

20. Re: Letter dated April 24, 1973, from Janet Thompson
 Dog Control

Appearing on the Agenda for the May 14, 1973 meeting of Council is a letter from Janet Thompson, 970 Cliff Avenue, Burnaby 2, with various suggestions offered to improve the control of dogs in the Municipality.

Of the several points raised by the complainant, those activities directly related to the pound have been examined and we would report as follows:

1. A search of the complaint register revealed that no complaint has been lodged by the complainant between January 1, 1973 and April 30, 1973.
2. Pound Enforcement Inspectors have, within the same time period, been active within the general area of the Thompson residence with the result that several dogs have been impounded and numerous written warnings issued.
3. Sale of dog licences, impoundings, and collection of impounding fees for the period of January 1, 1973 to April 30, 1973 show a marked increase over the corresponding period in 1972.

	1972	1973	INCREASE
Dog Tag sales	4,942	6,085	1,143
Licence fees collected	\$ 26,604.24	\$ 34,606.75	\$ 8,002.50
Dogs impounded	454	624	170
Impounding fees collected	\$ 3,090.00	\$ 6,311.50	\$ 2,221.50

4. During April 1973, in addition to the impoundings, the following written warning notices were issued.

Running at large	168
No current licence	73
Barking Dogs	131

NOTE: No meaningful comparative statistics are available regarding the above noted warnings as a system of recording such was instituted only two months ago.

Effective December 1, 1972, "Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Control By-law" increased the impounding fees for unlicensed dogs from \$15.00 to \$25.00 and female dog licences from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Concurrent with changes in the fee structure, patrol hours have been extended to a maximum of 16 hours per day with a regular patrol conducted on Saturdays, and a leash by-law has been enacted.

As indicated by the written warning notices mentioned in item 4, above, the S.P.C.A. Inspectors spend considerable time in establishing ownership of dogs. When a dog cannot be apprehended for running at large, the owner is first issued a written warning and then faces legal action if the dog is not kept under control. The direct contact with dog owners has proven very successful.

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ITEM 20

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 37

COUNCIL MEETING May 14/73

20. Re: Dog Control (cont'd)

With respect to Janet Thompson's suggestion that dogs at kennels or pet shops be licenced, there is no existing by-law that specifically requires operators of these businesses to licence dogs. However, as a proposal under consideration, there appears to be merit in soliciting the co-operation of kennel and pet shop operators and requesting them to supply persons purchasing dogs with a copy of our Municipal brochure which outlines licence requirements, leash law provisions, and impounding fees. Distribution of the brochure might well be an extension of the functions of the Pound Enforcement Inspectors.

In keeping with Council's recent instructions, staff members of the Licence Department have participated in a meeting with the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association, Vancouver Regional S.P.C.A. and representatives of several surrounding districts, for the purpose of examining the feasibility of providing a low cost or subsidized spay-neuter clinic. Progress reports will be made as information becomes available.

The possibility of mandatory spaying of all unregistered or cross bred female dogs was considered during the drafting of the current by-law. There is presently no authority to enact mandatory spaying.

With the exception of actively soliciting co-operation of kennel and pet shop operators, an approach which is presently under study, the Licence Department has given consideration to and initiated action concerning all points referenced with the April 24, 1973 correspondence from Janet Thompson.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Janet Thompson be advised to contact Mr. Garry Smith, Senior Enforcement Inspector at the Animal Shelter, phone 299-4545, to discuss specific complaints as they arise in her neighbourhood; and

THAT a copy of this report be provided to Janet Thompson, and to Mr. Garry Smith of the Municipal Animal Shelter.