

8. Re: Letter dated May 22, 1973 from the Vancouver City Clerk
Spaying Service

Appearing on the Agenda for the June 18, 1973 meeting of Council is a letter from the Vancouver City Clerk regarding a spaying service for dogs.

We have not heard the views from two municipalities so our survey will not be available until next week.

The following report from the Chief Licence Inspector summarizes the work that has been done to date on the proposal to provide a free or low cost spaying and neutering service in the lower mainland, and comments on the Standing Committee on Environment's recommendation that a combined effort be made to prepare a brochure on the care of animals.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Vancouver City Council be advised that the Municipality of Burnaby concurs with the recommendation to have the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association, S.P.C.A. and representative members of the G.V.R.D. prepare a brochure on the care of animals.

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To: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
From: CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR
Subject: SPAYING SERVICES

June 13, 1973

In keeping with Council's instruction to the Municipal Clerk to conduct a survey of the district's comprising the Greater Vancouver Regional District to determine if any such districts are interested in participating in a low cost or subsidized animal spaying service, the City of Vancouver called an open meeting to consider the need for such a service.

Representation was provided by District of Burnaby, District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, members of the S.P.C.A. and the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association.

The meeting considered the need and feasibility of providing a spay-neuter service in co-operation with the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association. Additional consideration was given to the need for an educational programme aimed at emphasizing the care and responsibilities of pet ownership. The following extracts are from the minutes of that meeting:

1. Spaying - for control of population

Dr. Hoff of the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association stated that the advice that female dogs should only be spayed on maturity, and in particular after having the first litter, was principally wrong advice which most of the owners were acting on. He informed that spaying young dogs who have had no litters would not only be cheaper but also will not create any complications in the operation. He further informed that the minimum cost of spaying an adult dog was between \$35.00 and \$55.00.

Mr. Hosegood of the S.P.C.A. advised that according to their statistics of March, 1973, the average cost of spaying each dog was \$38.52. According to S.P.C.A., no one could adopt a female dog without first having to pay the adoption fee plus an additional fee of \$25.00 towards the spaying costs. The difference in the spaying cost was met by S.P.C.A. It was further indicated that due to the high cost involved in spaying service, the Society may have to curtail or even stop the offer of subsidizing spaying service. However, this arrangement was only applicable to the female dogs coming through the Pound but there was a much larger number going directly to the owners through kennels or people who were conducting small businesses breeding at home.

It was further indicated that the B.C., S.P.C.A. was presently in discussion with the Veterinarians with regard to their own programme of spaying service in the Vancouver Regional Branch. In support of spaying, it was suggested that the question of increase in impounding fees could be examined with a view that such fees could be utilized towards the cost of spaying. At this point Mr. Hosegood presented a table of current Licence Fees of neighbouring Municipalities, a copy of which is attached hereto.

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The meeting was unanimous in the opinion that more problems were created by cheap, cross-breeds or unsuitable animals which the owners purchased or received. The pure breeds or the dogs which have cost the owners a substantial amount were very well controlled and cared for thus, were not left unattended to mix with mongrels and unclean animals.

On the question of birth control pills for dogs, the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association advised that it would be another 8 to 10 years before any effective birth control pills would be marketed for use.

2. Prevention Through Education

Through discussion, it was evident that the dog problem could only be controlled with a long term programme and such a programme will have to be on the 'preventive' side rather than curative. Owners were ignorant of the fact that de-sexing of animals could be performed when the dogs were young and it was not only the female dogs that were responsible for the ever increasing population but the males were equally responsible and as such their neutering also be considered.

If the Municipalities and Districts were to implement such a programme, the public will have to be educated through pamphlets, brochures, cards, etc. To enable the owners to know: whether they should raise a litter of puppies; the reproductive cycle; alternatives to surgery; accidental breeding, effects of spaying, etc., etc. At this point, it was advised that Calgary and Seattle had a very effective educative programme through brochures circulated in their areas. The District of North Vancouver was in the process of printing a brochure of a similar nature and the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association was also in the process of preparing a brochure on the CARE OF ANIMALS which would be available in 6 weeks.

Following is additional information for the consideration of Council:

1. Spaying-Neutering Service

Consideration for the implementation of a spay-neuter service has to date been of a preliminary and exploratory nature only. No information on cost or extent of service is therefore available at this time. Council will be kept advised on all meaningful progress associated with the development of the proposed service as additional information becomes available.

continued ...

ITEM 8

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 45

COUNCIL MEETING June 18/73

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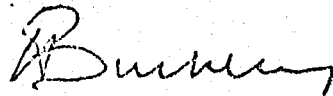
2. Survey

Council on May 14, 1973 received the results of a partially completed survey which was undertaken to determine if municipalities who are members of the Greater Vancouver Regional District are interested in a 'travelling spaying service for female dogs to be provided at a low cost to the owners of dogs.' The Deputy Clerk is presently obtaining information from those municipalities who have not yet responded to the survey.

3. Brochure

The 'Care of Animals' brochure proposed by the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association will be returned to the representatives of the participating districts for study and comment. If the Municipality is desirous of participating in this proposal, financial support on a sharing basis will be necessary. No cost figures are available at this time. It is anticipated that a further report on this particular matter will be referred to Council for consideration in the near future.

I concur with the recommendation of the Standing Committee on environment, namely, THAT a combined effort of the B.C. Veterinary Medical Association, the S.P.C.A. and the representative Municipalities be made to prepare a brochure on 'Care of Animals' which could be used on the Mainland by the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Municipalities.



H. Buckley
CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR

PK:nc

INFORMATION FROM CHIEF LICENSE INSPECTOR - RE AMOUNT OF
 LICENSE FEES PAID FOR DOGS IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES. MARCH 21, 1973

DOG LICENSE FEES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Spayed</u>	<u>Female</u>
QUEBEC	10.00		10.00
WINDSOR	5.00 (\$7.00 ea. add)		9.00 (\$11.00 ea. add)
SEATTLE	10.00	5.00	10.00
OTTAWA	3.00	3.00	5.00
TORONTO	5.00	5.00	5.00
REGINA	5.00	5.00	5.00
CALGARY	2.00	2.00	10.00 (Propose straight \$5.00)
HALIFAX	6.00	6.00	10.00
WINNIPEG	5.00	5.00	15.00
EDMONTON	5.00	5.00	5.00
PORTLAND	5.00	5.00	5.00
BOISE	3.00	3.00	5.00
SAN FRANCISCO	7.50	4.00	7.50
Coquitlam	5.00	5.00	20.00 (Penalty \$5.00)
Burnaby	5.00	5.00	20.00
Richmond	3.00	3.00	10.00
Delta	4.00	4.00	10.00
North Van. District	3.00	3.00	10.00
North Van. City	4.00	4.00	7.50
West Van. Municipality	5.00	5.00	10.00
New Westminster	5.00	5.00	10.00
VANCOUVER	5.00	5.00	15.00