

ITEM 15

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 53

COUNCIL MEETING July 16/73

15. Re: Letter dated July 3, 1973 from Mr. Otto J. Koppe
7995 - 17th Avenue, Burnaby 3, British Columbia
Dog Complaint

Appearing on the Agenda for the July 16, 1973 meeting of Council is a letter from Mr. Otto J. Koppe regarding a dog that is allegedly a source of constant annoyance to tenants residing at 8011 - 15th Avenue. Following is a report from the Chief Licence Inspector regarding this matter:

"Investigation of the complaint was carried out by the Pound Enforcement Officers and they report as follows:

"The owner of the dog at 8005 - 15th Avenue is Mr. F. Hryciw and this is confirmed by 1973 dog licence number 7496. The dog is confined to the owners property by means a chain or is kept in the house. The location of the chain allows the dog to occupy the driveway area however, the owner was not home at the time of the inspection and the dog was in the house. The owner responded to a request to contact the pound office and it was agreed to relocate the dog to the rear yard thereby eliminating the problem of the neighbours use of the common double driveway. Mr. Hryciw stated that the dog barks only when someone comes onto the property and he is prepared to take steps to reduce this problem.

On April 4, 1973, the Hryciw's dog was alleged to have attacked the small daughter of another neighbour. Investigation revealed that the incident took place on the Hryciw's property and the dog was on its chain at the time. The child did not suffer any puncture or broken skin and the parents did not report the incident. Therefore, the action of the Pound Office was limited to a warning for no licence and barking.

A review of pound records for the period between April 1, 1973 and July 10, 1973, revealed that approximately 50 dogs have been impounded and 45 written warning notices issued throughout an area of six square blocks surrounding the subject property."

The only authority to order the removal of a dog is via the courts, under provisions of the Animal Act. In this case the parents of the child did not lodge the complaint and apparently did not wish to initiate any action.

Mr. Hryciw's response indicates a co-operative attitude and the relocation of the dog to the rear yard should serve to reduce the barking. However, a letter of warning has been forwarded to Mr. Hryciw for the purpose of documentation of the complaint of barking.

We agree with Mr. Koppe that the thoughtless pet owner causes suffering on the part of many pets and damage beyond assessment to both private and public properties. Unfortunately no one has found a complete solution to this problem.

The Pound Enforcement Officers will continue with patrols throughout this area but no further action is possible if the Hryciw's dog is confined to the property and the barking is controlled.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Mr. Otto Koppe and the residents of 8011 - 15th Avenue receive a copy of this report and;

That the residents of 8011 - 15th Avenue be invited to contact the Municipal Animal Shelter at 299-4545 if they have further need of their service."

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Chief Licence Inspector's recommendation be adopted.