

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY CLERK AND ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

DESCRIPTION

Re: Updated Animal Control and Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law.

RECOMMENDATION

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

And that final draft By-Law derived from recommendations from staff, the committee, public input, the Attorney General fee-schedule revisions for Animal Control and Responsible Pet Ownership be approved by committee;

And that the final draft By-Law be forwarded to Council for adoption and implementation.

BACKGROUND

At the September 6, 2022 By-Law and Planning Committee meeting a synopsis of the public input submitted during the four-week timeframe was amalgamated into a report and presented to committee for review and consideration. From this the attached by-law has been drafted with the levels of input and review.

ANALYSIS

The Animal Control and Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law provides standards to prohibit and regulate animals and dogs running at large, licensing identification and encouraging responsible pet ownership within the Elliot Lake community. With the repeal of the current By-Law and implementation of all levels and phases of updates, the by-law reflects the current legislation and community needs. Amendments included to develop this final draft of the By-law are identified through out the attached document as listed in the identifying colours identified below:

Attorney General / Staff (including public input).

The definition of a “Service Dog” was initially implemented the city’s By-Law for the sole purposes of the licensing identification tag exemption. The Clerk’s and Planning department has taken all input received on this item into careful consideration and have removed the reference of “service dog” through out the By-Law to allow for the same access to tag fees for all members of the municipality.

The requirement to hold onto an animal for a minimum of 72 hours is born from the *Animals for Research Act*. The Municipality may pass a By-law that enhances the minimum 72 hours that an animal is held, although cannot by by-law reduce that period of time.

“Redemption period

20 (1) *The minimum redemption period shall be three days, excluding the day on which the dog or cat was impounded, or such longer period as the regulations prescribe and holidays shall not be included in calculating any redemption period. R.S.O. 1990, c. A.22, s. 20 (1).”*

“Notification by operator

(4) Where the operator of a pound has impounded a dog or cat that has a tag, name plate or other means of identification, the operator shall,

(a) notify the nearest office of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or any society affiliated therewith, except where the pound is operated by such society or affiliated society; and

(b) take all reasonable steps to find the owner of the dog or cat and shall forthwith notify the owner, if found, that the dog or cat has been impounded. R.S.O. 1990, c. A.22, s. 20 (4).”

With recent events in the community and the noted updates to this By-Law along with anticipated updates to future By-Laws the need for a third By-Law officer is becoming more apparent for many reasons including the need for evening and weekend coverage, additional capacity, and enforceability.

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 review.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project aligns with the City’s Strategic Plan through Environmental stewardship and Health and community wellness.

SUMMARY

With the repeal of the current Animal Control By-Law and implementation of the proposed amended version including the many layers of public input, consultation, and engagement along with review by both internal and external city resources, this By-Law will be more effective and efficient for the purposes of enforceability and for the betterment of the community.

It is recommended that final draft of this By-Law be approved and forwarded to council for adoption and implementation.