

Subject: Proposed Animal Control By-law

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2024-0213 – Town Solicitor, Proposed Animal Control By-Law, for information;

AND THAT Council approve, in principle, the proposed Animal Control By-law as presented;

AND THAT Council direct that the proposed Animal Control By-law be presented to Council for consideration at the next regular meeting of Council.

Background:

The *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes the Town to pass by-laws respecting animals, including matters such as impounding animals-at-large and requiring dogs to be muzzled. The Town presently has multiple by-laws that pertain to animals, most of which pre-date the current statutory regime and/or have been amended several times. In addition, some of the by-laws overlap, which results in duplication and potential inconsistencies. As a result, staff have developed the proposed Animal Control By-law to facilitate ease of interpretation, application and enforcement.

Analysis:

Staff propose to repeal and replace all existing animal by-laws with the proposed Animal Control By-law for the following reasons:

1. To conform with the current Town standard by-law template;
2. To provide a single source for all animal regulations imposed by the Town;
3. To eliminate duplication and the risk of inconsistency between by-laws;
4. To clarify the procedure for muzzle order hearings; and
5. To simplify the language to facilitate understanding and promote compliance.

The proposed Animal Control By-law is appended to this report. It sets out general requirements for keeping animals, including procedures for animals found at large, identifies prohibited animals, and requires dogs and kennels to be licensed. The by-law defines dangerous dog and sets out procedure for muzzle order hearings. The by-law enables the Town to enforce contraventions through compliance orders, administrative penalties, or *Provincial Offences Act* charges.

Financial Considerations:

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed by-law.

Alternatives Reviewed:

Council may provide direction to retain the existing by-laws in lieu of proceeding with the proposed by-law. Council may also provide direction for revisions to the proposed by-law and refer the matter back to staff for edits or other changes.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Community Development and Growth

Clear guidance that is easily accessible to the community supports responsible animal ownership in the Town and promotes public safety.

Consultation:

The Senior Leadership Team, the Clerks Department and By-law Enforcement staff were consulted during the preparation of the proposed Animal Control By-law.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Proposed Animal Control By-law.

Prepared and Recommended by:

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Approved and Submitted by:

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