

Purpose of Proposal:

Washtenaw County is accepting detailed proposals to provide the County with sheltering services for certain stray and abandoned dogs and in some instances other animals involved in criminal cases and suspected rabies holding periods. The Contractor is expected to produce a structured, performance-oriented proposal that will fully describe the services to be provided with a detailed explanation of the price that the Contractor will charge for those services.

Background:

For many years Washtenaw County has contracted with the Humane Society of Huron Valley (“HSHV”) to provide a sheltering facility for dogs and other animals to which the County has a legal responsibility under Michigan law. While the County has been pleased with HSHV’s past provision of such services, the contract has never been competitively bid out. The County’s Board of Commissioner’s has now directed County Administration to competitively bid out for these services.

Contractor Qualifications:

The selected bidder must be currently licensed or willing to become licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development to operate an animal shelter. There is no license fee which must be paid to the State to obtain this license, but it is necessary to complete the State’s application and meet their licensing standards. The process may be found on the State’s website at www.michigan.gov. Please refer to the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development section of that website to obtain this information.

In addition, the selected bidder must abide by all Michigan laws and regulations that pertain to animal shelters which may be found at www.michigan.gov/mdard

Scope of Services:

The Contractor will be responsible for the following:

1. Provide a shelter to hold stray and unlicensed dogs for the statutory holding period of 4 days (if the dog has indicia of ownership, i.e. collar, license, etc.) and 7 days (dog has no indicia of ownership). While in the Contractor’s care, these dogs must receive proper food, water, adequate exercise and veterinary care. Please note that the County is not requiring you to hold stray cats, birds or any other animals and will not generally pay for such animals which you voluntarily choose to board. The Contractor will only be required to accept stray and unlicensed dogs from Washtenaw County residents with proof of residency and law enforcement agencies located within Washtenaw County. Please note that dogs that are voluntarily surrendered by their owners are not considered stray dogs and, as such, do not come within the County’s responsibility under the proposed contract.

2. Provide a means to humanely euthanize such dogs pursuant to those methods approved by the State Department of Agriculture after the statutory holding period has expired. Please note that while the County's financial support to hold such dogs only lasts through the statutory holding period (4-7 days as noted above), the Contractor has the right to continue holding those dogs beyond that time period at its own expense if it is interested in adopting or transferring of the dog in a different legal and humane manner.
3. Provide a shelter to house those animals which are the subject of certain animal cruelty investigations, specifically MCLA 750.50 and MCLA 750.50(b) until such time as the legal proceeding is ended or the court overseeing the case orders the animal forfeited to your facility. If such a forfeiture occurs, the County's legal responsibility to your facility to board the animal ends on the effective date of the forfeiture and you will be free to immediately dispose of the animal through adoption or other means.
4. Provide a shelter to house those animals which are consider either "dangerous" under MCLA 287.321 because they have bitten a human or attacked another dog or have been involved in dog-fighting pursuant to MCLA 750.49. You should be aware that boarding expenses for animals held under these Michigan Statutes are ultimately the responsibility of the animals' owner if he/she may be located. For those cases where the owners of the animals have been identified, the County shall have no legal responsibility to pay for the care of these animals. It is the Contractor's duty to collect these boarding costs from the owners of the animals. Likewise, if a judge in an animal cruelty case orders the owner of the animal to pay for boarding costs of that animal, the County will not be responsible for such costs and it will be the Contractor's responsibility to collect these costs from the animal's owner.
5. Provide a shelter to hold those animals suspected of being rabid or of having contact with another rabid animal for the holding periods as established by the State of Michigan. For most cases the maximum time such animals are held for observation is 10 days.
6. Provide monthly reporting to the County indicating how many animals were held by the shelter for the County that month, from which political jurisdiction those animals originated, the number of total days for those animals and the reason why the animal is being held (i.e. stray dog, cruelty prosecution, rabies hold, etc.). In addition, the Contractor agrees to announced or unannounced inspections of the shelter by the County and/or Sheriff's Office. The County will provide a telephone number and e-mail address to encourage shelter staff, volunteers and customers to report problems or suspected irregularities.
7. (Optional) Beginning in October, 2012, on an as needed basis, facilitate the processing of suspected rabid animals for testing by euthanizing the animal and sending its head to the MDCH in Lansing for rabies testing. A vendor who chooses not to bid on this subsection of the RFP is not precluded from responding to the rest of the duties requested by the County under this RFP.

H: general/dogrfp