



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

Date: March 23, 2017

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Jennifer Alexander-Deputy Clerk- Administrative Services

RE: 2017 Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program

Report No.: CS-2017- 009

AIM

To provide Council a report on the 2017 Spay and Neuter Voucher program and begin issuing cat vouchers for 2017.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Kingsville has participated in the Cat Spay and Neuter program since 2014. The goal of the program is to help control the feral cat population within the municipality. Over 216 feral cats and 34 low income cats have been spayed or neutered through this program. Each voucher is \$75 and is valid for 90 days. Below is the number of cat vouchers issued in each year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Feral</u>	<u>Low Income</u>
2014	\$10,000	\$6,075	\$1,575
2015	\$10,000	\$5,625	\$525
2016	\$8,000	\$4,500	\$450

The voucher is redeemed at participating veterinarian offices and the remaining amount owing is the responsibility of the resident. Most costs associated with the surgery are covered by the voucher. Veterinarians honoring the vouchers are required to authenticate the voucher through the identification of the applicant. The veterinarian must invoice the Town with the signed voucher attached, within 30 days of the service completion.

For 2016, Administration allocated funds between feral cats (\$6,000) and low income families (\$2,000). In total, 106 vouchers were available to residents in May, only 60 vouchers were claimed for feral cats and 8 claimed for low income families. In October, all returned or unused vouchers were released again for residents. The total \$5,100 in

vouchers was claimed. Overall, this program is in high demand with residents. The challenge for many residents is capturing the animal in a reasonable amount of time to get the procedure completed.

DISCUSSION

Council has approved the program for 2017 with a budget allocation of \$6,500. The program funding is allocated for feral cats (\$5,750) and qualified families (\$750). A maximum of 3 vouchers are issued per application. In November, Council has approved ear tipping for feral cats to improve accountability and transparency of the program. The Town continues to require participating veterinarians to sign off that the intended procedures are completed. This added step is standard procedure in other animal control programs.

Administration is going to release vouchers for this program beginning in May.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

To maintain the health and safety of residents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council has approved the funding for this program in the 2017 budget.

CONSULTATIONS

The Humane Society of Windsor-Essex

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report regarding the 2017 Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program.

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