

For Information Only

Pound & Animal Control Service Contract Review

Presented To:	City Council
Presented:	Tuesday, Feb 11, 2014
Report Date	Wednesday, Feb 05, 2014
Type:	Presentations

Recommendation

For Information Only

Finance Implications

Financial implications will be dependant on the results of the tender and policy decisions made by Council.

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the status of the City's animal services contract, reviews the recent consultation process and proposes improvements to the contract. The report identifies potential amendments to the Animal Control By-law, 2002-285, that will assist cost recovery and improve efficiencies in animal services provided by the City. The report also provides a time line to select a contractor to provide those potentially enhanced services.

Background

The current animal control contract was awarded in 2009 and provides animal control services to the City through enforcement of By-law 2002-285, enforcement of the Dog Owner's Liability Act and operating the pound facilities on behalf of the City. During the term of the contract and most recently, there have been several public demonstrations and letters to the City from the public concerned with the activities and decisions made by the current contractor during the contract term. Staff has investigated those concerns on a case by case basis and relied on investigations by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs(OMAFRA) and the Ontario Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals(OSPCA) and has determined that the contractor is in compliance with the requirements of the contract and the governing provincial legislation. Staff has reviewed the current contract and consulted with the public and key stakeholders to improve the scope of services required of the contractor for the upcoming procurement process in attempts to address concerns raised by the public.

Consultation

Signed By

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In order to improve contracted services for residents, public consultation through online surveys and an open house was conducted on December 11, 2013. The questions on the survey were formulated through the complaints received by Staff about the service provided and the methods and activities of the contractor. It was available on line, and at all libraries from December 11th through the 23rd. The survey was well received with 441 submissions. A summary of the survey results is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Staff also received input from agencies enforcing provincial legislation governing pounds and pound keepers; OMAFRA, and the prevention of cruelty to animals; OSPCA. In addition to the survey, Staff consulted with agencies that have professional experience in the care and control of animals, such as the Sudbury and District Health Unit; Canadian Veterinary Medical Association; College of Veterinarians of Ontario; The Association of Shelter Veterinarians; The Association of Animal Shelter Administrators of Ontario; and The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC). Staff also consulted with a variety of municipalities to compare animal control and pound services, including the model of “Responsible Pet Ownership” coined by the City of Calgary. The consultation was used to identify improvements that could be made to the contracted services and amendments to the animal control by-law to address the needs and desires of the community and key stakeholders.

Improvements to Contracted Service

A number of potential improvements have been identified through the course of the contract which will increase accountability and transparency of the service. The improvements are consistent with the results of the consultation process. These specific improvements are grouped into three categories; Administrative Enhancements, Low Impact Enhancements and Options Involving Increased Cost.

Administrative Enhancements

The following enhancements will be included in the contract for services and are administrative in nature. They provide tools for contract supervision and ensure the service is accountable, transparent and consistent with current enforcement standards in the City.

Reporting Improvements

The contract will include the following requirements for reporting; Patrols Mileage, Complaints Investigation and Outcome, Compliance and Resolution Rates and Times, Issuance of Animal Registrations, Provincial Offences Notices, Prosecution and Disposition Statistics and Financial reporting.

Public Interaction

Improvements to the contract will require employees of the contractor that are appointed to enforce the by-laws pursuant to the contract to be trained in animal care and control, public relations and enforcement procedures. The contractor will be required to identify themselves with photo ID, uniforms and vehicles bearing identification as contracted to City of Greater Sudbury, and have business cards and other documentation in the course of their duties approved for use by the City. All communications will be approved by the City's Corporate Communications Division, including public speaking engagements, media interviews, Public Service Announcements and website information.

Enforcement Procedures, Operations and Employee Safety

It is recommended that all policies and procedures for enforcement of City by-laws and activities at the pound will be approved by the Manager of Compliance and Enforcement, the staff position responsible for

contract supervision. This will ensure that the activities of the contractor and employees are consistent with the goals and procedures established by the City for enforcement of all other by-laws, including performance standards, compliance, response times and communication to the public. In order to ensure that the pound and employees of the contractor are working safely it is recommended that regular inspections by the other regulating authorities continue and be reported to the City. The Health Unit recommends employee vaccinations to avoid rabies; training for employees on health and safety; and the provision of WSIB insurance coverage, are all requirements of the contract intended to protect the health and safety of the employees. It is recommended that all vehicles required of the contractor be equipped with AVL systems that are integrated with the City's reporting system. This enhancement will assist in the safety of officers while travelling in remote areas and provide a means to follow up on complaints and concerns of service.

Low Impact Enhancements

The following improvements in the scope of contracted services are recommended as a response to the consultation process. These enhancements are administratively required due to an increase in expectations by the public, and are seen as an enhancement to the service with low impact to the contractor and the City.

Enforcement of By-laws

Currently the contractor is authorized to enforce only the provisions of the Animal Control By-law. Since the contract award, other by-laws have been enacted by Council that regulates animals, such as the Parks By-law and the Off Leash By-law. In order to ensure that all regulations pertaining to animals can be enforced at the attendance or during a patrol of the Animal Control Officer, the contract must indicate authorization for enforcement of the additional by-laws. Once the service requirements are identified in the contract and it is awarded, Council will be requested to amend the by-law appointing those individuals for enforcement.

Request for Services through City 3-1-1

The methods currently available to contact the animal control contractor are by phone or email. Survey respondents requested that contact through 3-1-1 at the City should also be an option. Staff recommends that the contract require that the contractor and the City work together so that a direct link from 3-1-1 can be made to the contractor. This is not so much as a contractor enhanced service, rather something that can be partnered with the City. This recommendation is in response to the survey.

Cost Option Enhancements

The current contract requires that the contractor is responsible for the payment of supplies, materials and equipment for the provision of care, feeding, impounding and quarantining of all animals placed in its care. Any veterinarian services provided by the contractor are not part of this contract and the City will not be responsible for any cost thereof. The following enhancements recommended by the survey will be included in the contract for services as tender options. It is expected that the options provided herein will result in an increased cost for the proponent and ultimately for the City. Staff will return to Council after the tender opening to ask for a decision on the options should the cost exceed the current budgeted amount.

Use of Veterinary Services for Euthanasia and Animal Assessment

Pursuant to provincial legislation, there is no requirement of the contractor to use the services of a veterinarian for euthanasia of an animal and/or during the assessment of an animal to determine the animal's health or temperament if injured or when impounded. The current method of euthanasia and

animal assessment is in compliance with the procedures and methods set out by the governing legislation and are inspected yearly or upon complaint. OMFRA is the provincial regulatory body governing this activity. It is recommended that the tender include options for costs to include the enhanced service of euthanasia and assessment of animals by a veterinarian. This will see an increased cost to the contract award if approved by Council.

Operating Hours

The current operating hours of the pound for responding to animals at large and other enforcement issues are from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Saturday and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sundays and statutory holidays. This amounts to 6 days a week, 9.5 hours per day, and 3 hours on Sunday. Extended hours are provided on Sunday for pet adoption or redemption. A 24 hour emergency service is provided and calls made by Police, the OSPCA and Health Unit or residents with animals which are either threats to public safety or injured are responded to 7 days a week. The survey results shows 89% of respondents would like the contractor to respond to reports of stray dogs and cats 7 days a week. If the hours of animal control enforcement services are expanded as indicated, a cost increase from the current contract may be incurred. It is recommended that due to public demand and the nature of the business, an option be included in the contract to expand the hours of service, from the present to 12 hours a day from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, 7 days a week.

Redemption Period

“Redemption period means that period of time within which the owner of a dog or cat that has been impounded in a pound has the right to redeem it” as defined in the *Animals for Research Act*. Further the act provides that the redemption period shall be a minimum of 3 days, not including the day the animal was impounded and holidays. The Act states that Council may pass a by-law to fix a redemption period that is longer than the minimum required. The current contact and the City’s by-law does not fix a longer redemption period and as such the contractor is required to keep an animal the minimum time before it can be adopted or euthanized. Having a shorter redemption period is seen as an incentive to animal registration. When the animal is registered or has other forms of identification such as a microchip it reduces the requirement for it to be impounded. In response to the survey, staff will require an option in the contract for the keeping of animals beyond the redemption period. This option will identify additional space and costs for keeping animals that are not identified as having any ownership before final disposition of the animal is determined.

Enhancements to Animal Adoptions

Currently the contractor requires a cost for adoption of an animal from the pound which may include any veterinary bills, inoculations, spay or neuter procedures. The only cost not permitted to be recovered by the contractor is the boarding costs. In response to the survey and as an enhancement to increase adoptions of animals from the shelter, and reduce pet over-population it is recommended that a cost option for free adoptions from the shelter be included in the contract.

Animal Control By-law Amendments

During the consultation process the public and key stakeholders have identified service enhancements that would require amendments to the Animal Control By-law, if accepted. The proposed amendments in this report will increase cost recovery of service, efficiency of staff resources and safety to the community. As part of the report to Council prior to contract award, staff will also detail the estimate of increase in cost

recovery due to the increase in fees and fines as described herein.

Review of Fees and Fines for Cost Recovery

Fees set out in the Animal Control By-law assist with cost recovery of animal control services. Fees for boarding and impound that are payable by the owner of the animal have not increased since 2008. In addition, fees for cat and dog registration have not increased since 2002. The following table outlines those fees.

Yearly Dog and Cat Registration Fees - Current		
	Regular	Discount - Senior or Spay/Neuter
Before January 31st	\$30	\$15
After January 31 st with surcharge	\$40	\$25
After October 1 st – if new pet owner or new resident	\$15	\$15
Other Fees		
Boarding Fees – per day	\$15	
Impound Fee	\$50	

Staff will be reviewing the current fees and will suggest amendments consistent with the survey results and in comparison with other municipalities and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Amendments will be brought forward to Council for their approval in a subsequent report.

Set fines pursuant to all offences of the animal control by-law are \$100 plus costs and surcharges, with a total penalty of \$125. Fines have not increased since enactment of the by-law in 2002, nor are some consistent with the seriousness of the offence. All changes to the by-law will require a new set of fines to be approved by the Chief Justice upon application. Staff is conducting a survey of fine amounts related to offences in the animal control by-law from our municipal comparators. It is expected that some of the fine amounts may be increased for the more serious offences which may result in increased cost recovery for animal control services.

Animal Registrations - One Time Registration with Annual Renewals

Currently the animal control by-law requires that a new registration be obtained each year for each cat and dog owned by a person. It is recommended that the by-law be amended to require a one-time registration for each cat and dog with an annual renewal of that registration. This will free up administration efforts for staff in ordering a new supply of animal tags and receipts for distribution to the 31 locations selling them on behalf of the City and the requirement for dog and cat owners to attend in person at these location each year to purchase and collect the animal tag. If approved, the animal will maintain the same number and tag for the life of the animal and replacement tags would be available at a nominal fee. It also is recommended at this time that the City invest in a public campaign advising of the benefits of animal registration and provide incentives for annual renewal. As experienced in the City of Calgary, the City can partner with a number of animal related businesses in the City to provide a discount card of an agreed upon amount that the registrant can use at participating businesses. This may result in savings that will cover the cost of registration.

Limits on Animal Ownership

Currently the City's animal control by-law limits the number of cats and dogs that may be kept by any person in a dwelling to 2 dogs or 4 cats provided that a combination of both does not exceed 4. In response to the survey, staff is reviewing other municipal best practices model limits of pet ownership and may recommend changes to the animal control by-law such that the limits be increased, with conditions of compliance with the regulations in the by-law. Increasing the limits on pet ownership and ensuring responsible pet ownership by enforcing the regulations may result in fewer animals in pound facilities and fewer subject to eventual destruction.

Exotic Animals

The current by-law permits the keeping of rabbits, pigeons, mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, snakes, lizards, and household birds under certain conditions and restricts the number and the manner in which these animals may be kept in a residence. Staff has received feedback from the public about the kinds of animals that may be kept as well as complaints about certain animals such as snakes. Staff has relied on the information provided by The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC) to recommend that the by-law be amended to reflect the Exotic Animal Policy distributed by PIJAC. (See Appendix B) An active player in an international network of pet industry associations, PIJAC Canada has been a strong and consistent voice for the Canadian Pet Industry since 1988. Staff also recommends that "the list of prohibited species" be amended into the by-law, except where some may be considered in agriculture zones.

Tender Process

The timelines for the upcoming tender process are as follows. Terms of the pre-qualifications will be released to the public in mid February. There will be a 2 week window for responses, closing by the first week in March. The tender document is expected to be released to those who have pre-qualified shortly thereafter with a 3 week response time. Staff expects a response to the tenders with a closing in mid April and will present a report to Council no later than the first Council meeting in May. In this report, staff will consult with Council to confirm standard changes in the contract and may be asked to make a decision should cost options in the tender exceed the current budgeted amount. It is expected that the tender will be awarded by June 1st with an implementation date of July 1st. In the interim, staff is negotiating with the current contractor for a 3 month extension to the current contract.

Conclusion

This report provides an overview of improvements staff are undertaking to the city's animal control services in response to the consultation results described herein, through enhancements to the contracted services, proposed amendments to the animal control by-law and contract options for Council's consideration. It also provides a timeline for the tender process. Staff will be reporting to Council in May asking for a decision on the options in the tender, provide detailed cost recovery recommendations and seek approval for the by-law amendments described in this report. Upon Council approval, the City will be prepared to award an enhanced animal services program that is responsive to the public, provides best practices and is appropriate for the care and control of companion animals in the City.

Survey Findings for the Pound and Animal Control Service Contract Review

Background

In the interests of transparency and inclusiveness, the City of Greater Sudbury initiated a public survey to generate discussion of various ways the municipality can manage its stray dog and cat population and to review the regulation of dogs, cats and other animals under municipal by-law.

The city developed a bilingual survey of 35 closed and open-ended questions to gauge public opinion. The survey was available online via the city website at www.greatersudbury.ca and in paper format at all branches of the Greater Sudbury Public Library for a 13 day period from December 11 to 23.

A total of 441 completed surveys were submitted by the December 23 deadline. The level of participation is comparable to other topics of significant public interest, including a survey concerning outdoor smoking on municipal property (628 community surveys completed) and renewal of municipal areas (437 surveys completed).

The city also hosted a community consultation at Tom Davies Square on December 11 to speak directly with interested citizens. Both the survey and community consultation were well publicized. Paid advertisements appeared in Northern Life and Le Voyageur newspapers. Three public service announcements were distributed to all local news media. Social media attracted considerable public interest via the city's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The city's website featured both the survey and open house from its front page.

Stakeholders with specific interest in animal control and pound services (e.g. local veterinarians, Sudbury & District Health Unit, OSPCA) were notified of the upcoming open house and survey via direct email or letter.

Methodology

Municipal animal control is a relatively complex topic. Municipal by-law has authority to regulate the keeping of animals in an urban environment. Provincial legislation

regulates pound services. The public tender for animal control regulates management of stray domestic animals.

The extensive survey of public opinion concerning these matters was divided into two primary areas of discussion: regulations that may be revised under municipal by-law and/or the public tender for animal control and enhancements that may be introduced to minimum requirements under provincial legislation for pound services.

The following explanation of provincial and municipal jurisdictions was provided to citizens interested in the completing the public survey.

Animal control and pound services are regulated by:

- Ontario Animals for Research Act (R.S.O. 1990 c. A. 22)
- By-law 2002-285 of the City of Greater Sudbury to Regulate the Keeping of Animals and the Registration of Dogs and Cats.
- Tender for Pound and Animal Control Services in the City of Greater Sudbury
- Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (R.S.O. 1990 c. O.36) regulates complaints of cruelty/mistreatment of animals

Ontario Animals for Research Act (R.S.O. 1990 c. A. 22) regulates:

- Licensing and standards of pounds
- Keeping and adoption of animals
- Euthanasia procedures
- Responsibilities and authorities of the pound operator

City of Greater Sudbury By-law 2002-285 regulates:

- Dog and cat registration
- Number permitted per household
- Dogs and cats running at large
- Seizing and impounding dogs and cats
- Disposal of excrement in public places
- Noise and vicious dogs
- Species of animals that may be kept

Further information on matters that are regulated by City of Greater Sudbury By-law 2002-285:

- Information on dog and cat registration in the City of Greater Sudbury
 - Every owner of a dog or cat must register their pet before January 1
 - \$30 for a regular licence
 - \$15 for spayed or neutered
 - \$15 for pet owners age 55+

- Information on how many dogs and cats may be kept in a household
 - Maximum of 2 dogs
 - Maximum combined total of 4 dogs and cats
 - Special provisions for rural working farms

- Information on who is responsible for catching and impounding dogs and cats running at large
 - City of Greater Sudbury contracts its animal control services through public tender
 - Contractor is responsible for catching dogs and cats running at large
 - Contractor may enter any private property without consent of the property owner for this purpose

- Information on what is done about vicious dogs
 - Written complaint and satisfactory evidence that dog has attacked without provocation
 - Must be kept muzzled and securely leashed outdoors both at home and in public
 - Option to request hearing before Council or Committee for exemption
 - Dog Owners' Liability Act (R.S.O. 1990 c. D. 16) restricts certain breeds and provides a process for victims of dog bites/attacks to seek compensation through the provincial court system.

- Information on which species of animals can be kept as pets
 - Permitted animals subject to zoning by-laws and conditions for shelter and care
 - Maximum of two dogs
 - Maximum of four cats
 - Maximum of six adult rabbits
 - Maximum of 10 pigeons (exemptions for members of homing/racing clubs)

- Maximum combined total of six mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters and gerbils
 - Maximum of two ferrets
 - Maximum of two non-venomous snakes
 - Maximum of two non-venomous lizards
 - Maximum of six domestic birds
 - Farm animals/livestock/fowl are subject to zoning by-laws.
- Information on fees that owners must pay to release their dog or cat from the pound
- \$50 for impound
 - \$15 per diem boarding fee
 - Veterinary bill(s) (as incurred)

Further Information on Issues Regulated by Ontario Animals for Research Act (R.S.O. 1990 c. A. 22).

- Information on who may operate an animal pound
- Ontario Animals for Research Act regulates minimum requirements for opening and operating an animal pound.
 - Experience in the proper care and handling of animals
 - Possession of property, facilities and tools to properly care for animals
- Information on who monitors the operation of animal pounds
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs enforces legislation under the Ontario Animals for Research Act.
 - Act specifies conditions for construction, maintenance, safety and comfort of pens, runs and food
 - Act specifies adequate number of qualified persons on the premises every day
 - Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals investigates complaints of cruelty/mistreatment of animals
 - City of Greater Sudbury responsible for supervision of the pound and animal control contract
- Information on who determines how long an unidentifiable dog or cat must be held at an animal pound prior to euthanasia
- Act specifies that pound operators must take all reasonable steps to find and notify the owner of an impounded dog or cat with a means of

identification and release the animal back to the owner subject to payment as required by law.

- Unidentifiable dogs and cats (strays) must be impounded for a minimum of three days, not counting the day of impounding and holidays, under the Ontario Animals for Research Act.
 - City of Greater Sudbury By-law 2002-285 currently matches the three day limit under the Act.
 - The Ontario Animals for Research Act limits pound operators to three options when the number of stray dogs and cats exceeds pound capacity: euthanasia (after the three day minimum), adoption (either free or for a fee), sale of the animal to a registered research facility in Ontario upon request.
- Information on who determines the conditions which permit euthanasia of stray dogs and cats
- Owner has requested in writing
 - Inspector or Veterinarian order
 - Dog or cat impounded beyond minimum redemption period
 - Dog or cat is ill or injured and in operator's opinion incapable of being cured or healed to live without suffering.
- Information on who determines qualifications needed for euthanasia of dogs and cats
- Properly trained in chosen procedure
 - Conducted without unnecessary pain or discomfort
 - Does not endanger or disturb other animals in the pound
- Information on who determines the method of euthanasia for dogs and cats

Ontario Animals for Research Act permits methods which do not involve use of chemicals:

- Captive bolt pistol (dogs only)
- Firearm
- Exsanguination (blood letting), provided the animal is completely anaesthetized
- Electrocutation (dogs only)

Ontario Animals for Research Act permits methods which involve use of chemicals:

- Barbiturates (intravenously)
- Hoechst Pharmaceutical product T-61 (intravenously)
- Chloral hydrate (intravenously)

- Ether (inhalation)
- Carbon dioxide (inhalation)
- Chloroform (inhalation)
- Carbon monoxide (inhalation) with provisions

Survey Findings

The community consultation was an opportunity for all citizens to share ideas about animal control and pound services and to provide comment on the City of Greater Sudbury By-law to Regulate the Keeping of Animals and the Registration of Dogs and Cats. All comments have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

In the interests of a fair and open public tendering process, it should be noted that the current contractor has upheld all terms of the existing municipal contract for animal control and pound services and municipal by-law.

Any service provider who passes the pre-qualification process is welcome to submit a bid for the City of Greater Sudbury contract for animal control and pound services. The terms for pre-qualification are set by the province under legislation for pound services.

Organizations represented:

Sudbury & District Health Unit

Wenrick Kennels Inc.

Puppylove pet salon and spa

Belanger Feed and Farm Supply Ltd.

Pet Save

Skiptyn Kennels Dog Training

Rainbow District Animal Control and Shelter Services

The Capreol Press

Survey Highlights:

54.93% of survey respondents agreed that proof of rabies vaccination should be included as a condition for a discount on dog and cat registration fees.

56.81% of survey respondents support a lifetime pet registration program that would issue one registration number for the lifetime of a cat or dog for improved cost and operational efficiencies.

65.65% of respondents support a change to the current household limit of 2 dogs, up to a combined maximum of 4 dogs and cats.

245 respondents chose to answer the open-ended question of how many dogs should be permitted per household. Of those responding, close to 47% indicated that a maximum of 4 dogs should be permitted per household, followed by 28% who chose a maximum of 3 dogs per household. Approximately 14% of respondents supported no limits on dog ownership.

232 respondents chose to answer the open-ended question of how many cats should be permitted per household. Of those responding, 36 % support the current 4 cat household limit, followed by 14 % who support a 6 cat maximum household limit and 10% who support a 5 cat household limit.

55.37% of respondents support payment of a deposit/surety for loan of a live trap, refundable upon return of the trap, for the purpose of catching stray cats on private property.

The public survey revealed a need to amend By-law 2002-285 of the City of Greater Sudbury to Regulate the Keeping of Animals and the Registration of Dogs and Cats to include a detailed definition of what constitutes a “vicious dog”, methods of gathering evidence and public recourse for the owner of a suspected vicious dog.

76.12% of respondents support extending the three day minimum holding period that an unidentifiable dog or cat must be held at an animal pound prior to euthanasia, as required under the Ontario Animals for Research Act.

52.78% of respondents support additional conditions to permit or prohibit the euthanasia of dogs and cats under its tender for pound and animal control services. These conditions should be considered enhancements to the current minimum requirements as stipulated under the Ontario Animals for Research Act.

74.87% of respondents support the inclusion of specific methods for performing euthanasia on dogs and cats in its tender for pound and animal control, over and above those stipulated by the Ontario Animals for Research Act.

Respondents were evenly split as to whether municipal property taxpayers should support enhancements to local animal control and pound services through the payment of additional taxes (50.79% in favour and 49.21% against/not a taxpayer/no comment).

Survey findings applicable to By-law 2002-285 of the City of Greater Sudbury to Regulate the Keeping of Animals and the Registration of Dogs and Cats.

Should the City of Greater Sudbury charge residents to register their cats and dogs?

Yes 59.62%

No 32.86%

Don't know/No comment 7.51%

Should the City of Greater Sudbury increase or decrease its fees for pet registration?

Increase 15.26%

Decrease 53.76%

Don't know/No comment 30.99%

Should proof of rabies vaccination be included as a condition for a discount on annual fees?

Yes 54.93%

No 36.62%

Don't know/No comment 8.45%

Would you support a lifetime pet registration program for improved cost and operational efficiencies? The program would issue one registration number for the lifetime of a cat or dog and automatically generate annual reminders to pet owners to purchase their one year registration fee.

Yes 56.81%

No 31.46%

Don't know/No comment 11.74%

Should the City of Greater Sudbury limit the number of dogs and cats per household?

Yes 53.41%

No 42.12%

Don't know/No comment 4.47%

Should the current limit of 2 dogs and 2 cats, 1 dog and 3 cats or 4 cats change?

Yes 65.65%

No 29.65%

Don't know/No comment 4.71%

If you believe the current limit should change, how many dogs and how many cats should be permitted per household?

Respondents were given the choice of suggesting a household limit of dogs and cats.

Dogs (open-ended response totaling 245)

Of those responding, close to 47% indicated that a maximum of 4 dogs should be permitted per household, followed by 28% who chose a maximum of 3 dogs per household. Approximately 14% of respondents supported no limits on dog ownership.

Cats (open-ended response totaling 232)

Of those responding, 36% support the current 4 cat household limit, followed by 14% who support a 6 cat maximum household limit and 10% who support a 5 cat household limit.

Of those responding, 34 supported a total of 4 cats and dogs per household (any combination) and 19 supported an unlimited number per household.

Are you satisfied with current procedures to follow up on reports of stray dogs and cats?

Yes 41.95%

No 39.76%

Don't know/No comment 18.29%

If you are not satisfied with current procedures to follow up on reports of stray dogs and cats, what would you recommend? (open-ended response of 156)

Of those responding, 25% objected to unimpeded access to private property in order to capture stray dogs and cats. This portion of By-law 2002-285 of the City of Greater Sudbury is regulated under the Ontario Municipal Act and cannot be amended.

The majority of those responding indicated they would like quicker response and response that does not require citizens to detain the animal prior to pick-up.

How many days a week and how many hours a day should animal control officers make themselves available to respond to reports of stray dogs and cats? (open-ended response of between 336 and 350)

Of those responding, 86% (of 350 responses) indicated that animal control officers should be available seven days a week to respond to reports.

Of those responding, 41% (of 336 responses) indicated that animal control officers should be available 24 hours to respond to reports. Another 21% indicated 7 to 8 hours and 19% indicated 12 hours.

What methods should be available to citizens to contact an animal control officer? (open-ended response of 338)

Of those responding, 96% indicated that telephone is the preferred method, including use of the City's 3-1-1 Call Centre and 24-hour paging/answering services.

Another 47% of those responding indicated that email is a preferred method, in addition to telephone.

Would you be in favour of paying a deposit/surety for a live trap on your property, refundable upon return of the trap?

Yes 55.37%

No 32.68%

Don't know/No comment 11.95%

Excluding legislation under the provincial Dog Owners' Liability Act (i.e. restrictions on pit bulls), are the current definitions of a vicious dog satisfactory?

Yes 60.10%

No 21.67%

Don't know/No comment 18.23%

Are the current methods of gathering evidence that a dog has attacked without provocation satisfactory?

Yes 32.51%

No 21.92%

Don't know/No comment 45.57%

If your answer is no, what you would suggest for alternate definitions of a vicious dog and methods of gathering evidence? (open-ended response of 97)

By-law 2002-285 of the City of Greater Sudbury to Regulate the Keeping of Animals and the Registration of Dogs and Cats does not currently provide definitions of a vicious dogs and methods of gathering evidence for public scrutiny. Public responses in the survey include the following:

- Consultation with vet or specialist to determine temperament/past events.
- Subsection 21(2) of the by-law does not currently permit the owner of a suspected vicious dog to reply to the written complaint prior to his/her dog being deemed a vicious dog by the Registrar. This is not a fair procedure. The owner of the suspected vicious dog should be given the opportunity to respond in writing to the written complaint so that the Registrar can consider both sides of the complaint before deeming the dog to be vicious. Deeming the dog to be vicious without affording the owner the right to submit evidence that the written complaint is untrue, is an unfair procedure.
- Recommend that detailed definition of vicious dog be included in Part 1 – General of the by-law. While the Sudbury & District Health Unit has some knowledge of the current methods of gathering evidence, we are not familiar with the entire process, nor are these methods sufficiently outlined in the by-law.
- The By-law 2002-285 doesn't even define what "methods of gathering evidence" is, so I don't believe anybody can answer this question based on the way it is asked here.

City of Greater Sudbury By-law 2002-285 determines which species of animal can be kept as pets and number of animals that can be kept as pets. Are the current definitions and limits of species satisfactory?

Yes 61.63%

No 26.24%

Don't know/No comment 12.13%

Which species should be permitted or prohibited as pets in Greater Sudbury? (open-ended response of 208)

Of those responding “No” to the previous question regarding current limits and definitions limiting species that may be held as pets in Greater Sudbury, a percentage indicated that more detailed information is required under by-law to limit exotic pets, especially snakes. There is also interest in keeping chickens which is currently being addressed under zoning provisions of the Official Plan.

By-law 2002-285 Part IX – Animal Keeping has not been updated in several years. Further research is required to update permitted species and/or their care and keeping.

Do you have suggestions for changing the number(s) of pets permitted?

Of 93 respondents who directly answered the question of how many exotic pets (excluding cats and dogs) should be permitted per household, 55% indicated they would like to see some change to the numbers of exotic pets permitted per household. 31% supported no limit on numbers of exotic pets. Species most often mentioned are: snakes, lizards, ferrets, rabbits and pigeons. There is also interest in keeping chickens which is currently being addressed under zoning provisions of the Official Plan.

By-law 2002-285 Part IX – Animal Keeping has not been updated in several years. Further research is required to update permitted species and/or their care and keeping.

The Ontario Animals for Research Act determines the number of days that an unidentifiable dog or cat must be held at an animal pound prior to euthanasia. Should City of Greater Sudbury By-law 2002-285 extend the required three day minimum holding period, provided the pound operator has exhausted all reasonable steps to find and notify the owner of an impounded dog or cat?

Yes 76.12%

No 20.40%

Don't know/No comment 3.48%

How many days should stray dogs and cats be held? (open-ended response of 401)

Of those responding, 27% indicated stray dogs and cats should be held for a minimum of 7 days prior to euthanasia.

Of those responding, 21% indicated that the municipal pound should operate with a “no kill” policy for stray dogs and cats.

Of those responding, 17% indicated that the current three day minimum required under the Ontario Animals for Research Act to hold stray dogs and cats prior to euthanasia is satisfactory.

The following comment was provided by the Sudbury & District Health Unit:

“It is essential from a human rabies prevention perspective that all animal bites and scratches to humans be immediately reported to the Sudbury & District Health Unit and implicated animals be held in isolation for a minimum of 10 days following the date of the exposure and not released until visually observed by a Public Health Inspector. “

Do you have ideas to increase the rates of adoption for stray dogs and cats?

(open-ended response of 309)

Of those responding, the majority suggested the formation of spay/neuter clinics or reduced fees for spaying and neutering, lowering/waiving adoption fees, increasing the household limit for cats and dogs, more fostering/networking with animal rescue groups and various advertising and promotions, including adopt-a-thons.

Survey findings applicable to minimum requirements of the Ontario Animals for Research Act which may be enhanced under public tender.

Should the City of Greater Sudbury include additional conditions to permit or prohibit the euthanasia of dogs and cats under its tender for pound and animal control services?

Yes 52.78%

No 29.29%

Don't know/No comment 17.93%

What would you recommend for additional conditions? (open-ended response of 217)

Of those responding, 43% recommended that dogs and cats be euthanized only on order of a veterinarian and that euthanasia be performed by either a veterinarian or a veterinary technician.

Of those responding, 13% indicated support for the pound operator to perform euthanasia, provided euthanasia is performed in a humane and pain-free manner.

Of those responding, 12% indicated support for a “no kill” shelter.

Should the City of Greater Sudbury include additional qualifications needed for those performing euthanasia of dogs and cats in its tender for pound and animal control?

Yes 49.87%

No 34.61%

Don't know/No comment 15.52%

What would you recommend for additional qualifications? (open-ended response of 184)

Of those responding, 49% indicated support for veterinary or vet technician qualifications to perform euthanasia of dogs and cats.

Of those responding, 28% indicated support for pound operators to perform euthanasia of dogs and cats, with formal training and regular recertification.

The Ontario Animals for Research Act legislates two methods of euthanasia for dogs and cats: methods that do not involve use of chemicals and methods which do involve use of chemicals. Methods provided in the Act (with provisions) are: captive bolt pistol, firearm, exsanguination, electrocution, barbiturates, Hoechst Pharmaceutical product T-61, chloral hydrate, ether, carbon dioxide, chloroform and carbon monoxide. Should the City of Greater Sudbury specify methods for performing euthanasia on dogs and cats in its tender for pound and animal control?

Yes 74.87%

No 14.66%

Don't know/No comment 10.47%

City of Greater Sudbury By-law 2002-285 sets fees that owners must pay to release their dog or cat from the pound. Current fees are: \$50 for impound, \$15 per diem boarding fee and any veterinary bill(s) incurred. Enhancements to animal and control services will cost more to deliver. Who should pay for these enhancements?

Dog and cat owners should pay for enhancements through citywide registration fees.

Yes 41.88%

No 42.93%

Don't know/No comment 15.18%

Dog and cat owners who must pay for release of their pet from the pound should pay for enhancements.

Yes 66.49%

No 21.20%

Don't know/No comment 12.30%

Individuals choosing to adopt a dog or cat from the pound should pay for enhancements.

Yes 22.77%

No 67.02%

Don't know/No comment 10.21%

Citywide property taxes should pay for enhancements.

Yes 42.67%

No 45.29%

Don't know/No comment 12.04%

Would you, as a municipal property taxpayer in the City of Greater Sudbury, be willing to pay additional taxes for enhancements to local animal control and pound services?

Yes 50.79%

No 31.94%

Not a taxpayer 6.28%

Don't know/No comment 10.99%



EXOTIC ANIMAL POLICY

PART 1: Introduction

The issue of exotic animals in captivity has been the subject of strong debate for a long time. This issue is now being debated at the municipal and provincial levels across the country. Such an issue contributed to the creation of PIJAC Canada in 1988, when a group of pet industry players joined together to address concerns over exotic animals in the Toronto area. Their work would lead to the first prohibitive species list ever produced by PIJAC Canada. Since 1988, this list has gone through numerous modifications that reflect the changes experienced in areas such as animal husbandry, captive breeding techniques, public awareness and consumer demand.

No other association in Canada possesses within its ranks the information, experience and knowledge of exotic pets like PIJAC Canada.

For further information on PIJAC Canada and its Exotic Animal Policy, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Louis McCann, PIJAC's Executive Director, at (800) 667-7452.

PART 2: Criteria used to establish the list

Sale of native wildlife

PIJAC Canada shares the concern for the potential threat to indigenous wildlife. PIJAC Canada does not support the sale of indigenous wildlife as pets in Canada. A basic understanding of what constitutes a « pet » is sufficient explanation for that stance.

Danger to the public

The «danger to the public» criteria is best addressed through the use of a prohibited species list. We feel the prohibited species list submitted by PIJAC Canada takes into account all the concerns found under this criteria.

Captive Bred

Our organization encourages and promotes the sale of captive bred animals. It is common knowledge that through this approach, pet retailers are able to provide their customers with animals that are healthier, easier to handle and a lot friendlier towards their prospective owners. This helps maximize the chances of a successful pet-pet owner relationship. This benefits everybody: the animal, the pet owner and the retailer.

Although every one realizes the benefits of captive bred versus wild caught, we must not forget that captive breeding techniques have to be developed and refined. To accomplish this task, wild specimens had, and in some cases still have, to be part of the equation. Today, pet retailers enjoy an increasing variety of captive bred animals to offer to their clients. Pet birds and small mammals available to pet retailers mostly come from captive breeding facilities and this number is increasing every year.

International conventions such as CITES, and closer to home, federal regulations such as WAPPRIITA, recognize the importance of well established, well structured captive breeding programs. Breakthroughs in captive breeding programs often appear through small, devoted hobbyists. Requiring that all animals sold be of captive breeding origin would most certainly hinder the development of captive breeding techniques not yet available for certain species. One can assume that putting in the requirement that only captive bred animals be offered for sale would go against the present trend, encourage black market operations, etc...

Non-threatening to wildlife populations in native habitats

PIJAC Canada has to be concerned with the effects of the possible introduction of exotic species on native wildlife populations. These concerns are best addressed through an exercise which includes a list of prohibited species and the implementation of an educational structure that covers the source and the end user.

Acceptance of what is being traded

Most species available through pet retailers enjoy proven track records as pets. As mentioned previously, more and more of these species are becoming available through the efforts of established captive breeding facilities. Continuing support through information handouts will help to maintain the status of these animals as established «pets».

Veterinary care

Exotic animal medicine is enjoying steady growth as an increasing number of pet owners come to realize the appeal of less conventional pets. With this increased interest comes increasing demand for related services such as veterinary care. Experience has demonstrated that if the demand is created, veterinarians will recognize this opportunity for new business and meet the demand.

Knowledge of pet store owners, transfer of knowledge to buyer, appropriate facilities, national guidelines.

Educating pet industry members remains a top priority for PIJAC Canada. Numerous pet retailers have come to realize that the survival of their businesses rests on their ability to offer their customers high standards of quality and professionalism in areas like animal husbandry and customer satisfaction. PIJAC Canada supports their efforts by providing resource manuals and information on different species which they can in turn pass on to their clientele.

Since September of 1996, PIJAC Canada, with the help of PIJAC USA and the Canadian Wildlife Service, has been offering pet store owners and their employees a Canadian version of the Certified Companion Animal Specialist Certification Program. Unique in Canada, this program is attracting the attention of law enforcement officers from various provincial and federal wildlife agencies.

Compliance with existing regulations, CITES, WAPPRIITA, Agriculture Canada

PIJAC Canada enjoys a proactive working relationship with all the federal agencies responsible for the administration of the above mentioned laws, regulations and international agreements. PIJAC Canada is a strong supporter of actions that favour cooperation rather than confrontation.

PART 3: A prohibited versus a permitted species list ?

The following parameters should be considered when asking this question.

- a) List of criteria that would have to be respected.**
- b) Difficulty in application**
- c) Restriction on trade**

List of criteria

Comments as to a proposed list of criteria are covered in the previous section. These criteria represent those most frequently brought up when dealing with the issue of exotic animals in captivity.

Difficulty in application

If it is assumed that there is agreement on the list of criteria (as previously enumerated) that need to be met, it is safe to say that the number of proposed pet species not meeting the list of criteria is by far much smaller than the list of those that do. If one were to succeed in compiling a list of all permitted species, i.e. those that meet the criteria and are available to the pet trade, it would be a very long list.

It is our opinion that such a list would prove to be an administrative nightmare for those mandated to administer and enforce it. For these individuals to be well versed on each species would be impossible. Another important factor to consider is that, although a large part of the list would be comprised of «established» species, some would vary constantly as a result of changes in consumer demand, market trends, availability of new species, etc..

Updating this list would prove to be a logistical nightmare. A good example is the list used in Newfoundland where only a small number of permitted finch species are listed, when in reality the number of finch species available to the pet trade is much higher.

Modifications to the list would be lengthy, often outdated by the time they would finally be put in place. This situation creates frustration for retailers who see their clientele going to a neighbouring province to legally acquire the species they want (ex.: Ontario-Québec-hedgehogs) and can lead to trends and tendencies which favour black market operations.

Prohibited species lists are much shorter, easier to maintain and to administer. References to the list can be accessed more quickly and can be controlled by more people. The size of the list by itself makes it easier to be cross referenced by common and scientific name.

Restriction on trade

As mentioned previously, opting for a permitted species list makes the introduction of new permitted species difficult to the local pet trade. One has only to mention the domestic ferret (not found in the Newfoundland list), the African pigmy hedgehog and the degu as examples. All three meet the list of criteria (captive bred, easily kept in captivity, etc...). These species, although relatively new to our pet markets, have been available to the pet trade for years.

Omitting to list «permitted» species would put unfair and unjust trade restrictions on pet wholesalers and retailers. This action would be in direct contradiction to the acceptance of the “what is already being traded” criteria. Such situations would not occur with the use of a prohibited species list.

PIJAC CANADA'S EXOTIC ANIMAL POLICY SUGGESTED LIST OF PROHIBITED SPECIES

ALL ARTIODACTYLOUS UNGULATES, EXCEPT DOMESTIC GOATS, SHEEP, PIGS AND CATTLE
ALL CANIDAE, EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC DOG
ALL CROCODYLIANS (SUCH AS ALLIGATORS AND CROCODILES)
ALL EDENTATES (SUCH AS ANTEATERS, SLOTHS AND ARMADILLOS)
ALL ELEPHANTIDAE (ELEPHANTS)
ALL ERINACIDAE (EXCEPT THE AFRICAN PIGMY HEDGEHOG)
ALL FELIDAE, EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC CAT
ALL HYAENIDAE (HYENAS)
ALL MARSUPIALS (EXCEPT SUGAR GLIDERS)
ALL MUSTELIDAE (SUCH AS SKUNKS, OTTERS AND WEASELS) EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC FERRET
ALL NON-HUMAN PRIMATES (SUCH AS GORILLAS AND MONKEYS)
ALL PINNIPEDS (SUCH AS SEALS, FUR SEALS AND WALRUSES)
ALL PERISSODACTYLOUS UNGULATES, EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC HORSE AND ASS
ALL PROCYONIDAE (SUCH AS RACCOONS, COATIS AND CACOMISTLES)
ALL PTEROPODIDAE (BATS)
ALL RAPTORS, DIURNAL AND NOCTURNAL (SUCH AS EAGLES, HAWKS AND OWLS)
ALL RATITES (SUCH AS OSTRICHES, RHEAS AND CASSOWARIES)
ALL URSIDAE (BEARS)
ALL VENOMOUS REPTILES
ALL VIVERRIDAE (SUCH AS MONGOUSES, CIVETS AND GENETS)

Examples of animals of a particular prohibited group are given in parentheses. They are examples only and shall not be construed as limiting the generality of the group.

This list is subject to review according to the accepted criteria.

Revised January 2005

PIJAC Canada's Three meter /two meter rule

When looking at reptiles, PIJAC Canada recommends the three meter/ two meter rule, defined as follows: “ **An adult snake's length cannot exceed three meters and an adult lizard's length cannot exceed two meters (snout to the tip of the tail).**”

PIJAC Canada favours this rule because it is easy to apply. You only require a measuring tape to be able to enforce it. As previously stated, PIJAC Canada favours a prohibited species list instead of a permitted one. However, regardless of the approach used, the more species that are added to a list, the greater the training required by the officers to properly identify them.

Based on past experience, relying on identification can be problematic. With age, the species colour patterns may change. There are also a growing number of colours available to herpetoculturists (albinos, hypomenalistic, granite, calico, etc.). Some of the species are crossbred or inbred, resulting in new sub-species. The three-meter rule takes into account all of these situations.

The rationale can be found in our Exotic Animal Policy, a copy of which is enclosed for your consideration.

As a complement to this approach, PIJAC Canada identifies six different species and one sub-specie of snakes that should be prohibited as pets. All of them exceed three meters and are recognized for their nasty disposition. They are all members of the Family *Boidae*, and we recommend their inclusion on a prohibited species list, under a statement such as: « These six species and this one sub-specie, members of the *Boidae* Family »

<u>Species</u>	<u>English common Name</u>	<u>*Length</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eunectes murinus</i>	Green anaconda	6 to 8 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eunectes notaeus</i>	Yellow anaconda	5 to 6 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python reticulatus</i>	Reticulated python	6 to 10 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python sebae</i>	African rock python	6 to 9 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python molurus bivittatus</i>	Burmese python	5 to 8 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Python molurus molurus</i>	Indian python	5 to 6 m
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Morelia amethystina</i>	Amethyst python	6 to 8 m

***Length suggested in literature. Snakes grow during their entire life and the total length they may reach is greatly influenced by the captive conditions in which they are kept.**

As mentioned previously, they are all covered in the three-meter/ two-meter rule. As for the two-meter rule in lizards, it basically eliminates all the nasty specimens, as well as those that are of real threat to pet owners.