

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 20, 2005

**DOG OWNERS' LIABILITY ACT AMENDMENT
PIT BULLS**

Recommendation

The Solicitor/Litigation recommends that this report be received for information.

Purpose

To provide information concerning the amendments to the *Dog Owners' Liability Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. D. 16.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact as a result of this status report.

Background

Amendments to the *Dog Owners' Liability Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. D. 16, will go into effect on August 29, 2005. The legislation will ban pit bulls, including their ownership, breeding, transferring, abandoning or importing.

Analysis and Options

There will be a 60-day transition period after August 29, 2005, wherein owners of existing pit bulls will be required to have them spayed or neutered, leashed and muzzled while in public, and must comply with any additional requirements set by municipalities.

The new legislation will contain a "grandfathering clause", allowing existing pit bulls owned in Ontario before the legislation becomes effective, to be considered "grandfathered" or restricted pit bulls, as long as they comply with the legislation and its regulations. Pit bulls born within 90 days of the date that the legislation becomes effective are also "grandfathered".

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Staff is reviewing various issues regarding the amendment including fencing and dog runs, and will report to Council in September.

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

**Nancy Salerno
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**Robert Swayze
Commissioner of Legal and
Administrative Services**

NS/gg