

Re: LETTER DATED MAY 22, 1976 FROM LILIAN M. EWAN  
1706 DELTA AVENUE, BURNABY  
ANIMAL CONTROL

ITEM	4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	39
COUNCIL MEETING	June 7/76

Appearing on the agenda for the June 7, 1976 meeting of Council is a letter from Lilian M. Ewen containing suggestions on the licencing of dogs. Following is a report from the Chief Licence Inspector on this matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the current dog licence fees be retained; and
2. THAT Lilian M. Ewen receive a copy of this report.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

3 June 1976

FROM: CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR

RE: ANIMAL CONTROL

Appearing on Council's agenda for 7 June 1976 is a letter from Lilian M. Ewen, 1706 Delta Avenue, Burnaby, requesting Council to consider setting a scale of dog licence fees based on the weight of dogs, and to provide preferential licence fees for the owners of registered purebred dogs.

The current dog licence fees are:

Male dog	\$21.00
Neutered male dog	6.00
Female dog	21.00
Spayed female dog	6.00

The Municipal Act empowers Council by by-law to impose dog licence fees and to prohibit dogs from running at large on a highway or public place.

Section 458K provides,

"The Council may by by-law fix, impose, and provide for the collection of licence fees from and the issuance of licences to

- (a) any person who owns, possesses, or harbours any dog, and may require a separate licence for each dog, and may vary the amount of the fee according to the sex, age, size, or breed of the dog;"

The Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law provides for the licencing of dogs and favours the owners of sterilized dogs with a lesser licence fee. Eligibility for the reduction in the licence fee is proof of sterilization, generally in the form of a veterinarian's certificate.

With respect to item 1, dogs on a highway or public place are required to be on a leash. Nuisance, damage and fecal contamination caused by dogs is a problem of irresponsible dog ownership. Damage and contamination are no less objectionable if caused by small or large dogs, or whether the dogs are owned by an immediate neighbour or someone located some distance away. The solution to these problems is acceptance of the responsibility of ownership by dog owners, and adequate provision for punitive action for violations.

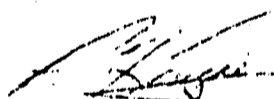
With respect to item 2, the Municipal Act does not empower Council to set preferential licence fees for the owners of registered purebred dogs.

In considering the licencing of dogs by weight, it must be understood that a dog's weight will vary extensively according to breed and age. The majority of dogs are crossbred to some extent and, therefore, could not be reliably categorized by average breed weight. Also, with many breeds there are two or more strains, i.e. toy poodles, miniature poodles and standard poodles. Also, the weight of a dog is not stable and there is a substantial weight difference between young and mature dogs. Consequently, licencing dogs by weight would require annual certification of the weight of every dog. Enforcement of a scale of fees based on a combination of weight and sterilization could be costly and impractical to administer and, therefore, is not recommended.

A check of dog licence fees applicable in the Greater Vancouver area revealed that none of the areas licence dogs by weight.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the current dog licence fees be retained; and
2. THAT Lilian M. Ewen receive a copy of this report.

  
CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR

FK:ep  
cc. Municipal Treasurer