

**BOARD OF
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**KAREN BASS
MAYOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**

221 N. Figueroa Street
6TH Floor, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

CURTIS R. WATTS
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

October 16, 2025

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 3 REVIEW TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN \$800,000 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS TO FUND CANINE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR CONTRACT NO. C-145696, AND APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT

In accordance with the Mayor's Executive Directive No. 3, attached for your review is an \$800,000 grant agreement with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for the funding of the Department of Animal Service's (Department) Canine Enrichment Services contract with Dogs Playing for Life.

The Department executed a three-year contract with Dogs Playing for Life with total compensation not to exceed \$4.6 million, with assigned contract number C-145696 (Agreement). The term of the Agreement is from July 9, 2024 to July 8, 2027. Funding for the Agreement is contingent on funds provided in the City of Los Angeles Adopted Budgets for each year of the Agreement. Sufficient funds were provided for the first year of the Agreement. The 2025-26 Adopted Budget provided sufficient funds for six months of the second year of the Agreement. Without additional funding, the Department will likely be required to terminate the Agreement in January 2026. The Canine Enrichment Services

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SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 3 REVIEW TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN \$800,000 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS TO FUND CANINE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR CONTRACT NO. C-145696, AND APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT

contract is needed for the Department's efforts to enhance animal welfare across all six City Animal Services Centers.

On August 8, 2025, the ASPCA awarded the Department an \$800,000 grant to provide an additional six-months of funding for the Agreement to allow for continued canine enrichment services.

The Department requests approval to:

- Accept the \$800,000 grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for the funding of the Department's Canine Enrichment Services contract between Dogs Playing for Life (Contract No. C-145696); and
- Disburse the grant funds in accordance with the provision of the attached grant agreement.

The Department requests authorization:

- For the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a receivable from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the amount of \$800,000 within Fund 859, Department 6;
 - b. Appropriate \$800,000 to Account No. 06XXXX, ASPCA Grant-Canine Enrichment Services, within Fund 859, Department 6;
 - c. Transfer \$800,000 from Fund 859, Department 6, Account No. 06XXXX to Fund 100, Department 6, Account 003040 Contractual Services, which will be encumbered for contract number C-145696; and,
- To prepare Controller instructions for any necessary technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement instructions.

There will be no financial impact to the General Fund. Acceptance of this grant will enable the Department to pay Dogs Playing for Life for the entire second year of canine enrichment services.

Should you have questions or need additional information regarding this request, please contact Sharon Lee, Senior Management Analyst II, at (213) 482-9554.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Annette G. Ramirez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annette" and last name "Ramirez" clearly legible.

Annette G. Ramirez
Interim General Manager

c: Jacqueline Reyes, Office of the City Administrative Officer

Attachment: Grant Agreement

AGR:SCL:JBG

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Administration

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: September 25, 2025

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Curiel

REPORT DATE: September 18, 2025

TITLE: District Supervisor

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF AN \$800,000 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS TO FUND CANINE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR CONTRACT NO. C-145696, AND APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. **APPROVE** a grant agreement with American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to receive \$800,000 in funding for the Department's Canine Enrichment Services contract with Dogs Playing for Life (Contract No. C-145696), in substantially the form attached as Attachment 1;
2. **AUTHORIZE** the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a receivable from American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the amount of \$800,000 within Fund 859, Department 6;
 - b. Appropriate \$800,000 to Account No. 06XXXX, ASPCA Grant-Canine Enrichment Services, within Fund 859, Department 6;
 - c. Transfer \$800,000 from Fund 859, Department 6, Account No. 06XXXX to Fund 100, Department 6, Account 003040 Contractual Services, which will be encumbered for contract number C-145696;
3. **AUTHORIZE** the Department of Animal Services, or designee, to prepare Controller Instructions for any necessary technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions;
4. **REQUEST** the City Council to approve the Department's acceptance of the \$800,000 grant from the ASPCA;
5. **DIRECT** staff to transmit the Board's recommendation to the City Council; and,
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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF AN \$800,000 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS TO FUND CANINE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR CONTRACT NO. C-145696, AND APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT

6. **APPROVE** the disbursement of these funds restricted for the purpose of the grant.

BACKGROUND:

On November 14, 2023, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) authorized the Department of Animal Services (Department) to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a qualified, experienced canine enrichment provider to provide a Canine Enrichment Services Program at all six City Animal Service Centers. After the RFP process was completed, on May 14, 2024, the Board approved an agreement with Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) for a three-year term with total compensation not to exceed \$4.6 million, with assigned contract number C-145696 (Agreement). The term of the Agreement is from July 9, 2024 to July 8, 2027.

Funding for the Agreement is contingent on funds provided in the City of Los Angeles Adopted Budgets for each year of the Agreement. Sufficient funds were provided for the first year of the Agreement. The 2025-26 Adopted Budget provided sufficient funds for six months of the second year of the Agreement. Without additional funding, the Department will likely be required to terminate the Agreement in January 2026.

The Canine Enrichment Services contract is needed for the Department's efforts to enhance animal welfare across all six City Animal Service Centers. Since implementation, the enrichment provided has demonstrated significant benefits to the dogs in the Department's care, which includes reduced stress and behavioral challenges, and improved socialization. DPFL's expertise and consistent services have been instrumental in achieving these outcomes, contributing directly to the Department's lifesaving mission. Without continued funding, the Department risks disrupting these critical services, which would have a direct and negative impact on the wellbeing of shelter dogs and could hinder the Department's progress toward improving adoption rates and overall animal care. Accepting these grant funds will ensure funding for the second year of the Agreement, which will continue canine enrichment services to the dogs in the Department's care.

SUMMARY:

On August 8, 2025, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) awarded the Department an \$800,000 grant to provide an additional six-months of funding for the Agreement to allow for continued canine enrichment services. Accepting this grant will enable the Department to continue working with DPFL without disruption to services providing canine enrichment through dog playgroups, which encourage normal socialization with people and other dogs to combat Fear, Anxiety, and Stress (FAS) resulting in negative emotional and physical impacts of long-term shelter confinement.

Staff recommends that the Board approve a grant agreement with ASPCA, in substantially the form attached to this Report as Attachment 1, allowing the Department to receive the \$800,000 of funding. Staff also recommends that the Board request the City Council to accept the grant.

In its FY 2026-27 budget request, the Department will include a request for the third year of funding. If these funds are provided, the Department will be able to pay DPFL for the third and final year of canine enrichment services as specified in the Agreement.

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF AN \$800,000 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS TO FUND CANINE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR CONTRACT NO. C-145696, AND APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENT

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to the General Fund. Acceptance of this grant will enable the Department to pay DPFL for the entire second year of canine enrichment services.

Approved:



Annette G. Ramirez, Interim General Manager

Attachment 1 – Grant Agreement

BOARD ACTION:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Passed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disapproved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passed with noted modifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Date



Grant Agreement Reference:

NAME: **Los Angeles Animal Services**

PROJECT: **Six Months of Funding to Support DPFL Playgroups**

AMOUNT: **\$ 800,000**

GRANT NUMBER: **202508-33807**

GRANT EFFECTIVE DATE: **08/08/2025**

GRANT EXPIRATION DATE: **07/31/2026**

ASPCA GRANT OFFICER: **Jesse Oldham**

ASPCA GRANT MANAGER: **Dina Trefethen**

August 13, 2025

Annette Ramirez

221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite #600

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Annette Ramirez,

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the "ASPCA") is deeply honored to be able to grant to Los Angeles Animal Services (the "Grantee," and together with the ASPCA, the "Parties" and each a "Party") the amount of \$ 800,000 (the "Grant"). These funds are designated for Six Months of Funding to Support DPFL Playgroups, as described in the Grant request, the Grant Request Documents, and, if applicable, its amendments (the "Project") and subject to the terms of this agreement (the "Agreement").

The ASPCA shall issue the Grant to the Grantee approximately two to six weeks following receipt of the signed original contract, including all pages. By signing this Agreement, you represent and warrant that Grantee will meet the obligations specified in this Agreement.

Intending to be legally bound and in consideration of the Grant provided to the Grantee and the desire of the Grantee to conduct the Project, the parties hereby agree to the following terms and conditions as of the first date listed above (the "Effective Date"):

1. Grant Requirements. The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the Grant shall be used exclusively for costs incurred directly in connection with the Project and as set forth in this Agreement,

and that failure to do so will result in the Grantee having to return the Grant to the ASPCA within ten (10) days of the ASPCA's request to do so.

The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that any proposed changes to the Project, including, but not limited to, the Project goals and objectives, the use or purpose of funds, the distribution of funds across approved budget items, or any other substantive changes to the Project shall be fully approved by the Grant Officer and memorialized with an amendment to the Agreement prior to initiating any such changes.

Unless Grantee is expressly exempt from this requirement (e.g. as an agency or instrumentality of government), it shall meet the ASPCA Grantee Organizational Standards (the "Standards"), attached hereto as **Schedule 1**. If Grantee does not meet the standards by the Effective Date, the ASPCA may, in its sole discretion, grant additional time for the Grantee to come into compliance with the Standards. If additional time is granted, Grantee shall have 12-months or until the Expiration Date, whichever is sooner, to comply with the requirements and provide proof of compliance as a part of its required reporting.

The Grantee agrees that at no time will any funds it receives from the ASPCA be used to attempt to influence the outcome of any selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any public office or office of a political organization within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code Section 527(e)(2), and shall furthermore not use any of the funds it receives from the ASPCA to participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

For projects that include grant funds used to purchase food for a gathering of individuals, the Grantee will limit the use of ASPCA funds to purchase vegetarian, vegan, fish or welfare-certified meat products only. "Welfare-certified meat products" shall mean products that are from farms, obtained either directly or through another supplier (restaurant, retailer, etc.), that are certified by at least one of the following certification programs: (a) Animal Welfare Approved; (b) Certified Humane; and/or (c) Global Animal Partnership, Steps 2 and above. For more information about welfare-certified products or where to locate welfare-certified products, please visit <http://www.asPCA.org/take-action/help-farm-animals/finding-higher-welfare-products>.

Employees, volunteers or other associates of the Grantee whose food expenses are reimbursed or otherwise paid from ASPCA grant funds, including, but not limited to beneficiaries of travel stipends and scholarships, are strongly encouraged to choose higher-welfare meat products, fish, vegan or vegetarian food.

Grant Reporting:

The Grantee must submit reports (the "Grant Reports") to provide the ASPCA with information about the Project and to ensure the Grant is being used as described in this Agreement. Grant Reports shall be due per the following schedule:

Report Type	Due Date
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Interim Report	02/14/2026
Final Report	08/14/2026

The Grantee acknowledges it may be subject to additional reporting requirements as assigned by its ASPCA Grant Officer and set forth in the Grant record in Fluxx (the “Additional Reporting”). Additional Reporting shall be submitted as a part of the regular Grant Reports.

Grantees that fail to submit required documentation by the Final Report Due Date may jeopardize future grants and/or grant payments.

Grant Extensions:

Extension requests will not be considered for the Final Report Due Date. However, should the Grantee need a Grant extension due to unforeseen delays in the Project timeline, Grantee may request an extension by emailing grants@aspca.org before the Grant Expiration Date. The ASPCA shall review the Grantee’s request and may grant an extension to the Grant term. If the ASPCA declines the request for an extension, or if the Project is completed but carries a balance of unspent funds, the Grantee shall promptly refund and pay back to the ASPCA the unexpended balance.

Ad Hoc Requirements:

The ASPCA may request additional information regarding the Project. Upon such a request, the Grantee must provide the requested information in a timely manner. Such additional information may include but is not limited to receipts, photographs, and press information.

The ASPCA may choose to conduct site visits of the Grantee’s location(s). The Grantee must provide the ASPCA with access to such locations at a date and time mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

2. Compliance with the Law and Maintenance of Tax-Exempt Status. In carrying out the Project, the Grantee shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations including but not limited to all applicable federal, state, and local employment laws, regulations, and rules.

The Grantee agrees that it is the sole employer of all individuals who are compensated in whole or in part with Grant funds, or whose employment, fellowship or internship position arises in any way as a direct or indirect result of the Grant (each a “Funded Position”). The Grantee further agrees that it is exclusively responsible for the classification and engagement of any contractors whose fees and/or expenses are paid in whole or in part with Grant funds (“Funded Contractor”). Accordingly, the Grantee agrees that with respect to any Funded Position and/or any Funded Contractor, the Grantee is exclusively responsible for compliance with, and will comply with, any and all applicable federal, state and local employment laws, regulations and rules, including, but not limited to, any employer obligations to: (a) timely pay all wages or other compensation due; (b) withhold and remit employment taxes; (c) administer any required discipline; (d) provide insurance coverages; (e) prohibit discrimination or harassment based on any protected characteristic; and (f) provide any required leave or accommodation. The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the parties to this Agreement are in the relationship of Grantor and Grantee, and the use of Grant funds for Funded Positions and/or Funded

Contractors does not constitute a joint venture, affiliation, or joint employment relationship of any kind.

If the Grantee is a 501(c)(3) organization, the Grantee certifies that it is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service and shall notify the ASPCA immediately of any change in, or challenge by the Internal Revenue Service to, its status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

3. License. Each Party hereby grants to the other party a license to use the Party's name and trademarks on materials directly related to the activities of the Project and/or the Grant.

All use of the ASPCA name and trademarks must comply with the ASPCA's style guide. "ASPCA Trademarks" are: "ASPCA®", which must always appear in PMS 422 and 021, unless used in materials that are completely black and white in nature, in which case it may appear in black; and "The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®".

4. Acknowledgement of ASPCA Support. In consideration of the Grant, the Grantee may publicly acknowledge that the Project was made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA. If the Grantee chooses to make an acknowledgment, Grantee shall submit any Project acknowledgements that include the ASPCA's name or trademarks to press@aspcapro.org for review and approval prior to its inclusion in any materials prepared and intended to be distributed regarding the activities of the Project. No changes on the approved version of any Project acknowledgements shall be instituted by the Grantee without the prior written approval of the ASPCA. The ASPCA has the right in its sole discretion to require the Grantee to remove all references to the ASPCA's involvement if the ASPCA determines that the Grantee is not fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement or if for any other reason the ASPCA determines that it is no longer in the ASPCA's best interest to be referenced in such manner.

For further assistance regarding recognition of the Grant, including press releases, advisories, or general media outreach, please contact the ASPCA's Media Department at press@aspcapro.org or visit <https://www.aspcapro.org/media-and-promotional-materials-aspcar-grant-recipients> for press release templates, logos, and other media materials.

5. Records. The Grantee will keep accurate books and records with respect to the grant in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and business practices. The Grantee will keep records of receipts and expenditures made of Grant funds as well as copies of the reports submitted to the ASPCA and supporting documentation for at least three (3) years after completion of the use of the Grant funds, and will furnish or make available such books, records, and supporting documentation to the ASPCA for inspection at reasonable times from the time of the Grantee's acceptance of the Grant through such period.

6. Termination. The ASPCA may, in its sole discretion (i) withhold payment of funds until in its opinion the situation has been corrected or (ii) declare the Grant terminated in any of the following circumstances:

- a. If, as the result of the consideration of reports and information submitted to it by the Grantee or from other sources, the ASPCA, in its sole discretion, determines that continuation of the Project is not reasonably in furtherance of the ASPCA's mission to provide effective means for

the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States (the “ASPCA Mission”) or that the Project is not being executed in substantial compliance with the grant request (or work plan as revised) or that the Grantee is incapable of satisfactorily completing the work of the Project;

- b. In the case of any violation by the Grantee of the terms and conditions of this Agreement;
- c. In the event of any change in, or challenge by the Internal Revenue Service to, the Grantee’s status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization if applicable; or
- d. If it is revealed that, during the Project, the Grantee is or was involved in any activity or makes any statement disparaging of, or reflecting unfavorably upon the ASPCA, tarnishes the reputation of the ASPCA or is not in alignment with the ASPCA Mission.

If the ASPCA terminates the Grant, it shall so notify the Grantee, whereupon it, if so requested by the ASPCA, shall promptly refund and pay back to the ASPCA any unexpended balance of the Grant funds in the Grantee’s hands or under its control or any expended Grant funds deemed to have been misappropriated per the terms of this Agreement.

Upon completion of the Project or termination of this Agreement for any reason, the ASPCA will withhold any further payments of Grant funds. All such determinations by the ASPCA under this **Section 6** will be final, binding and conclusive upon the Grantee.

7. Future Funding. The Grantee acknowledges that the ASPCA and its representatives have made no actual or implied promise of funding except for the amounts specified in this Agreement. If any of the Grant funds are returned or if the Grant is rescinded, the Grantee acknowledges that the ASPCA will have no further obligation to the Grantee in connection with this Grant as a result of such return or rescission.

8. Miscellaneous. This Agreement is intended to be binding upon the Grantee and the ASPCA. This Agreement represents the final agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereto, and supersedes any and all prior agreements, written or oral, between the parties with respect to the matters contained herein. This Agreement is not intended to, nor shall it be deemed to create, any partnership or joint venture between the Grantee and the ASPCA. This Agreement shall be interpreted, governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to the conflict of laws principles thereof. The parties hereto acknowledge and consent to personal jurisdiction and venue exclusively in New York, New York with respect to any action or proceeding brought in connection with this Agreement. This Agreement may be executed by the parties hereto in counterparts, each of which, when executed and delivered, shall be deemed to be an original and all of which shall constitute together the same document.

If the terms and conditions of this Agreement are acceptable, please sign this Agreement and return it to us. By signing this Agreement, you represent and warrant that you are capable of binding the Grantee to the terms set forth in this Agreement.

Sincerely,

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Signed by:

Beverly Jones

2C95EE5013234E1...
Beverly Jones

Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

Los Angeles Animal Services

DocuSigned by:

Annette Ramirez

By (signature of CEO/President/Director):

F5A050DF6A48459...

Name/Title: Annette Ramirez

Interim General Manager

Schedule 1

ASPCA Grantee Organizational Standards

- Must have at least 4 board members
- Majority of the board must be independent¹
- Chairperson and Treasurer shall not be compensated
- Business registration must be current/active in the Grantee's state of incorporation
- Charitable registration must be current/active in the state of the Grantee's primary location
(for grants =>\$25,000)
- No overdue reports for any ASPCA grants, if applicable
- No overdue balances on prior grants, if applicable

¹ This means that fewer than half of Grantee's Board members may be paid employees and/or family members or close relatives.