

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY CLERK AND ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

DESCRIPTION

Re: Updated Animal Control By-Law

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Deputy Clerk and Accessibility Coordinator be received;

And that the draft Animal Control By-Law be available for public comment for a two week time frame;

And that staff report back to the By-Law and Planning Committee with a summary of public comments.

BACKGROUND

The Animal Control By-law provides standards to prohibit and regulate animals and dogs running at large, breeding and boarding establishments. Licencing and identification and the provision of pounds.

The current by-law has seen several amendments; however, a comprehensive review has not been undertaken since 2001.

ANALYSIS

In a comprehensive review of the Animal Control By-Law, updates have been made to meet current legislation and community needs reflected in the attached revised version to repeal the current one. All changes have been highlighted for review; the amendments made are as follows:

- The following definitions have been added to the bylaw in order to modernize process and increase enforceability.
 - Animal sound
 - At large
 - Control
 - Council
 - Competent Person
 - Confined Space
 - Distress
 - Service Dog
 - Vehicle

- Visually Impaired
- All notations to either a dog or cat have been amalgamated to reflect dog/cat or dog/cat/animal;
- Public beaches have been specifically identified for clarity and ease of enforcement;
- All sections noting breeding and boarding establishments have been removed from this By-Law to be noted as a section in the business licensing and registration By-Law;
- All items in reference to exotic animals listed in the by law have been removed as they will be cross-referenced with the stand alone exotic animals By-Law;
- All schedules have been updated to coincide with what is in the bylaw and to provide all documentation referred to through out the bylaw;
- The following schedules have been added for document centralization of information and ease of reference:
 - Schedule A: *"The Corporation of the city of Elliot Lake Animal License Tag Registration/ Renewal Form for Dog and/or Cat"*.
 - Schedule B: *"Corporation of the City of Elliot Lake Declaration Regarding a Dangerous Dog"*.
 - Schedule C: *"Pound Release Form"*.
 - Schedule D: *"Dog House Construction Guidelines"*

Due to the increase in dog attack occurrences a set fine has been set of \$1000.00 for - Dog/ Dangerous Dog attack as noted in section 5.k. of this By-Law and upon approval of the Attorney General.

At the time of drafting this report the Ministry of the Solicitor General informed the Clerks & Planning Department via email of updates to Ontario Regulation 444/19 (Standards of Care and Administrative Requirements) under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (PAWS Act). The updated standards of care for dogs kept outdoors and dogs tethered outdoors are now in effect as of July 1, 2022. This will be reviewed and compared to this current draft in order to determine whether further additions/ amendments are need.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All fees and fines have been updated as per current community trends and needs and have been sent to the Attorney General for approval as noted above.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through Health and community wellness.

SUMMARY

With the repeal of the current By-Law and implementation of this amended version, this by-law will be more effective and efficient for the purposes of Animal control and responsible pet ownership and enforceability by the municipal enforcement officers in partnership with the pet owner.

It is recommended that the proposed by law be open for public review and then brought back to committee in partnership with a synopsis of community input.