



September 11, 2022

Dear Supervisor Mashburn,

My name is Kelly Palm, and I am the shelter vet at the SPCA of Solano County out on Peabody Road. We worked together on Buckingham's Sober Grad night years ago.

I am reaching out on behalf of the SPCA in hopes of being considered for grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. These funds are intended to provide support to the County in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and its impacts on our residents, businesses, and community. The SPCA is submitting an unsolicited request to the Solano County Board of Supervisors for ARPA funding.

The SPCA of Solano County is a non-profit animal shelter formed in 1984, wherein all funding comes from private donations, surrender and adoption fees, low-cost monthly vaccine clinics and fund raisers. As a result of Covid 19, the SPCA has not been able to hold their annual fundraiser, which is the shelter's largest source of funding. Due to the negative economic impact this has had on the shelter, we have been applying for any available grants/other potential funding sources to help mitigate the financial hardship we have been experiencing.

I have been working with Debbie Dillion the Shelter Director and Melinda Ingram, a volunteer for the SPCA. Together, we applied for state funding from the California for All Animals Program administered by the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. Governor Newsome had included in the State's FY 2020-21 budget a one-time General Fund allocation of \$50 million for the California for All Animals Program where no adoptable or treatable dog or cat should be euthanized. The funding was temporarily reappropriated due to Covid 19 but was fortunately received by the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program in February of this year.

The SPCA qualified for the second round of grant funding and submitted a proposal at the end of June. We have been following the progress of California for All Animals Program since early January 2021 when we first contacted the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. From that point, we have received nothing but encouragement and positivity, communicating on a regular basis regarding the progress of the program and funding availability. We were very excited and grateful to finally have an opportunity to obtain funds to help bridge the gap in resources for the SPCA due to Covid 19.

We were notified several weeks ago that the SPCA of Solano County would not receive any of the available funding from the over \$7.5M that has been awarded. We were very surprised by the decision and are waiting to get more information as to why our organization did not receive even partial funding of our grant proposal.

We are attaching a grant proposal and budget totaling \$135,000 for the SPCA to be considered to receive ARPA funds. The proposal explains the items being requested and why it would be beneficial to the organization if we were to receive them.

Several years ago (2015) we had undertaken a significant project to remodel one of the animal support areas which had asbestos and mold issues in addition to just being old and dilapidated. A number of local contractors, businesses and individuals have generously donated almost all the goods, services and labor for this project, which was just recently completed. We are including pictures of that process of the modular (now called the medical building) before the remodel, the remodel process and with the remodel complete. Also included are pictures of the two areas where we are requesting artificial turf to be installed.

As you can see, we rely on the generosity and support of our dedicated community volunteers, individuals and local businesses to carry on the SPCA of Solano County's Mission of Uniting Pets With Their People.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide any other information. We welcome you and any other Board Members to come out to visit and tour the shelter.

Thank you for the Board's consideration of our request for America Rescue Plan Act funds.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Palm*

Kelly Palm DVM  
SPCA of Solano County Shelter Veterinarian



**Organization Name:** SPCA of Solano County

**Project Name:** Comprehensive Care For All Animals

**Project Expenditure Category:** Negative Economic Impacts

**Project Funding Source:** American Rescue Plan Act

**Requested Funding Amount:** \$135,000

**Date of Funding Request:** September 11, 2022

#### **Summary of the Projects:**

The SPCA of Solano County is an Independent Non-Profit Animal Shelter located at 2200 Peabody Road in Vacaville.

The purpose of our shelter is Uniting Pets With Their People. We focus on providing every animal in our care with all necessary medical treatment and personal attention and interactions that supports both their physical and mental well-being.

The SPCA of Solano County is requesting funding from American Rescue Plan Act funds received by Solano County. The funding we are requesting consists of several projects. Each project has a specific purpose with the overall goal of increasing capacity for care and a better quality of life for all animals who come to our facility.

##### ➤ **Project #1- Direct Radiography System**

Several years ago, a local retiring veterinarian donated his analog x-ray system to the SPCA. This unit is not currently operational. We are requesting to upgrade this existing x-ray system to a digital x-ray system. Currently, when an animal in our care needs x-rays, we take them to a local veterinary clinic. Not all animals are able to receive x-rays due to the cost and difficulty of transporting animals to and from another clinic. Upgrading the donated system to make it functional, would give us the ability to perform x-ray services on site.

##### ➤ **Project #2- Direct Radiography System Prep Work**

Materials and labor to install lead-lined drywall in approximately 8.4' x 8.5' wall. This also includes radiation safety supplies for staff, thyroid shields, lead aprons, gloves, markers, patient measuring device, radiation signs, etc.

➤ **Project #3- Idexx Veterinary Software and Computer Equipment**

Software for digital records, vaccines certificate, prescription management and more. Currently, this information is prepared manually for all animals in our care. This would provide for a secure and efficient way to store and retain information. We also administer a monthly low-cost vaccine clinic for local residents. Having the ability to electronically issue certificates would greatly enhance our efficiency and reduce wait time for clinic customers.

➤ **Project #4- Artificial Turf**

Artificial turf installed in two separate areas (Area 1- 2,104 sqft. / Area 2- 1,492 sqft.). The purpose for installing artificial turf is to have separate year-round areas where dogs can participate in play groups and exercise, as well as meet their potential forever family. The grounds for these two areas are currently a mix of dirt, base rock, and weeds. It is important that the dogs residing at the shelter either gain or do not lose the social skills that make them more adoptable. One of our local organizations volunteered to do a project for the shelter. They purchased and installed chain link fencing, making a good size enclosed area. The organization was also planning to install artificial turf, but unfortunately were unable to complete the project.

➤ **Project #5- Fencing Panels Installed**

Donated fencing panels need to be installed around the entire perimeter of the shelter property. This will provide safety and security for the animals, as the shelter is located on a heavily traveled road. There is currently some donated chain-link fencing along the entrance to the shelter, adjacent to Peabody Road. The rest of the property has some temporary and wire fencing with numerous gaps and an inconsistent fence line.

**Shelter Partners:**

We partner with Humane Animal Services of Solano County where we receive, treat, and care for the stray, sick, injured, and abused animals they pick up. Once the animals with medical issues are healed, they become available for adoption.

Our list of shelter partners continues to grow, most especially from the continuing wildfire issues we experience in California. We transfer animals from all over the state to create much needed space for our rescue partners during these crisis situations which in turn makes room for animals displaced from wildfires. We do the same for our partner shelters who may become overwhelmed with animal intake or have animals they are unable to properly care for. Some of our shelter partners include Fresno Humane Animal Services, Tehama County Animal Care Center-Red Bluff, Humane Society of Sonoma County, Northwest SPCA-Oroville, Rotts of Friends, Yolo County Animal Services, Tulare County Animal Shelter, Muttville, Front Street, and Stanislaus Animal Services.

Our shelter medicine program has learned to effectively network with other organizations to provide medical procedures we cannot perform in-house. We recently partnered with Saving Gracie, a nonprofit that provides funds for animals needing lifesaving surgery or other necessary veterinary treatment. A dog came to our shelter needing a bone plate for a femoral fracture and by networking with Saving Gracie, we obtained the services of a specialist and the funds from Saving Gracie to perform the procedure and are happy to report Camillo has successfully recovered and been adopted.

Oakland Children's Hospital- A staff member from the facility (who lives locally) reached out to us about a problem with feral cats. Ambulances deploying on calls were having a difficult time exiting the hospital due to the high number of feral cats in the area. We were able to assist staff to trap the cats/kittens on the property, spay/neuter them, keep the ones that were adoptable and release those that weren't back in the area.

When remodeling our state-of-the-art medical building to care for animals, we relied on our amazing, dedicated community volunteers and local businesses as our partners. They have all so graciously contributed their expertise, time, supplies and services, adding much value to the ongoing success of our shelter medicine program. And because of this, we now have the ability to take major medical cases from other less equipped shelters and provide the lifesaving/changing treatment that many animals need.

**What we hope to achieve and how will the funding change the shelter's operations or programs:**

The shelter's core operations and programs will benefit from and be improved by the projects we want to accomplish with the ARPA funding.

We hope to expand the services we provide to have the ability to serve more animals.

- Veterinary care can range from spay/neuter procedures, treatment for illness (parvo, ringworm, calicivirus, kennel cough, pneumonia, giardia, URD etc.), treatment for animals not properly cared for, abandoned, and abused. We currently can provide comprehensive dental work, mass removals, cystotomies, foxtail removals in many locations, Heartworm Disease and diagnose and treat dermatological cases, besides the typical diseases that run rampant in animal shelters.
- Medical care services will expand and be enhanced with the digital x-ray system, allowing us to perform procedures onsite. This will be a significant shift in how medical services are delivered, giving us the ability to serve more animal's needs. The HVAC mini-split unit for the surgical building will allow us to perform medical procedures year-round in a safe and comfortable environment for all animals, staff, and volunteers. The anesthesia machines will ensure we have the right equipment to properly care for all animal's needs. The result of transitioning from manual record keeping to an automated system will enable us to increase the efficiency of how medical care is delivered using veterinary software.
- With the model "Dogs Playing for Life" the artificial turf project would provide 3 separate play yards that can be used year-round providing much needed environmental enrichment for the dogs while they are waiting to find their forever homes. Studies have shown shelter dogs that are able to socialize, play, and not be confined in their kennels are mentally and physically healthier making them more adoptable.

Our shelter participates in the Fear Free Shelter Program. Having these alternative areas will assist our staff and volunteers in helping reduce stressors in the shelter. In addition, this significantly helps the animal's adjustment period as they transition into their new forever homes, which is what we ultimately want to achieve.

- Safety for the animals in our care will be improved with a secure, fully fenced property.

**What success will look like:**

Success will be empowerment to increase our capacity to care for more animals and for delivering that care more effectively, economically, and efficiently. It will mean having more reliable equipment, including advanced imaging,

The ARPA funds will enable us to continue to help our community animals and our rescue partners facing difficult decisions based on lack of veterinary staff and care. Additionally, we would be providing onsite medical care for each animal's physical and mental health. With implementation of these needed improvements, we hope to decrease each animal's length of stay while at the same time adding value to their lives.

The SPCA of Solano County has become a destination shelter and with these requested items, it will allow us to continue assisting our rescue partners who face overcrowded facilities and lack of veterinary support.

By fostering an environment where we continue to seek change to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of how services are delivered will allow us to serve more animals.

Ultimately, success will be the continuation of the SPCA of Solano County's Mission of Uniting Pets With Their People.

# Comprehensive Care for All Animals Project

Budget/Item	Description	Total Project Budget
1. Direct Radiography System- Universal Imaging	Universal DR System to digitalize donated equipment and x-ray table.	\$50,550
2. Direct Radiography System Prep Work- Bowser Construction	Install lead-lined drywall per required code for x-ray machine (\$8,921). Additional \$2,000 for radiation safety supplies.	11,000
3. Idexx Veterinary Software & Computer Equipment for Software	Software for digital records, vaccines certificate, prescription management and more. (data conversion/setup, training, annual subscription. 2 laptops/2 printers/1 label printer.	8,650
4. Artificial Turf-Heavenly Greens	Site preparation and installation of HG Petplay Artificial Turf in 2 designated areas.	51,140
5. Installation of donated William Scots temporary fencing panels- Tri-City Fence Co., Inc.	Install 1,260 ft. of donated temporary fence panels around perimeter of property.	13,660
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGET</b>		<b>\$135,000</b>