

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 11, 2010

ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW 53-2002 AMENDMENT – ALL WARDS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services and City Solicitor, and the Director of Enforcement Services recommend:

- 1) That an exemption to the restriction on the number of animals that can be kept in a residence as outlined in Part 4 of the Animal Control By-law, 53-2002 be added to the By-law to allow up to 6 dogs or 6 cats to be kept in a dwelling provided that the dwelling is registered and licensed as a “Rescue” agency; and
- 2) That the Director of Enforcement Service be appointed as Poundkeeper in order to act within the provisions the Pounds Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.17; and
- 3) That Part 9 subsection 2 of the Animal Control By-law, 53-2002, be amended by deleting reference to the Senior Manager of Bylaw Enforcement, and replacing it with the term Poundkeeper.

Economic Impact

N/A

Contribution to Sustainability

By allowing more animals to be housed in a registered Rescue Agency, there is an increased chance of an animal being adopted.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

This amendment will be advertised on the City website.

Purpose

This report is to introduce amendments to the Animal Control By-law 53-2002.

Background - Analysis and Options

By-law 53-2002, the Animal Control By-law, contains restrictions on the number of dogs and cats that may be kept in a dwelling. Part 4 of the By-law states that no more than three dogs and three cats may be kept. This part does create an exception for those that operate a licensed kennel.

The City of Vaughan Zoning By-law restricts the location of Kennels to those lands zoned “Agricultural”. Although there have been one or two kennels licensed in the past, there are currently none licensed in the City of Vaughan.

The City of Vaughan is committed to operating a well functioning, high quality animal shelter. In order to provide the greatest opportunity for adoption of “hard to place” animals, Vaughan will be establishing a program to encourage “foster/rescue” homes. This is a program that exists in

several other municipalities. Staff are recommending an exemption to the Animal Control By-law to allow Registered foster/rescue homes to house up to six dogs or cats at a time.

This would create opportunities to place some un-adopted animals into "Rescue" or foster care. These animals would continue to be available for adoption and would be featured on the Animal Shelter website.

In order to limit any impact on the community, the number of dogs or cats that can be held in "rescue" or foster care at any given time will be a total of six. That means there can be any combination of dogs or cats, but not to exceed a total of six animals at any given time.

In order to ensure that the animals are properly cared for, such facilities will be required to meet specific requirements and licensing provisions which will be implemented shortly.

Poundkeeper

The Pounds Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.17 provides for the impounding and charging of costs related to large farm animals (cattle, goat, horse, sheep or swine) and poultry found at large. The Pounds Act provides the authority to charge the costs of impounding of an animal to the animal owner. The Act also provides an enforcement provision that allows for charges to be laid for those that do not comply with the Act.

In order to enforce the provisions of the Act, an individual must be appointed by Council. Staff are recommending that the Director of Enforcement Services be appointed as Poundkeeper. The existing Animal Control By-law makes reference to the position of Senior Manager of By-law Enforcement acting in that capacity, but no appointment was made.

Enforcement Services does respond to complaints of cows and poultry at large in the rural areas of the City. This amendment would allow the City to deal with the animals and provides for an avenue to recover costs associated with that action.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision Service Excellence and Management Excellence strategic initiatives. The necessary resources have been identified and allocated.

Regional Implication

N/A

Conclusion

By implementing a program of foster/rescue homes, animal adoptions can be encouraged without any costs to the City.

The appointment of a Poundkeeper would allow the City to deal with farm animals and provides for an avenue to recover costs associated with dealing with animals at large.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Tony Thompson
Director, Enforcement Services

Janice Atwood-Petkovski
Commissioner of Legal & Administrative
Services and City Solicitor