



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY of YORBA LINDA

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### ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** APRIL 21, 2026

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** PETER GRANT, CITY MANAGER  
**PREPARED BY:** ALLISON ESTES, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** APPROVE AN ANIMAL CARE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

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### RECOMMENDATION

Approve a five-year animal care services agreement with the County of Orange.

### SUMMARY

The recommended agreement extends the City's animal care partnership with the County of Orange for five years (July 1, 2026 through June 2031). There are no substantive changes from the about-to-expire 10-year agreement. The agreement ensures Yorba Linda continues to receive animal care, control, and shelter services in compliance with State and local law. The agreement allows for service levels to be adjusted as needed.

### DISCUSSION

The City has contracted with the County for animal care services since 1989. The current agreement, approved in 2016, provided for the construction of the County animal shelter in Tustin. Yorba Linda contributed approximately \$530,000 toward the shelter, and the City has vested interest in continued access to shelter and its services.

From FY 2024/25 to the last twelve months, dead animal pickups decreased from 292 to 251, and investigations from 344 to 252. Wild animal services decreased from 371 to 352, and barking dog complaints from 113 to 104. Animal charge days increased from 1,509 to 1,657. Pet licenses totaled 9,051 in FY 2024/25; 8,658 have been issued through the first nine months of FY 2025/26. Digital canvassing has increased licensing activity, generating 1,808 new license billings in FY 2024/25 compared to 1,022 in FY 2018/19 under the prior in-person approach.

The recommended agreement is the result of negotiations between the 14 cities that contract with the County for animal care services and OC Animal Care (OCAC). The Board of Supervisors approved the agreement in February. The recommended agreement maintains the existing scope of services and the cost structure. It has been enhanced with stabilized billing, options for flexible services (e.g., barking dog and off-leash dog

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enforcement), and a process for additional cities to contract with the County (which would lower overhead and shelter costs).

The Notice of Intent (NOI) is an annual process through which the County provides estimated service costs for the upcoming fiscal year based on service and revenue data. Final costs are based on actual services provided, offset by revenues. The City's actual net cost for the fiscal year may be higher or lower than the NOI. The cost for animal care and shelter services for FY 2026-27 is \$365,422. A 20% contingency (\$73,000) is recommended to account for fluctuations in service demand, particularly animal hoarding, which can dramatically increase a contracting city's costs. A funding request for this contingency would be recommended to the City Council as part of the Mid-Term Budget adjustments to cover unexpected service costs.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2026-27 Budget (1010710-430100).

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Do not approve the agreement and provide alternative direction.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Agreement for Provision of OC Animal Care Services with the County of Orange
  2. OC Animal Care - Notice of Intent FY 2026-27
  3. OCAC Fiscal Year Comparison
  4. OC Animal Care Services Fact Sheet
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