



Subject: Animal Care and Control By-Law

Report Number: DCS 21-02

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Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, January 25, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives report DCS 21-02 Animal Care and Control By-Law for information;

AND THAT a By-Law to regulate the licensing and control of animals in the Town of Tillsonburg be brought forward for Council’s consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Town’s current Animal Care and Control By-Law 3507 was last reviewed and adopted by Town of Tillsonburg Council in May 2011. The current by-law regulates licensing and control of animals within Town limits. Over the past ten years, the by-law has performed reasonably well and timing precipitated the need for a comprehensive review.

DISCUSSION

The following table provides a general overview and identifies the proposed Animal Care and Control By-Law improvements/changes identified by staff along with resident feedback over the years.

Item	Changes
Definitions and Interpretation (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New definitions added to provide clarity to by-law changes which include: Altered, Breeding, Competent person, Extreme Weather, Feed or Feeding, Regulated Health Professional, Service Animal, Tether, Wild Animal, Without Provocation.
Licensing of Dogs and Cats (Part 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed date of pet license expiry from December 31st to February 28th. • Added notification requirements by owners who no longer have their pets. • Proposed lower rate licensing fee for new pets part way through the year.

Keeping of Animals (Part 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current by-law permits 3 dogs and 2 cats. Proposed changes increase the total cats to 3 for a total combined number of 5 animals. No more than 3 dogs & 2 cats or 3 cats & 2 dogs.
Feeding of Wild Animals (Part 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New section added for restrictions on feeding wild animals.
Schedule A- Prohibited Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited list has been changed to a table/schedule for ease of review and interpretation.

Proposed changes listed above are identified in the attached Current Consolidated Animal Care and Control By-Law (tracked revisions) document attached to this report.

CONSULTATION

Copies of the by-laws along with supporting material were made available for public consultation from November 17, 2020 to December 8, 2020 as per the Town’s public engagement policy. The draft by-law was posted on the Town website, advertised in the local paper, circulated to the Chamber and BIA.

Two inquiries/comments were received as a result of the public consultation and were explanatory and administrative in nature. This along with the provided communication from staff are listed below:

1. Inquiry related to wildlife rehabbers still being permitted in Town with new proposed changes to By-Law 3507.

There are no proposed changes to the by-law in this regard and are permitted to continue with rehab as in the past.

2. Recommendation that the Town arrange to have diseased or injured wildlife in the Town of Tillsonburg picked up and if necessary euthanized by our Animal Control contractor.

Currently, the Town’s Animal Control contractor responds and picks up diseased or injured wildlife on Town property such as road allowances, parks, Town owned property/buildings, etc. If owners require assistance on their own property related to wildlife, the Town advises that there are several trappers available including the Town’s Animal Control contractor who may be able to assist; however, the owner requiring the service pays for this required service. We are not sure what these contractors charge except for the Town’s contractor and the fees for service required by the owner may be negotiated and may vary dependent on the situation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

The cost to communicate and amend promotional materials for the public will be funded from the approved 2021 Protection budget.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) LINKAGE

- 1. Excellence in Local Government Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
 - Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
 - Demonstrate accountability

- 2. Economic Sustainability
 - Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
 - Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
 - Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg's economy

- 3. Demographic Balance
 - Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
 - Provide opportunities for families to thrive
 - Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship

- 4. Culture and Community
 - Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
 - Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
 - Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A – Red lined version
- Appendix B – Proposed By-Law