



1 February 2011

## City Council Committee Report

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Joanne L. McMillin, City Clerk**

**Re: Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act**

### **Recommendation:**

That the Council of the City of Kenora hereby receives the resolution from the Municipality of Tweed with respect to supporting and endorsing their position on the Wildlife Damage Compensation program as follows:-

Whereas the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program provides compensation to eligible applicants whose livestock and/or poultry have been injured or killed as a result of wildlife, and further provides for municipalities compensate livestock owners and seek reimbursement from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and

Whereas livestock valuers submit the same report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs that they do to municipalities therefore making municipal involvement redundant; and

Whereas municipalities are required to pay animal livestock valuer report claims directly and then apply for reimbursement from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, who in turn have the option to deny such claims although the claim has been paid by the municipality; and

Whereas municipalities are required to remunerate livestock valuers although municipalities are not appropriately compensated to cover all related expenses and must do so at the expense of municipal taxpayers;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That municipalities no longer be involved in the livestock valuation and compensation program; and further

That livestock owners, through a Provincial livestock valuer, make application directly to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and be paid from the Ministry for wildlife damage compensation, and program guidelines be amended to provide for these changes; and further

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Municipality of Tweed and Sarah Campbell, MPP.

### **Background:**

The above-noted recommendation is self-explanatory and supported by both my office and Animal Control. Currently Jeff Simpson is trained as our Livestock Valuer for purposes of completing our obligations under the Act as the municipality is currently liable when livestock is killed or injured in our jurisdiction by dogs, regardless of dogs coming into the City from outlying areas; we are responsible to compensate the owner. The City is basically a 'go-through-agency' between the applicant and the Ministry and while we have been reimbursed by the Ministry, potentially the Ministry could deny or only reimburse a percentage if they so choose. The entire process impacts City staff resources, particularly Animal Control and my office to process these requests and we are fulfilling the Act on behalf of the Ministry without any compensation. The process is very prescribed and time consuming and the Ministry should be dealing with these directly as they do already when wolves for example kill livestock within our jurisdiction.

In total we have paid out \$3,400 for four (4) claims and have been reimbursed about half as we were not informed of the compensation program until our last claim in 2010.

**Budget:** Animal Control Budget; potential for full recovery.

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