



Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Minutes

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009
1:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

Action



Present: Councillor W. Cuthbert, Chair
Chris Madison, It's a Dog's Life
Celynn Alcock, Cat Shelter
Gloria Alcock, Rescue North
Celia Christensen, Kenora Veterinary Clinic
Crystal Friesen, Public-at-Large
B. Preisntanz, CAO
J. McMillin, City Clerk
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager
K. Robertson, Chief Building Official
J. Simpson, Animal Control Officer
Sgt. A. Illman, O.P.P.

Regrets: Councillor D. McCann

A. Public Information Notices

N/A

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof

- 1) On Today's Agenda**
- 2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance**

There were none declared.

C. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by C. Madison, Seconded by C. Alcock, & Carried:

THAT the Minutes of the last Committee meeting held August 20, 2009 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Deputations:-

N/A

Councillor W. Cuthbert, Chair

1. Welcome and introduction of new Members

Councillor Cuthbert asked that everyone identify themselves for purposes of introductions.

2. O.S.P.C.A. Update

It was discussed that the OSPCA does not have an officer in the community however they would be prepared to work with one of the shelters for this purpose. Typically the O.P.P. will conduct the mandate under the Act for cruelty-to-animal calls through a 1-800-number which are then referred to O.P.P.

3. Statistics Update

Councillor Cuthbert advised of her analysis of the various statistics, as did the applicable representatives as outlined below:

City of Kenora–Animal Complaints (January 1/09 to October 31/09)

a) Kenora Animal Control i) cruelty to animal calls ii) other

- Total calls: 150 O.P.P.
- Animal type: dogs – 57; cats – 6; deer – 25; bear – 55; other – 7.
- Nature of calls:
 - Cruelty – cats – 3; dog – 1
 - Injured – dogs – 4; deer – 25; other – 2
 - Vicious – dogs – 1
 - Running at large – dogs – 18; cats – 3; cows – 1
 - Chasing deer – dogs – 3
 - Fear of abuse – dogs – 19; cats – 1 (all unfounded)
 - Nuisance – wolf – 1; bears – 55
 - Barking nuisance – dogs – 3
 - Fear of attack – dogs – 6

First Nation Communities–Animal Complaints (January 1/09 to October 31/09)

b) OPP Cruelty to animals calls ii) outside of municipal boundary, iii) FN Communities

- Total calls: 29 O.P.P.; 89 Treaty Three (T3)
- Animal type:
 - dogs – 26 O.P.P.; 64 T3
 - cats - 2 - T3
 - deer - 0
 - bear - 3 O.P.P.; 18 T3
 - other – 3 T3
- Nature of calls:
 - Cruelty – dogs – 1 O.P.P.; 5 - dogs T3; Cats – 1 T3
(witness to physical abuse)
 - Vicious – dogs – 11; 23 T3 (attacks on people other pets or wild)
 - Running at large – dogs – 4 O.P.P.; 8 dogs T3
 - Fear of Attack – dogs – 3 O.P.P.; 13 dog T3; 1 cat T3 (animal shows aggression, growls or breed type is intimidating)

Fear of abuse – dogs – 2 O.P.P.; 1 dog T3
Injured – dogs – 3 O.P.P.; 10 dogs T3; 1 deer T3
Nuisance – dogs – 2 O.P.P.; 3 bears O.P.P.; 18 bears T3;
1 racoon T3
Abandoned – dogs – 7 T3
Chasing deer – dogs – 1 T3

c) It's A Dog's Life

It was noted there hasn't been an increase in the number of dogs taken in by It's a Dog's Life, and that they are consistent with last year's numbers. Most dogs and puppies are from the Whitedog First Nations and typically they end up at the dump and die.

d) Rescue North

No stats from Rescue North. The Shelter is currently closed, and no idea if it will re-open. However they do still accept animals from time to time.

e) Cat Shelter

Celynn circulated a copy of her statistics (attached to these Minutes), noting that numbers are going down. She indicated there are many cats and kittens received from Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, and the Whitefish Bay area.

It was agreed that statistics illustrate the majority of problems are from outside the municipal boundaries.

4. Animal Control By-law

Jeff explained Animal Control has captured and relocated 7 bears, with 1 being destroyed; they do not track deer calls as it is an MNR matter.

Jeff noted that with each bear call Animal Control does attend to see what the issue is and to make a decision on trapping. Jeff indicated he will prepare a report of statistics for the information of the Committee.

JSimpson

Rick mentioned that Operations is reviewing the Animal Control By-law and that he and Jeff Simpson will be preparing a draft. Rick advised that any Member with concerns or suggestions can forward same to him via email (rperchuk@kenora.ca). Zoning and Official Plan matters are also to be considered as we are currently going through an OP review.

**Committee/
RPerchuk**

The timeframe for a draft was discussed and that it should be completed prior to the end of the year, and with public input as done in the past. It was noted the format of the by-law is to remain the same. The draft would be forwarded to this Committee with the public meeting to follow in January, prior to going to Committee of Council. The Clerk noted the Set Fine Schedule will take a couple of months to receive approval from the province once adopted by Council.

5. Licencing and Fees

Rick is to obtain information from other municipalities for comparison purposes with a view to updating/changing our by-law with respect to fees.

RPerchuk

It was questioned if cats should be included with the fees, but this is a very difficult thing to police and enforce, although some municipalities have been successful in this regard. Ownership responsibility is an issue with respect to cats and they should be kept indoors or leashed and it may not be such a problem.

A discussion ensued on licencing and likely less than 200 dogs are registered for a licence and it is not certain if micro-chipping has had any effect on compliance. Jeff mentioned there are alternatives available for promoting and encouraging licencing mainly by making the process convenient, i.e. Animal Control could carry licences in their vehicle, or a door to door blitz could be carried out. Other ideas are to make them available at pet stores, the Vet Clinic, the Home Show, and possibly at adoption centres. It was questioned if these types of purchases could be made online through the City Portal and Rick said he would check into this option.

The 'urban chicken' concept was referred to and that one or two residents have inquired about this for Kenora.

The number of animals allowed under the current by-law was mentioned and the matter of rural areas and zoning. It was mentioned that in terms of zoning, additional dogs are allowed in rural vs. numbers within the city.

6. Other Business

Concern was expressed regarding the public's misconception on 'who does what' in the community regarding animal welfare, strays, cruelty issues, etc. Celynn suggested there should be a media blitz on this Committee and to provide the public with information through a mail out or in the Municipal Memo; facts, procedures, etc. and also on the mandate of the Committee.

**JMcMillin/
JSimpson**

Tour of the City Pound

Jeff Simpson will make arrangements for the Committee to tour the facility at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19.

**Committee/
JSimpson**

Weekend Coverage for Strays

It was questioned if there is something that can be set up on weekends for strays? It was noted that after hours calls do not get picked up until the next business day. Right now there is no staff available for this purpose.

Sgt. Illman mentioned perhaps the O.P.P. could be allowed to impound animals within city limits if they were provided with a key for this purpose. Jeff thought that should not present a problem.

It was mentioned a policy should be considered at the time the new by-law is approved with respect to these types of items under Animal Control and access by the O.P.P. to the pound, etc. The O.P.P. would be willing to meet with Operations for suggestions and ideas on this proposal.

**RPerchuk/
O.P.P.**

It was noted that municipal By-law Enforcement Officers do the clean-up and feeding of animals at the pound.

Celynn mentioned for after hours calls that she would take cats in if she has an open kennel.

Bill advised the matter of a new Animal Control Officer or backup for Jeff is to be reviewed next month by Council.

7. Next Meeting

Committee agreed to meet on Thursday December 10 at 1:00 p.m. to review the draft by-law, with a view to holding a public meeting in the new year.

8. Close Meeting.

The meeting closed at 2:15 p.m.

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CAT SHELTER STATISTICS

INTAKE AREA	2003 Feb-Dec	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Jan-Nov-15	2003-2009 TOTALS	AREA TOTALS	%
Kenora Area	35	116	147	159	149	81	68	755		
AC	26	40	27	18	30	19	21	181		
Born @ Shelter	9	3	2	10	0	10	0	34	970	80.70%
OSPCA/RN	8	29	3	4	27	4	1	76	76	6.30%
Red Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2		
Aitkokan	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2		
Sioux Narrows	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4		
Dryden	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	5		
Perrault Falls	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1		
Ear Falls	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2		
Redditt	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3		
Emo	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	20	1.70%
Whitedog FN	3	1	2	1	9	19	2	37		
Washagamis FN	0	3	6	0	11	10	0	30		
Rat Portage FN	0	2	6	0	2	1	3	14		
Grassy Narrows FN	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	4		
Dalles FN	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	5		
Sabaskong FN	0	0	2	1	4	3	0	10		
Whitefish Bay FN	0	0	1	1	4	10	5	21		
Shoal Lake FNS	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	7	128	10.60%
Manitoba	0	0	3	0	3	1	1	8	8	0.70%
TOTALS	81	196	200	202	252	161	110	1202	1202	100.00%
Adoptions	47	147	148	183	182	147	96	950		
Return to Owners	5	16	39	19	22	18	9	128		
To Homes...	52	163	187	202	204	165	105	1078		