Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 18, 2021

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – May 10, 2021

Item No. 4 Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Amendment

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to Council:

1. That a by-law be enacted to amend the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law No. 92/2013 (draft amending by-law attached as Appendix A).

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – May 10, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On March 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee to the Winnipeg Public Service for a report back with recommendations on amending section 8 of the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law No. 92/2013 to replace the word “dogs” with “animals” wherever it appears in that section, within 60 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Amendment

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and Parks - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Gordon	C. Fernandes	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and Parks directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back with recommendations on amending Section 8 of the Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) By-law No. 92/2013, specifically the replacement of the word 'dog' with 'animal' to enable more broad application of this Section in the community (Appendix A).

Under the existing Section 8 of the RPO, a designated employee is authorized to take into the custody of the Animal Services Agency a dog whose owner is unable to provide it with proper care due to the owner's mental or physical illness, incarceration, death or for any other reason. Section 8 does not allow Animal Services to place any animals under protection other than dogs. With the change to Section 8, Animal Services can provide the same protections to all animals that are currently provided only to dogs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a by-law be enacted to amend the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law No. 92/2013 (draft amending by-law attached as Appendix A).

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On March 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee to the Winnipeg Public Service for a report back with recommendations on amending Section 8 of the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law No. 92/2013 to replace the word "dogs" with "animals" wherever it appears in that Section.

Council approval is required for amendments to the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Replacing Section 8 of the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law with a new section entitled “Care for animals in need of protection” will expand the authority of Animal Services to be able to place any animals under protection, not only dogs.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Animal Services was designated by Council as a Special Operating Agency (SOA) effective January 1, 2000. The Agency enforces the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

Animal Services provides animal control measures under the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. Animal Services Officers typically respond to more than 10,000 community incidents a year involving people and animals. The Agency operates innovative adoption, volunteer, and outreach programs. Additional services include housing and care for stray pets and reuniting them with their owners, as well as emergency response to help animals in house fires or car accidents. Spay/neuter programs are also in place to help low income residents. The primary source of funding for Animal Services is pet licensing.

Section 8 is typically utilized in Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic (WFPS) and Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) incidents. The Section allows Animal Services to place a dog temporarily with a friend or family member when the dog is not needing permanent protection. In rare cases where a resident demonstrates little ability to properly care for a dog or keep the community safe, Animal Services may rehome a dog.

Section 8 does not allow Animal Services to place any animals under protection other than dogs. With the change to Section 8, Animal Services can provide the same protections to all animals that are currently provided only to dogs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: April 16, 2021

Project Name:

Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) By-law Amendments

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

"Original signed by Ozzy Garrett"(Acting Manager)
Kelly Lemoine, CPA, CA
Manager, Finance and Administrative Services
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Legal Services (as to Legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Direction 4: Maintain the health and safety of neighbourhoods by enforcing animal control by-laws and promoting responsible pet ownership.
Enabling Strategies:
> Maintain licensing and spay/neuter efforts to identify the animal population and help control over-population.
> Work with existing community animal welfare organizations to develop a shared vision and expand educational outreach efforts.
> Engage residents and community organizations on an ongoing basis to ensure that City animal control services are responsive and effective in addressing locally identified neighbourhood needs.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

n/a

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services
Division: Animal Services
Prepared by: Leland Gordon
Date: April 16, 2021
File No: CMS-2021-3

Attachments:

Appendix A – Draft amending By-law