



2021 Division Road North  
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9  
(519) 733-2305  
www.kingsville.ca  
kingsvilleworks@kingsville.ca

**Date:** November 26, 2018

**To:** Mayor and Council

**Author:** Roberta Baines, Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services

**RE:** Licensing, Regulating and Registration of Dogs Proposed By-law Amendment

**Report No.:** CS-2018-21

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## **AIM**

To provide Council with an overview of the draft licensing, regulating and registration of dogs proposed by-law amendment and to make recommendation to Council for the adoption of the proposed by-law amendment, reducing the length of time that a dog can be tethered in a 24-hour period from twelve (12) hours to four (4) hours.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the September 24, 2018 Regular Meeting of Council, the following motion was carried:

Moved by Councillor Susanne Coghill, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Gord Queen:

562-2018 That Administration prepare an amending by-law for Council's consideration to amend Section 8(f)(iii) of By-law 57-2015 to reduce the length of time that a dog can be tethered from twelve (12) hours per day to no more than four (4) hours in a 24-hour period and that a public meeting be held.

## **DISCUSSION**

Currently, By-law 57-2015, which amends By-law 103-2003 prohibits the tethering of dogs for more than twelve (12) hours in a 24-hour period. In accordance with the above motion, a draft by-law was prepared.

Both Melanie Coulter, Executive Director of the Windsor-Essex Humane Society, and the Town's Animal Control Officer, David Walsh were consulted about this proposed change. Both indicated support for the reduction in the tethering limits. They stated that enforcing a 12-hour limit can be difficult and that a 4-hour limit is easier to enforce. They also indicated

that in their experience, the public supports shorter tethering time limits. In Essex County alone, four out of seven municipalities have a four-hour tethering limit in their by-law.

Attached is By-law 122-2018 amending the Dog Licensing, Regulation and Registration of Dogs By-law 103-2003. The amendments contained in the amending by-law are as follows:

- Section 8(f) (iii) be deleted and replaced with a reduced time limit of 4 hours; and
- Second paragraph of section 8(f) be deleted and replaced with language reflecting the reduction to four (4) hours

Also attached to the by-law is the Provincial Offences Short Form of wording used to describe the offence and the set fine. The wording has been changed to reflect the new reduced tethering time limit. The Provincial Offences Short Form wording for set fines under Part 1 of the *Provincial Offences Act, 1990*, as amended is subject to approval by the Province after the first, second and third and final reading of the by-law by Council.

### **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Maintain and improve the health, safety and well-being of our residents.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

None

### **CONSULTATIONS**

Melanie Coulter, Windsor-Essex County Humane Society Director  
David Walsh, Animal Control Office

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives this report and adopt By-law 122-2018 amending the Licensing, Regulating and Registration of Dogs By-law 103-2003, as amended.

*Roberta Baines*

Roberta Baines, B.A.  
Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services

*Jennifer Astrologo*

Jennifer Astrologo, B.H.K. (Hons), LL.B.  
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

*Peggy Van Mierlo-West*

Peggy Van Mierlo-West, C.E.T.  
Chief Administrative Officer