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# Corporate Report

NO: R197

COUNCIL DATE: July 26, 2004

#### REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: July 22, 2004

FROM: City Solicitor FILE: 2320-20-02/#2

SUBJECT: Animal Control, Enforcement and Poundkeeping Service

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report as information.

#### INTENT

The intent of this report is to inform Council of staff's progress in exploring options to provide the City with its own animal services upon the December 31, 2004 expiry of the City's contract with the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the "SPCA").

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1996 the SPCA has provided animal control, by law enforcement, pound and dog licensing services for the City at a current annual fee of \$600,596 plus 60% of the dog license revenue that the SPCA sells. This amount is estimated at \$125,000 in 2004.

The SPCA also operates a 4,000 square foot animal shelter owned by the City at 6706 152 Street. The shelter houses stray and injured animals, including those from surrounding municipalities where there is an absence of animal shelter space.

There is an option to renew the SPCA contract for a further period of two years, however, it is subject to "*mutual agreement*". The SPCA has provided a proposal to renew the contract for an annual fee of \$1,014,011. In addition, the SPCA earns an unknown amount of revenue by providing other pound services to adjacent municipalities and the recovery of lost animals to their owners.

# **DISCUSSION**

The SPCA is proposing about 35% increase in its contract to continue to provide its services to the City. Staff have undertaken a preliminary analysis of providing such services "in house". It suggests that an "in house" services approach is both implementable, as well as likely to be more cost effective. These services, if proceeded "in house", will be delivered

through the By law and Licensing Section to complement similar roles of this section.

It should be noted that the SPCA will retain its provincial mandate in Surrey to prevent animal cruelty and to provide for the well being of animals in general.

## CONCLUSION

City staff propose to explore cost effective options to provide the City's own animal services in place of the SPCA. Based on preliminary cost estimates, the provision of animal services is projected to be less costly than a new SPCA contract. Staff will bring forward a more complete analysis with recommendations for Council's consideration in the fall of 2004.

CRAIG MacFARLANE City Solicitor

CM:mlg

c.c. John Sherstone, Manager, By laws & Licensing Services

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