

4. Re: Letter - Mrs. Rose Supeene, 4790 Albert Street,
Dogs Running at Large

Appearing on the Agenda for the September 11, 1972 Council Meeting is a letter from Mrs. Rose Supeene requesting more stringent impoundment of dogs who wander at large.

The Chief Licence Inspector advises that Capitol Hill has an unusually high population of dogs and is the most heavily patrolled area in Burnaby. In fact, more dogs are impounded from there than any other area in the Municipality.

Because authority to enact by-laws is limited by the Municipal Act, municipalities are not always able to provide the type of enactment or enforcement that is desired. This partly explains why stronger provisions for enforcement are not contained in the existing Burnaby Dog Tax & Dog Pound By-Law. However, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities at its convention in Vancouver on September 13, 14 & 15, 1972 will consider and vote on the following resolutions:

LEASH BY-LAW FOR DOG CONTROL

WHEREAS Section 870, subsection (t) of the Municipal Act provides that dogs shall be kept on a leash while upon a highway or public place;

AND WHEREAS this subsection does not provide for a leash by-law to be passed for certain areas of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS in district municipalities particularly there are areas of urban development together with areas of suburban and rural development;

AND WHEREAS it is considered desirable to provide for the control of dogs by a leash by-law for certain areas of a municipality particularly in the built-up urban areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of B.C. Municipalities petition the Provincial Government to amend Section 870, sub-section (t) of the Municipal Act to provide for the passing of a leash by-law for all of or a defined area or areas of a district municipality.

DOG VIOLATION NOTICES

WHEREAS nuisances from dogs roaming at large are a perennial problem;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Act gives power to establish and maintain dog pounds, and to fix fines and fees for dogs caught roaming at large;

AND WHEREAS some additional control could be exercised by serving violation notices on owners of dogs where difficulties occur in apprehending a dog and where the owner is known;

AND WHEREAS the legal power to implement the issuance of violation notices and provide for suitable fines appears to be in doubt:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of B.C. Municipalities urge the Provincial Government to amend Section 871(2) of the Municipal Act to clearly empower municipal councils to adopt regulations permitting the issuance of violation notices upon the owners of dogs who allow their animals to roam at large.

Continued.....

ITEM 4

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 56

COUNCIL MEETING Sept. 11/72

4. Re: Letter - Mrs. Rose Supeene, 4790 Albert Street,
Dogs Running at Large (Continued)

Adoption of either or both resolutions by the U.B.C.M. will greatly enhance an individual municipality's ability to control problems involving dogs.

More effective control of stray dogs can be achieved at the present time if complainants will initiate legal action against the owners of dogs when dogs are allowed to wander at large and/or create disturbances. The Municipal Licence Department will upon request assist complainants in preparing specific charges.

Council on September 18, 1972 will be given specific proposals for the new contract as the present contract between the Municipality and the S.P.C.A. expires on September 30, 1972. Included will be a recommendation from the S.P.C.A. to increase the number of poundkeepers who are engaged in patrol and enforcement activity. Council at that time will also review revisions to the Dog Tax & Pound By-Law and suggested Municipal Act amendments pertaining to dog control. Another review will presumably be made at a future date if the U.B.C.M. adopts the Leash By-Law & Violation Notices Resolutions at its convention next week.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. Supeene.