

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

SUBJECT SHEEP KILL COMPENSATION

PURPOSE/ISSUE

To recommend payment of the compensation claim for livestock, in excess of \$100, as per the Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1465.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

On September 21, 2007, Capital Regional District (CRD) Animal Control received a complaint that four sheep (three six-month old lambs and a six year old ewe) had been killed. The sheep were owned by Aileen McConnell, 750 Pears Road, Metchosin. Through investigation CRD animal control officers determined that dogs had killed Mrs. McConnell's sheep. CRD Animal Control took pictures of the dead sheep showing attack wounds to the front of the neck and to the rear leg(s) of the sheep. Bites to the rear legs of sheep suggest that a dog or dogs killed the sheep. The conservation officer that attended told our animal control officer that based on the number dead, injured, location, bite radius and location of the wounds there is a 75% chance that a dog(s) killed the sheep. Mrs. McConnell had, on the day of and the days before her sheep were killed, witnessed two black dogs running at large on her property. CRD Animal Control did a thorough investigation but was unable to determine which dog(s) are responsible for killing the sheep and are satisfied that Mrs. McConnell has taken all reasonable precautions for protecting her sheep.

CRD Bylaw No.1465, sections 19-23, has provisions to pay compensation to the owners of livestock killed or injured by any dog apparently over the age of four months, the owner of which is unknown, and after diligent enquiry cannot be found the lesser of; 75% of the decrease in market value of the animal as a result of its death or injury, or \$750.

The authority for the board to pass this provision in the bylaw is found in Section 703(6) of the *Local Government Act*.

In this case the request by the owner for compensation is consistent with past practice. The value of the sheep stated by the owner is fair market value.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the payment of \$562.50 which is 75% of the decrease in the market value of the dead sheep and less than \$750.
2. Do not approve the payment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The CRD has documentation of the events that occurred, and that the approximate value of each lamb lost is \$200 each and each ewe lost is \$150. Three lambs killed at \$200 x 75% and one ewe killed at \$150. Total compensation \$562.50.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The CRD pays compensation to the owner of the sheep when they are killed or injured by any dog over the age of four months, when the owner of the dog(s) is unknown and after diligent enquiry can still not be found. The amount to be paid is the lesser of 75% of the decrease in the market value of the animal as a result of its death or injury, or \$750. CRD Animal Control was unable to find the owner of the dog(s) who killed the sheep through diligent enquiry.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services committee authorizes the payment of compensation to the claimant in the amount of \$562.50.



Don Brown
Chief Bylaw Officer

Robert Lapham, General Manager
Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence

Kelly Daniels, CAO, Concurrence