



To: Council
From: Gilles Crepeau, Fire Chief
Date of Meeting: October 23, 2019
Subject: By-law No. 2019-097 Limit the Number of Cats per Dwelling Unit in Urban Settlement Areas

Recommendation:

That By-law No. 2019-097, being a by-law to limit the number of cats per dwelling unit within an urban settlement area, in the Township of South Stormont, be read and passed in open Council, signed and sealed this 23rd day of October 2019.

Background:

Pursuant to the Key Information Report presented to Council on August 14, 2019, staff has created a by-law to limit the number of cats per dwelling unit as the first step towards a re-development of the Township's animal control program.

Staff has researched Animal Control By-laws currently in place in neighbouring municipalities. Based on this research, staff suggest limiting the number of cats per dwelling unit in urban settlement areas, to five (5).

The by-law also states that any person who owns, harbours, maintains, or possesses more than the permitted total number of cats on the date this by-law comes into force shall be permitted to own a maximum of ten (10) cats until they die and/or are otherwise disposed of or re-located. This is generally referred to as a "grandfather" clause.

Anticipated Next Steps

The Township's primary long-term goal is to develop a comprehensive Animal Control and Licensing By-law that outlines pet owners' responsibilities and municipal responsibilities to provide animal control services. It is anticipated the new by-law could include:

- update the current pet licensing system i.e. permanent tags, microchips
- ability to purchase dog license(s) online
- clarification of kennel provisions
- inclusion of exotic animals and/or domestic poultry
- enhanced enforcement tools

It is anticipated such a project will ensue spring 2020. There are possible savings to be recognized if a partnership with neighbouring municipalities for kennel and animal control services can be negotiated.

Public Education

Promotion and education are important elements, as well as best practices for any significant change in procedures implemented by the Township. Staff will continue to develop promotion and education materials as they develop the new Animal Control program.

- October 2019 – Update the Township’s Animal Control page on our website with the information about the new cat limit.
- November, 2019 – Include an ad in the Township’s Electronic Newsletter to inform residents of the new By-law.
- November, 2019 – Facebook post informing residents of the new by-law and the grand-fathering clause for those who currently have more domestic animals than the permitted limit.
- November, 2019 – Include an ad in our monthly newspaper article in the Seaway News informing residents of the new by-law and the grand-fathering clause for those who currently possess more domestic animals than the permitted limit.
- Winter 2020 – When sending invoices for the 2020 dog licenses, staff will include information outlining pet licensing information, new procedures and additional information.

Options:

1. That Council adopts By-law No. 2019-097, being a by-law to limit the number of cats per dwelling unit in the Township of South Stormont, be read and passed in open Council, signed and sealed this 23rd day of October 2019. This is the recommended option.
2. That Council does not approve this by-law but include recommendations outlined in the Animal Control By-law to be developed in the Spring of 2020.
3. Other.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact at this time.

Others Consulted:

Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by:

Shelby Martel, Administrative Assistant