



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: Planning, Development and Recreation
Division: Building and By-law
Report Number: 2020-324-Planning, Development and Recreation
Prepared By: Charles Bray, Acting Chief Building Official
Meeting Date: June 22, 2020
Subject: Cat Control Strategy By-law

Purpose

Following reports that were presented to Council in 2018 and 2019 regarding a proposed cat population control strategy, the Animal Control By-Law will be amended to include cats in addition to dogs for registration.

The amendment will also recognize cat rescue groups within the community that have as a mission to capture feral cats in the City and proceed to the spaying and neutering of these feral cats before releasing them back into the community. These rescue groups will be classified as *Approved Fostering Organizations* in the Animal Control By-Law.

A Subsidized Spay & Neuter Program (SSNP) will also be developed and administered by the City to assist qualifying residents and *Approved Fostering Organizations* in annually spaying and neutering as many cats as financially feasible.

Recommendation

That Council receive Report Number 2020-324, as presented and proceed to amend By-Law 112-1998, the Animal Control By-Law, to allow for the registration of cats and provide for an exemption to *Approved Fostering Organizations*.

Financial Implications

An amount of \$ 40,000 was dedicated as part of the 2020 budget to implement a Subsidized Spay & Neuter Program (SSNP). Previous research has shown that such a program would have to be in place for a minimum of 5 – 10 years to be effective. An amount will be annually budgeted towards the SSNP for the required duration to help control the cat population.

Strategic Priority Implications

This program supports the City's Mission of providing services that enable an environmentally sustainable community which will care for the needs of its residents, and its Vision for a healthy community.

Background / Discussion

This By-Law will acknowledge that the City of Cornwall is committed to helping reduce the feral cat population within the City. It has been proven that spaying and neutering feral cats does have a positive impact on reducing the cat population within a community. Previous research has shown that such a program would have to be in place for a minimum of 5 – 10 years to be effective. An amount will be annually budgeted towards a subsidized program for the required duration to help control the cat population.

Registration of cats and dogs help reunite owners with their pets in the event that they would become stray or lost. Licence fees also help fund the City's partnership with the local OSPCA, and help pay for animal control and regulatory services associated with pet ownership.

The Building & By-Law Division has been working closely with the Social Services Division to develop a Subsidized Spay & Neuter Program (SSNP) to financially assist cat owners within the City of Cornwall. Approved Fostering Organizations and qualifying permanent residents in the City of Cornwall would be able to benefit from the SSNP. The approval process of the SSNP will be administered and coordinated by the Social Services Division.



The City's current Animal Control By-Law, which is primarily focused towards dogs, will be amended to include cats for the purpose of the registry. The registry will effectively mirror what the City currently has in place for the registration of dogs. Registration of cats would be effective February 1, 2021.

Any *Approved Foster Organization* recognized by the City would be exempt from registering cats for the purpose of rescuing or fostering cats.

Document Title:	Amend Animal Control By-Law and introduction of a cat control strategy - 2020-324-Planning, Development and Recreation.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 16, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Charles Bray - Jun 16, 2020 - 12:07 PM

Mark A. Boileau - Jun 16, 2020 - 12:13 PM

Maureen Adams - Jun 16, 2020 - 4:31 PM