

DATE OF MEETING November 16, 2020
AUTHORED BY KAREN ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
SUBJECT ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To bring forward the modernized Animal Responsibility Bylaw that includes provisions for animal welfare, control, licensing, duties of animal owners, penalties, and enforcement as per the recommendations outlined in the Animal Control Service Review and as endorsed at the 2020-NOV-09 Governance and Priorities Committee.

Recommendation

1. That “ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW 2020 NO. 7316” (to include provisions for animal welfare, control, licensing, duties of animal owners, penalties, and enforcement) pass first reading;
2. That “ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW 2020 NO. 7316” pass second reading;
3. That “ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW 2020 NO. 7316” pass third reading.

BACKGROUND

On November 9, 2020, staff gave a presentation and brought forward a report and draft Animal Responsibility Bylaw for the Committee’s feedback and discussion which was based on the Consultant’s Animal Contract Service Review (see Attachment 2 for a copy of the detailed staff report that went to the November 9, 2020 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting).

After hearing the presentation, the Committee passed a recommendation directing staff to forward the “ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW 2020 NO. 7316” to Council for consideration of first three readings. The bylaw is now before Council for consideration of first three readings (see Attachment 1).

SUMMARY POINTS

- In December, 2019, Allan Neilson, of Neilson Strategies was retained by the City to undertake a review of the City’s animal control services, identify service-related issues, conduct research on best practices and experiences in other jurisdictions and provide recommendations for the City to consider.
- At the June 8, 2020 Council meeting, Mr. Neilson presented his findings and outlined the key issues and recommendations for moving forward which included having staff

prepare amendments to the bylaw that focus on the importance of responsible pet ownership and to incorporate the following provisions:

- removing reference to “Restricted Dogs” since it is no longer best practice (and not practicable) to target;
 - changing “Vicious Dog” to “Aggressive Dog”.
 - modernizing sections to reflect current best practices on standards of care;
 - requiring every owner of a cat to provide the cat with identification;
 - requiring every cat that is permitted to go outside be spayed or neutered; and
 - prohibiting cats to be at large in a public place or on another person’s property, unless it is under the immediate charge and control of the owner or other person responsible for the animal.
- On July 6, 2020, Council supported the Consultant’s recommendations and directed staff to move forward with developing a new bylaw for Council’s consideration.
 - On November 9, 2020, the bylaw was presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee and the Committee passed a motion directing staff to forward the “ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW 2020 NO. 7316,” to Council for consideration of first three readings.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 - “Animal Responsibility Bylaw 2020 No. 7316”
- Attachment 2 - RPT_GPC201009_Animal Responsibility Bylaw
- Attachment 3 - Existing “Licencing and Control of Animals Bylaw 1995 No. 4923”
- Attachment 4 - Recommendations from Animal Service Review
- Attachment 5 - SPCA Model Animal Responsibility Bylaw Reference Guide

Submitted by:

Karen Robertson
Deputy City Clerk

Concurrence by:

Sheila Gurrie
Director of Legislative Services