



Corporate *NO: R177*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: July 23.2001*

Regular Council			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	July 19, 2001
FROM:	City Solicitor	FILE:	0023-14453
SUBJECT:	Amendments to Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880		

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopt the amendments to the Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880. The fees for animal disposal be increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00 and the boarding fees be increased from \$7.00 to \$12.00 per diem.

BACKGROUND

The Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880 (the "By-law") was passed by Mayor and Council on May 1, 2000. Since that time a number of changes have been made to enhance our level of service to the public without impacting our operating costs.

At the City pound (SPCA) we no longer utilize the incinerator to dispose of pathological waste from the local veterinarians and within the City of Surrey. The maintenance cost of this pathological waste incinerator was in excess of \$25,000 per year and this cost could no longer be justified. Since April 2000, arrangements have been made to have this pathological waste disposed of through a private company. The costs associated with this disposal, however, now exceed the fees allowed under the By-law.

The maintenance boarding fees at the SPCA facility are presently \$7.00 per day as set out in the By-law and this has been the fee in the By-law since 1979. The present fees being charged throughout Surrey and other areas at boarding kennels range from \$15 – \$22 per day. Our fees have not kept pace with costs associated with the care and nurture of an animal held at the shelter (i.e., staff wages, utility costs, food).

The license fees for the City of Surrey have not changed over the past 10 years and the City has maintained these at a level acceptable to those dog owners throughout Surrey. The usual early payment and senior discounts continue to apply as stated in the By-law. By-law and Licensing Services has taken steps to reduce the cost of issuing these yearly licenses. The dog license for 2001 is now a metal dog tag, to be renewed yearly with a yearly decal. This has reduced the cost of mailing out these metal tags and the staff hours expended in this process. Our new POSSE license program will now generate renewal notices with significant cost savings with return mail only including a decal.

DISCUSSION

The proposed amendments to the By-law will allow the City to keep pace with those costs associated with maintaining the Surrey Animal Shelter managed by the SPCA. The dog license fees have not been increased, however, the operating costs have been reduced. The licenses issued in 1999 were 11,100, in 2000 – 13,250 and to date in 2001 - 12,750 dog licenses have been issued.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopt these proposed amendments to the By-law, taking into account that the increases reflect those costs associated with operating and maintaining our animal control program within the City.

CRAIG MacFARLANE

City Solicitor

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