

7. Re: Letter - Miss Patricia Knight, 410 N. Hythe Avenue
Cat Complaint

Appearing on the Agenda for the January 17, 1972 Council Meeting is a communication dated January 9, 1972 from Miss Patricia Knight requesting a licencing bylaw for cats.

Council debated the merits of a bylaw for the control of cats on May 5, 1971. On that occasion, the Chief Licence Inspector and Secretary-Manager of the Vancouver Regional Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals through correspondence recommended that a cat bylaw not be enacted because such a bylaw could not be effectively enforced. Cats are generally not impoundable because they usually engage in their objectionable habits at night or in residential shrubbery and backyards. Dogs, on the other hand, are usually found during daytime hours on streets and lanes. It is neither practical nor desirable to require an Enforcement Officer to search for cats on private property, particularly at night when Officers would be unnecessarily exposed to the danger of being mistakenly identified as criminal intruders. Also, searches conducted at night would produce few results because the animals would not be easily seen.

As far as can be ascertained, the only Cat Regulation Bylaw in effect in British Columbia, is in effect in the City of North Vancouver. This Bylaw simply limits to six the total number of cats and other small animals that a person may keep on any premises within the municipality.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a Cat Control Regulation Bylaw not be enacted because it would be virtually impossible to enforce.