



BOARD REPORT

TO: Chair and Directors

File No: 5510 03
5510 02
Bylaw No. 5747
Bylaw No. 5748

SUBJECT: Dog Control Regulation and Licensing Bylaw Updates

DESCRIPTION: Report from Ryan Nitchie, Team Leader, Community Services, dated November 17, 2017. Updates to the Dog Control Regulatory Bylaw for Electoral Area C and the Ranchero area of Electoral Area D.

RECOMMENDATION #1: THAT: "Electoral Area C Dog Control Bylaw No. 5747" be read a first, second and third time this 1st day of December, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT: "Electoral Area C Dog Control Bylaw No. 5747" be adopted this 1st day of December, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT: "Ranchero Dog Control Bylaw No. 5748" be read a first, second and third time this 1st day of December, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT: "Ranchero Dog Control Bylaw No. 5748" be adopted this 1st day of December, 2017.

SHORT SUMMARY:

The CSR D provides a dog control and licensing service in Electoral Area C as well as the Ranchero area of Electoral Area D. Staff has recently reviewed the existing service, conducted a legal review of the existing regulatory bylaw, and worked with a solicitor to create a new draft bylaw for both Electoral Area C and for the Ranchero area of Electoral Area D. The new bylaw updates ensure public safety; encourage responsible pet ownership; offers affordable opportunities for dog owners to licence their pets; and, strengthens the legal position of the Regional District.

VOTING:	Unweighted Corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LGA Part 14 (Unweighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weighted Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder (Weighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BACKGROUND:

The existing Dog Control regulatory bylaw was adopted in 2003. A legal review noted several areas that were not in compliance with the Local Government Act and therefore subject to legal challenge. Staff reviewed options that would create a framework for dog control that promotes public safety as well as animal welfare and reduces financial barriers with its dog licensing program in order to increase compliance and streamline efficiency.

The updated bylaws introduce changes to definitions and language to be consistent with the Local Government Act. The new bylaws clarify definitions surrounding dogs "Running at Large" and provides clearer language regarding the number of dogs allowed on a property. The new bylaws delete language surrounding the permitting and licensing of dog kennels, instead referring the kennel issue as one related to land-use and applicable under a zoning bylaw.

Staff considered the implementation of online sales of dog licences which is a common service provided by other local governments and is recognized as a means to help increase licensing compliance. This online system of dog licences also enables real-time field data for the animal control officer and simplifies the current system. Staff has investigated the development of an online system for issuance of licences through its existing software, and has confirmed the process can be implemented upon adoption of the bylaws. Improving the distribution of dog licences through online sales enables the CSRD to reduce its overhead costs of the existing program and can, therefore, pass these savings onto the customer through a price reduction of annual licences. Current trends in dog ownership reflect greater value on promoting health, safety and welfare of dogs and it is hoped that dog owners will recognize that licensing their animal will improve their chances of a safe return should the pet become lost.

POLICY:

The Local Government Act allows for a Board to regulate the keeping of dogs and to issue dog licences by bylaw.

FINANCIAL:

The new bylaw contains an annual licence fee of \$10 (currently \$15) and introduces a new annual auto renewable licence option which provides dog owners the opportunity to pay a one-time fee of \$50, which includes an automatic annual renewal of the licence, for as long as they own the dog. The online payment system is part of the Laserfiche software which is already owned by the CSRD.

Advertising and promotional costs for the new online payment system and revised payment options will be funded from the appropriate dog control operating budgets.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

To provide updates to the dog control bylaw and more accessible licensing options.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The updated bylaws will be effective upon adoption.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Staff will develop a communications plan to promote the new online licensing and payment options.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The Board approve the bylaws as presented.

BOARD'S OPTIONS:

1. *Endorse the Recommendation(s).*
2. *Deny the Recommendation(s).*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Dog Control Bylaw Updates 2017.docx
Attachments:	- Electoral Area C Dog Control Bylaw No. 5747 Final.docx - Rancho Dog Control Bylaw No. 5748 Final.docx
Final Approval Date:	Nov 21, 2017

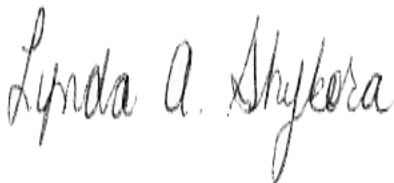
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Darcy Mooney - Nov 20, 2017 - 2:54 PM



Jodi Pierce - Nov 20, 2017 - 2:56 PM



Lynda Shykora - Nov 21, 2017 - 2:05 PM



Charles Hamilton - Nov 21, 2017 - 2:15 PM