

Corporate Report

NO: <u>R246</u>

COUNCIL DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: November 15, 2007

FROM: City Solicitor FILE: 3900-20-13880

SUBJECT: Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880

RECOMMENDATION

Legal Services recommends that Council:

- 1. Receive this report as information; and
- 2. Adopt the amendments to the Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880 (the "By-law") as set out in Schedule "A" to this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to make changes to the dog license fee schedule and to allow for the issuing of dog licenses on a monthly basis instead of the current fixed calendar year term.

BACKGROUND

The existing By-law requires a dog license be issued for the calendar year in which the license is issued. The license expires on the 31st day of December next following the date on which the license takes effect. The owners who purchased their dog licenses in the later part of the year are paying a full years fee only to have the license expire on December 31. Staff workload to invoice, mail, process payments and mail out 20,000 new licenses at the beginning of each new year is exceptionally challenging.

DISCUSSION

The procedure for the once a year invoicing is inconvenient for the public and staff and the Surrey shelter staff who sell licenses on the City's behalf. The growth of Surrey has had a significant impact on our volume of work and it is estimated that the number of dog licenses sold will exceed 40,000 within the next five years.

It is much more economical, customer friendly and efficient to be able to invoice for dog licenses on a monthly basis. This can be accomplished by invoicing the dog owner in the month the license was first purchased and renewing it on the annual anniversary date of purchase. The customer gets a complete years value for the dog license from purchase date and the extra staff workload at calendar year end is eliminated. The By-law and Licensing Section have made changes to the issuance of licenses whereby the metal tags are issued and a decal can be attached to the metal tag for subsequent renewals.

The revised fee schedule attached provides for fee increase of \$5.00 for each type of dog license and kennel, with the exception of a \$10.00 increase for dangerous dogs. If approved, this would be the first fee increase since 1999. The \$10.00 discount for payment of the fee within 30 days remains.

CRAIG MacFARLANE City Solicitor

CM:mlg Attach.

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

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SCHEDULE "A"

CITY OF SURREY

BY-LAW NO. 16488

A by-law to amend the provisions of "Surrey Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880, as amended.

The Council of the City of Surrey, in open meeting assembled, ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1. "Surrey Dog Responsibility By-law, 1999, No. 13880", as amended is hereby further amended as follows:

Sections 8, 9 and 13 are deleted in their entirety and replaced with Sections 8, 9 and 13 as follows:

8. Every application for a license must be accompanied by a license fee payable as follows:

for each male dog	\$50.00
for each neutered male dog	\$30.00
for each female dog	\$50.00
for each spayed female dog	\$30.00
for each potentially dangerous dog	\$100.00
for each dangerous dog	\$210.00

Before issuing a license for a spayed female dog or a neutered male dog the License Inspector may require the owner to furnish proof that the dog has been spayed or neutered.

- 9. Licenses paid within 30 days of issuing notice of renewal will be subject to a \$10.00 discount.
- 13. Every license issued under this By-law will be issued annually and will terminate one year from the date of issuance of the license. The initial issuance of a license will be by way of a permanent metal tag, which will be impressed or stamped

with a number corresponding to the number of the license. A decal will be issued each calendar year to denote the year in which the license expires.

2.	This By-law shall be cited for	or all purposes as "Surre	ey Dog Responsibilit	y By-law, 1999
	No. 13880, Amendment By-	law, 2007, No. 16488.		
PAS	SED THREE READINGS by tl	he City Council on the	day of	, 2007.
REC	ONSIDERED AND FINALLY	ADOPTED, signed by	the Mayor and Clerk	k, and sealed
with	the Corporate Seal on the	day of	, 2007	
				MAYOR
				CLERK