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**Date:** October 31, 2016

**To:** Mayor and Council

**Author:** Jennifer Alexander – Deputy Clerk Administrative Services

**RE:** 2017 Cat Intake Program – Windsor Essex County Humane Society

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## **AIM**

This report is to provide Council with a recommendation to approve the agreement between the Windsor Essex County Humane Society (“Humane Society”) and the Town of Kingsville for the Intake of Cats Program (“Program”).

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 2005, the Town has participated in this Program and the current agreement expires December 31, 2016. The Program is a service provided by the Humane Society created to combat the number of stray cats running- at- large within the Town and to provide a drop-off location for residents. Stray cats that are surrendered can be categorized in two ways: 1) the cat is adoptable: it is friendly, comfortable with human contact, and may have wandered from home or has been abandoned by its owner; and 2) The cat is wild or feral, has clearly been living outside, not comfortable with human contact and is unadoptable. The cat is examined and vaccinated by the Humane Society and if it’s healthy it will be released back into the area. Since the program’s inception, more than 1300 stray cats have been dropped off from Kingsville. In the past three years, our intake numbers show a decline in the number of stray cats being dropped off from 143 cats in 2013 to 99 cats in 2015. This downward trend will continue with 2016 numbers.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Humane Society has provided a new agreement for the 2017 calendar year for the Intake of Cats Program. There have been no changes to the agreement for the 2017 calendar year. These are the relevant monetary provisions:

- The \$25.00 fee for the daily cost of quarantining a cat from Kingsville, if required.
- Owner surrendered cats will still be accepted by Humane Society for the full intake fee of \$30.00.
- Feral cats surrendered by residents will have the same intake fee as stray cats with the Town responsible for \$20.00 per feral cat.

These fees are collected and billed to the Town on a monthly basis.

Furthermore, the Humane Society approached the Town this fall regarding the resident portion of this cost sharing program. Melanie Coulter, Executive Director of the Humane Society, is proposing to shift the entire intake fee to the Town as there have been several complaints over the fees. There have been some instances where residents have threatened to leave a stray cat in their parking lot instead of paying the drop off fee. As a result, the Humane Society has requested that the Town be financially responsible for the stray cat intake fee of \$30. Removing the resident fee would ensure the welfare of stray cats and continue the program's ongoing success. The City of Windsor has adopted this change for 2017 and all neighbouring municipalities have been notified that the Humane Society wishes to implement this change for the 2018 calendar year.

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The cost for the Intake of Cats Program in 2016 Animal Control Budget was \$2,500 and a 2017 budget item to remain the same financial allocation of \$2,500.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

The Windsor Essex County Humane Society  
Senior Management Team

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives the 2017 Cat Intake Program Report for information and postpone consideration of continuing the program to upcoming budget deliberations.

*Jennifer Alexander*

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Jennifer Alexander, M.P.A  
Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services

*Jennifer Astrologo*

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