



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 7, 2017

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Councillor Thornton-Joe
Subject: Animal Responsibility Bylaws

Date: December 1, 2017

Background:

Public health, safety, and environmental risks are key concerns for every municipality. Incidents involving cat overpopulation, dangerous dogs and exotic animals have created expectations for regulators to proactively address these issues. Other than the City of Vancouver, municipalities in BC are governed by the Community Charter. A municipality has the authority to provide any service that the council considers necessary or desirable, including prohibiting and imposing requirements in relation to animals. Each year, UBCM sends resolutions to the Province to ask them to address issues related to animals. More often than not, the response from the Province is that the Community Charter already gives municipalities the ability to address the issue locally. Municipalities without bylaws or with weak bylaws in place to address animal issues can become known as a "safe haven" for people who neglect and abuse animals.

Recently, the BCSPCA has published their New Model Animal Responsibility Bylaws (Version 3/September 2017). Also, the City of Surrey has recently updated their bylaws (Bylaw 19105, Surrey Animal Responsibility Bylaw 2017) and City of Duncan has recently updated their bylaws that address the issues of hoarding and animal welfare issues. In general, the City of Victoria's bylaws are effective, however there are areas in which the bylaws should be updated.

Strategic Plan:

Objective 1: Innovate and Lead

Objective 8: Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems

Motion:

That Council direct staff to report back at the next quarterly update with the resource implications of a plan to update the current Animal Control Bylaw and Vehicle for Hire Bylaws by:

1. Changing the name of the bylaw to the Victoria Animal Responsibility Bylaw
2. Incorporate wording and sections of the BC SPCA Model Animal Responsibility Bylaws (2017), the Surrey Animal Responsibility Bylaw(2017) and the City of Duncan Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw (Amendments 2017) in the following areas and

including any other areas that staff recommend adding based upon experiences with the bylaw :

- a. Standards of Care: See appendix for Surrey bylaw Section 44.
- b. Hoarding and Animal Limits: See appendix for Duncan bylaw 3 and 4 and BC SPCA Model Animal Responsibility Bylaw Pages 9 and 10.
- c. Aggressive Dogs: See Surrey bylaw Sections 18-21 and add in glossary the definition of Aggressive Dogs.
- d. Animal Cruelty: See Duncan bylaw 15 and Surrey bylaw 48.
- e. Urban Chicken and Urban Bees: See BC SPCA Model Animal Responsibility Bylaw Pages 25-28.
- f. And to add to our Outdoor Shelter Requirements that:
 - i. A person responsible for an animal shall ensure the Animal has protection from all the elements.
 - ii. No person responsible for an animal shall permit the Animal to suffer from hyperthermia, hypothermia, dehydration, discomfort, or exertion causing unnecessary pain, suffering or injury.

In addition: In regards to our vehicle for hire bylaws in relation to horse drawn vehicles the below should be added.

Identification of horses and horse drawn vehicles

Every horse while transporting passengers must display an identification number which is visible and legible. This identification number must correspond with the name, description and health record of the horse and is to be provided to the licensing officer and SPCA at the beginning of the season.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Thornton-Joe