

### REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY CLERK AND ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

Re: Amendment to By-Law No. 22-100

#### RECOMMENDATION

That By-Law No. 22-100, being a By-Law to regulate animal control and ensure responsible pet ownership in the City of Elliot Lake, be amended to add the terms “Pound Keeper” and “Agency” and their definitions;

And that Council pass the appropriate amending By-Law.

#### BACKGROUND

The City has an animal shelter situated at 3B Timber Road. The purpose of this shelter is to house stray, wandering or at large domesticated animals that have been humanely caught or trapped by Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officers who are also designated as Animal Control Officers for the City.

The City in conjunction with various provincial statutes has always enforced and maintained an animal control by-law that regulates stray and at large domestic animals and licensing said domestic animals. The City in recent times has adjusted their level of service and budgeted accordingly to ensure there is enough staffing and equipment to carry out these duties.

The City once had a working relationship with an animal rescue, the City would surrender any cat and/or dog that the City had in its care. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the partnership is no longer. Due to this change it left the City with considerable strain on its domestic animal shelter resources and budget as the City was not prepared for such a change to occur.

In addition, as the City moved past the Covid-19 pandemic, the Municipal By-Law Department has noticed through licensing initiatives and related calls for service that there has been an increase in the number of domesticated animals that now reside within the community. It is estimated that for every 1 dog or cat that is licensed through the City, 5 more go unlicensed. The increase in animal related calls for service has also put an additional strain on the Municipal By-Law Department and the City's shelter. These calls are typically related to animals running at large, aggressive dogs, dog bites and as mentioned, the increased desire for citizens to surrender their pets. In an effort to address current issues/concerns the Municipal By-Law Department has reached out to neighbouring communities such as Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury in an attempt to relocate animals that the City has had in its care. This proved to be successful for a very limited time. It was quickly discovered that the City's neighbouring communities were experiencing the same issues with their shelters and foster systems at or over capacity.

With Municipal By-Law Officers working often 7 days a week over the course of the Spring and Summer of 2023, including days and evenings, coupled with a perceived need to stay ahead of any potential public health situation, with public safety in mind, an additional avenue to deal with unwanted dogs and cats needed to be implemented.

## **ANALYSIS**

After discussion it was determined through the City's By-Law Department that the City's animal control by-law should be amended to recognize and include the position of "Pound Keeper" within the by-law.

A "Pound Keeper" means that person employed by the Agency under a contract with the City who carries out the operation of the pound pursuant to the Animals for Research Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A.22, Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 13 and Pounds Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 17 and regulations thereunder as amended.

An "Agency" means any institution or body under contract with the City to provide animal care services.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

N/A

## **LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Strong Municipal Corporate Administration and Governance:

- Review and update by-laws, policies, and procedures

## **SUMMARY**

Recognizing "Pound Keeper" in the City's animal control by-law will allow for an individual or agency to address the gap in animal control service levels and utilize the City's animal shelter building as a method of housing and isolating animals.