



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

Date: December 12, 2017

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Roberta Baines – Deputy Clerk Administrative Services

RE: 2018 Cat Intake Program – Windsor Essex County Humane Society

Report No.: CS-2018-01

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 expired on December 31, 2017. The Program is a service provided by the Humane Society created to address the number of stray cats running-at-large within the Town and to provide drop-off location for residents. Stray cats that are surrendered can be categorized in two ways:

- 1) 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) 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 is healthy, it will be released back into the area. Since the program's launch, more than 1300 stray cats have been dropped off from Kingsville. In the past three years there has been a decline in the number of stray cats being dropped off from 143 cats in 2013 to 91 cats in 2016. This downward trend hopefully will continue for 2018.

DISCUSSION

The Humane Society has provided a new agreement for the 2018 calendar year for the Cat Intake Program with the following change:

- waiving co-pay for residents bringing in stray cats with the full cost of \$25 billed to the Town (previously \$10 resident co-pay and \$20 billed to Town)

Although costs to provide this service have increased, the fee has not changed since inception of this program. The Humane Society notified the Town last year that this change would be implemented for the 2018 calendar year. The main reason for the elimination of the resident co-pay is the frustration expressed from residents with this cost. Additionally, most Ontario municipalities do not require residents to pay to bring in stray animals. However, it has been noted that residents are often willing to provide a donation to help the cat they bring in when asked.

The following other monetary provisions remain the same for the 2018 agreement:

- The \$25 fee for the daily cost of quarantining a cat from Kingsville, if required
- Owner surrendered cats will be accepted by Humane Society for the full intake fee of \$25 paid entirely by owner

These fees are collected and billed to the Town on a monthly basis. The Humane Society is requesting that the Town be financially responsible for the stray cat intake fee of \$25. Removing the resident co-pay fee is ensuring the welfare of stray cats and continue the program's ongoing success. The City of Windsor adopted this change for 2017 and all neighbouring municipalities were notified of this change.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost for the Intake of Cats Program in 2017 Animal Control Budget was \$2,500 and a 2018 budget item to remain the same financial allocation of \$2,500.

CONSULTATIONS

The Windsor Essex County Humane Society
Senior Management Team

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the 2018 Cat Intake Program Report and approve the agreement between the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society and the Town of Kingsville for the continuation of the 2018 Cat Intake Program.

Roberta Baines

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

Jennifer Astrologo

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

Peggy Van Mierlo-West

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