted services we offer.) There is public health benefit to these events, since we're able to bring vaccines that prevent rabies, a zoonotic disease that is transmissible to humans, to animals who may not otherwise have access to vaccines. In addition, reducing disease like parvovirus reduces suffering or animals and the families who love them. If you have questions about partnering with us, feel free to connect with Ms. Bowersox and/or we'd be happy to connect you with our contact at Milwaukee Recreation/Milwaukee Public Schools, Megan Frey, who has been our venue partner for our Milwaukee events.

Details about the event: This event will be modeled after the events we have successfully run at Milwaukee's Franklin Square Playground County since 2012.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend that the communication sponsored by Alder Land, on behalf of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director, from Matt Witte, from Wisconsin Humane Society, requesting to host a large scale pet vaccination event for cats and dogs that reside in the 53404 zip code, including temporarily suspending ordinance section 70-90 Animals prohibited, to be held at Lincoln Park on Saturday May, 3 2025, (rain date Saturday May 10, 2025), from 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. be approved, provided PRCS Administration is in agreement with specific location details and that approval is also granted by other impacted departments.