

July 31, 2012



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

**Fr: Richard Perchuk, Operations Manager
Kevin Robertson, CBO and Supervisor of By-law Enforcement**

**Re: Amendment to By-law 150-2010 being a By-law To Regulate the
Keeping of Animals within the City of Kenora**

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves amending By-Law 150-2010, being a by-law to regulate the keeping of animals within the City of Kenora, to permit changes to the following sections as set out below:-

Section 1. "Definitions"

Add: "Guide Dog"

Any dog specifically trained for and actually used by any person whose sight is impaired or is blind, or whose hearing is impaired or who is deaf, or who, that because of a handicap (within the meaning of the Human Rights Code) relies upon a dog as a guide.

To be numbered 1.10 and all definitions to follow renumbered accordingly.

Section 4. "Dogs at large"

Amend:

4.14 The owner of a dog shall remove forthwith and dispose of any excrement left by the dog on any property other than the owner's property.

To Read:

4.14 Controlling Dog Waste within the City

(a) The owner of a dog shall remove forthwith and dispose of any excrement left by the dog on any property other than the owner's property.

Add:

(b) That subsection 4.14 (a) shall not apply to a person with a disability who is reliant on a guide dog.

That three readings be given to a by-law for this purpose.

Background:

A citizen with limited mobility and requiring the use of a service dog is requesting that the City add an exemption clause to their animal control by-law excluding them from picking up the waste left behind by their service dog. The citizen explained that he is a responsible dog handler who does not have an issue with cleaning up after the service dog, but at times finds it difficult due to limited mobility, see attached email.

The By-law Enforcement Department has had an opportunity to survey three communities ie. Dryden, Saskatoon and Thunder Bay regarding an exemption clause. All three have provisions for a "guide dog". Dryden and Saskatoon provide a clause exempting persons with a disability reliant on a guide dog. Thunder Bay limits the exemption to those who are blind and with a guide dog.

It is recommended that Council approve an amendment to By-law # 150-2010, being a By-law to Regulate the Keeping of Animals within the City of Kenora, to include the addition of "Guide Dog" to Section 1 "Definitions" and the amending of Section 4 "Dogs at Large" to include the exemption clause: "That subsection 4.14 (b) shall not apply to a person with a disability who is reliant on a guide dog". This would require the present wording under 4.14 to be changed to 4.14 (a).

Budget: N/A**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

Resolution and By-law required

Distribution: R. Perchuk, K. Robertson, J. McMillin