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Date: March 23, 2017
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Jennifer Alexander, Deputy Clerk-Administrative Services
RE: Rabies Clinic
Report No.: CS-2017-010

AIM

To provide Council a report for a proposed rabies clinic for residents to comply with the new requirements for dog licenses.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Dog Licensing By-law 103-2003, the Town is authorized to license, regulate, and register all dogs within the Town of Kingsville. Last year, 2031 dogs were registered with the Town. Pet owners are required to purchase a dog tag at the beginning of each year and provide updated information on their animal. The fee for a dog tag is \$20.00 purchased before March 31, and \$40.00 afterwards.

For the 2017 dog tags, Administration added a requirement to licensing of dogs, due to the increase reports of dog attacks in the municipality. Dog owners are now required to provide evidence that an animal has been immunized against rabies, in order to qualify for a dog tag.

Rabies vaccinations for dogs are not new for pet owners. The rabies vaccine is a legislated requirement under the *Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act R.R.O*, Reg.567, which states that pet owners are legally required to keep dogs over three months old vaccinated for rabies. The first booster vaccine for rabies is due 12 months after the animal's initial vaccine, called the primary series; but after that, a rabies vaccine is only needed every one to three years, depending on the vaccine used.

Rabies is a viral disease that affects both animals and humans and attacks the central nervous system. It is spread through saliva in infected animals to humans, primarily

through a bite but it can also be spread through a scratch or open skin.¹ If left untreated, it could become deadly. Treatment includes a series of shots prescribed over a period of days to combat the spread of the virus.

Although, there are no cases of rabies reported in any animal in Essex County since 2008, Perth and Brant counties have had confirmed rabies cases within the last year.² In 2016, the Windsor Essex Health Unit (Health Unit) indicated that there were 193 cases of rabies confirmed in Ontario between January to August. Most cases were identified in wild animals such as a raccoons and skunks. As a requirement by *Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act*, the Health Unit monitors and records all animal bite incidents for Windsor Essex County. Overall, the number of dog bite incidents has increased in the County while the number of immunizations for rabies has decreased. Below is a breakdown of the number of incidents reported year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>All Animal Bites</u>	<u>Dog Bites</u>	<u>Immunized for Rabies</u>
2015	641	330	240
2016	795	478	211

When a dog attack is reported, animal control, the Windsor Essex Health Unit and the O.P.P are involved in the incident. Administration is notified when the owner is not present to provide animal information. The information commonly requested is rabies vaccinations, which the Town's Corporate Services department has not collected in the past. Less than half of the reported dog attacks had current rabies vaccinations, resulting in bite victims requiring unnecessary shots as a preventative measure to not contacting the virus. This requirement will provide assurance to the community that a dog with a 2017 dog tag has an up to date rabies vaccine and authorities will be able to determine quickly if medical treatment is necessary when an incident occurs. Furthermore, this information collected could reduce the need for the Town to quarantine an animal and prevents unnecessary shots for the victim.

DISCUSSION

In a positive step to combat the risks of rabies in our community, the Windsor Essex Humane Society (Humane Society) has offered to jointly host a rabies clinic in Kingsville. Through the Town's support of funding and facilities, the Humane Society will provide their services to procure the rabies vaccine at a reduce rate, and a veterinarian to administer the rabies vaccine free of charge for one day during the week. Through consultations with Windsor Essex Humane Society Executive Director, Melanie Coulter, the vaccine cost is estimated at \$20 per unit.

Administration is recommending that the arena be used to host the clinic in May. The hours are still to be determined but there will be an opportunity for working residents to

¹ Windsor Essex County Health Unit, "Rabies," <https://www.wechu.org/reportable-diseases/rabies> Date accessed: March 24, 2017.

² Perth District Health Unit, "Yet Another Calf Tests Positive for Rabies in Perth County," <http://www.pdhu.on.ca/yet-another-calf-tests-positive-for-rabies-in-perth-county/> Date Accessed: March 24, 2017.

attend during the early evening. The clinic will be widely advertised through newspaper's, social media, and the Town's digital sign.

This clinic will only be available to Kingsville residents and that still need to purchase their dog tag for 2017. Residents will be charged a flat rate and it will include a rabies vaccination, overall check of the animal by the veterinarian, and a dog tag. Kingsville veterinarians were approached to offer a clinic at a reduced price but expressed no interest.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The financial considerations are for staff time to organize and host the clinic. Through the flat fee of \$60.00, dog owners will cover the costs for the immunization and licensing fee. The Humane Society will invoice the Town on vaccines used. Any additional costs for advertising can be allocated through the Animal Control budget.

CONSULTATIONS

Management Team
The Windsor Essex Humane Society
Windsor Essex Health Unit

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Rabies clinic to be hosted by the Town in partnership with the Windsor Essex Humane Society.

Jennifer Alexander

Jennifer Alexander, M.P.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