

November 22,2017

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Please consider a possible increase in budgeting for the contracted position of the City Veterinarian.

Currently, the annual contract for veterinary services is approximately **one hundred and seven thousand dollars** for her work within the LACC facility and the new surgical suite. (\$107,823.)

I am asking that you allow for funding to allow for an expansion of the role of the City Veterinarian, to make better use of her expertise.

Our City Veterinarian can better serve our community by participating in policy and programming decisions regarding all aspects of animal welfare, and in community outreach.

She is the only city employee, though a contract worker, who has years of education and experience in animal services. She's professionally trained in the health and safety of animals.

In Toronto where the city provides animal services directly, several veterinarians are employed. Some of these veterinarians are highly visible within the community and provide education and outreach in the community. They are sometimes instigators in programming and are available to citizens and council for discussion on policy.

By taking advantage of their qualifications, Toronto is widely seen as a leader in effective animal services. Their visibility in the community provides a sense of confidence in the city service and contributes to citizen satisfaction.

If we are going to make the best use of city funding it makes sense that we would make as much use as possible of the only person paid by the city who has trained for a career in animal welfare.

I can discuss further how the City Veterinarian can provide additional oversight of programs and help with programming and policies. For now, I hope that you will agree that it is a waste of her education and experience to not involve her more fully in decision making.

Vicki Van Linden