

For the Agenda of:  
June 17, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Department of Animal Care and Regulation  
Subject: Savings From Not Vaccinating Animals At Time Of Intake  
Supervisory District: All  
Contact: Pat Claerbout

**BACKGROUND**

During the discussion of the Report Backs the question was raised “What would be the savings if we did not vaccinate all animals at the time they enter the shelter and only vaccinate the animals that are later placed for adoption.”

**DISCUSSION**

The Department strives to meet the standard in animal welfare to prevent and control disease among the shelter population. Recognized Best Practices from the Humane Society of the United States, The ASPCA and both the U.C. Davis Shelter Medicine Program and Cornell University Shelter Program provide the Department authoritative guidance on these standards and state that all dogs and cats should be vaccinated at the time they enter a shelter to control disease. Following this practice has proven to be effective in the control of disease outbreaks in the shelter.

The current cost estimate for the vaccination program is \$34,000 while the cost of the vaccinations for adopted animals is recouped in the adoption fees. The Department will continue to consult with those providing guidance in shelter medicine to reduce cost wherever possible and report the results to the Board at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

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PAT CLAERBOUT, Director  
Animal Care and Regulation

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PAUL HAHN, Administrator  
Municipal Services Agency