



**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2007**

SUBJECT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAW NO. 1465, “ANIMAL REGULATION AND IMPOUNDING BYLAW NO. 1, 1986”, AND “CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT TICKET INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION BYLAW, 1990”

PURPOSE/ISSUE

To make changes that will make Bylaw No. 1465 gender neutral, to remove the compensation section for domestic animal killings or injuries and to add an early discount incentive for dog licences.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

There are several references in Bylaw No. 1465 to dog owners as he or him which should be amended to be gender neutral.

—The *Local Government Act*, Section 703(6) states that, “if a fee is imposed for a dog licence, the Board may, by bylaw, provide for the payment of compensation to the owner of any domestic animal that is killed or injured by a dog over the age of four months, the owner which is unknown, and after diligent inquiry, cannot be found”. The number of claims for compensation has been~~we have had~~are minimal (one or two per year), however the~~Committee directed staff to bring this issue forward as part of the annual review of the service to re-evaluate the practice. As outlined in Section 703(6) of the Local Government Act, the~~Board is not obligated to provide compensation and it is with it’s discretion to amend Bylaw No. 1465 to remove the provisions and because this is not an obligation of the Board, it is the sections and schedule referring to compensation that could be removed.

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Dog licence fees were raised \$5 across the board in 2007. However, a \$5 discount was offered to anyone who renewed their licence(s) before December 31. This was very popular and increased our dog licence sales for 2007. In order to maintain or potentially increase the success of dog licence sales, it appears that this type of fee incentive is very effective and it would be appropriate to consider a~~;~~we would like this to be a~~permanent discount on our schedule of dog licence fees. Our total revenue for dog licences for 2006 was \$115,344 for 6,426 dog licences. For 2007, as of the end of October, revenue was \$125,286 for 7,309 dog licences. This revenue is net after the paying of 10% commissions to vendors that sell dog licences for us.~~

ALTERNATIVES

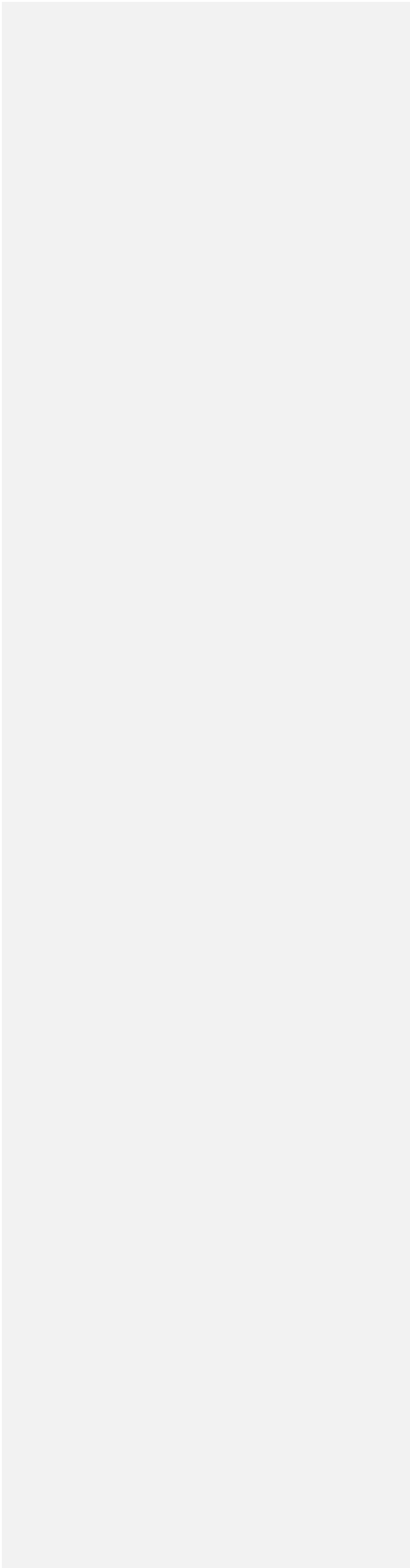
1. Retain Bylaw No. 1465 and 1857 as they are.
2. Accept and change some of the proposed amendments.
3. Accept all of the proposed amendments.

Electoral Area Services Committee – 07 November 2007

Re: Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 1465, “Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986”, and “Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990”

Page 2

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Dog licence revenue has increased 9.10% and the number of dog licences sold has increased 13.7%. It is estimated there are 15,000 dogs in areas that use CRD licences. That equates to 42.8% of dogs were licenced in 2006 and 48.7% were licenced in 2007. Staff feel that the existing licencing initiatives are effective and are well received in the community. Therefore, staff recommend that licence fees remain at the current level and that staff continue to promote dog licence sales to increase compliance.

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There will be some advertising costs to provide public notices of the proposed changes and some costs to provide public education about the changes. There will be some savings realized by not paying compensation for livestock issues.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The existing Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw is in need of some additions and amendments. Therefore, staff recommends alternative #3 to adopt all proposed additions, deletions and amendments to the current Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw and Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services committee recommends to the Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 3472, "Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986, Amendment Bylaw No. 6, 2007", be introduced and read for a first, second, and third time.
2. That Bylaw No. 3473, "Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 39, 2007" be introduced and read a first, second, and third time.



Don Brown
Chief Bylaw Officer

Robert Lapham, General Manager
Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence

Kelly Daniels, CAO, Concurrence

Attachments: 2

Bylaw No. 3472
Bylaw No. 3473