

DATE OF MEETING June 8, 2020

AUTHORED BY DAVID LABERGE, MANAGER, BYLAW SERVICES

**SUBJECT ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE REVIEW**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To introduce the Animal Control Service Review prepared by Neilson Strategies Inc. for the City of Nanaimo.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo regulates the licensing of dogs and the keeping and control of animals through its Animal Control Service in accordance with the “Licensing and Control of Animals Bylaw 1995 No. 4923” (the “Licensing and Control of Animals Bylaw”). Animal control services are contracted to a private company that specializes in animal control. The current services agreement was for the period from 2015 to 2018, but was extended for an additional two years and will expire on 2020-AUG-31.

The current animal control service level has not been evaluated since the 1980s, and the delivery model was developed in the 1970s. The upcoming expiration of the current service agreement provided an opportunity to undertake a comprehensive review of the purpose, scope, service levels, and service delivery model of animal control to address changing circumstances, challenges, and needs in the community.

The City retained the services of Neilson Strategies Inc. in October, 2019. The consultant was retained to provide recommendations with respect to:

- Options to upgrade or replace the City’s pound and adoption centre facility, which was built in 1977 and does not meet many of the basic requirements set out in the Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters;
- A review of existing services and options for service delivery models through which the City will deliver future animal control services beginning September, 2020;
- Community concerns, needs, and service levels related to animal control; and
- A comparison of animal control services to other comparably-sized jurisdictions in British Columbia.

The consultant’s report is intended to provide Council with options and to guide Staff in the development of a new service agreement and bylaw for animal control.

## **DISCUSSION**

A draft report of the Animal Control Service Review has been prepared by Neilson Strategies Inc. for the City of Nanaimo. The consultant, Allan Neilson will present his findings and recommendations to Council through a Zoom presentation for consideration.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Animal Control Review provides options and recommendations for Council's consideration for future service agreements and bylaw revisions.

The consultant recommends the City:

- Renovate the existing pound and adoption facility to meet the basic requirements set out in the Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters.
- Maintain the contract-based service delivery model for Animal Control Services.
- Increase staffing resources by one full time equivalent (FTE) position.
- Transfer responsibility for removal and disposal of diseased animals (other than dogs and cats) from public roads and lands from animal control to public works.
- Transfer the responsibility for investigation of barking dog complaints from Bylaw Services to animal control.
- Update requirements, procedures, and fees for dog licensing.
- Consider changes to the current bylaw related to spaying/neutering and identification of cats, to make modifications to the pound facility to accommodate cats, and to provide support for local societies who manage feral cat populations.
- Update the existing licensing and control of animals bylaw.
- Develop an education resource on responsible pet ownership and animal care that can be made available to the public, and a pet ambassador program to engage with pet owners in high-traffic public areas.

## **Recommended Next Steps**

The anticipated next steps are as follows:

1. Council to provide approval of a revised service agreement to replace the existing service contract which will expire on 2020-AUG-31.
2. Council to provide direction regarding renovation or replacement of the Pound and Adoption Centre facility.
3. Council to provide direction regarding updates to the Licencing and Control of Animals Bylaw. ]

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Animal control services are contracted to a private company in Nanaimo. The current service agreement will expire on 2020-AUG-31.
- The current service model has existed since the 1970s and service levels have not been evaluated since the 1980s.
- The City pound and shelter facility was built in 1977 and requires extensive renovation or replacement to meet basic requirements of Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters.
- The City has retained the services of Neilson Strategies Inc. to review current animal control services and provide information and recommendations to Council for future service agreements and bylaw revisions.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A: Animal Control Service Review Draft Report, Neilson Strategies Inc. |

#### **Submitted by:**

David LaBerge  
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#### **Concurrence by:**

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