

ITEM 13
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 35
COUNCIL MEETING May 9/77

Re: LICENCING AND STERILIZATION OF DOGS

Following is a report from the Chief Licence Inspector regarding a proposed amendment to the "Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law No. 6191."

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a by-law to amend By-law No. 6191 be brought down to provide for a \$15.00 refund of a dog licence fee within six months of the purchase of a licence if the owner provides medical certification that the dog has been sterilized.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR
SUBJECT: LICENCING AND STERILIZATION OF DOGS

3 May 1977

At the meeting of 21 February 1977, Council enquired in regards to licencing procedures of young dogs and the owner's eligibility to obtain a licence at the rate applicable to neutered males or spayed females.

The Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law No. 6191 provides that the owner of every dog shall obtain a licence for it. No minimum age requirement is set down and for several years, licences have been applied to dogs when they are weaned from their mother. This is usually at six to eight weeks of age.

Current dog licence fees are:

Male	\$21.00	Neutered Male	\$6.00
Female	\$21.00	Spayed Female	\$6.00

Sterilization of dogs is generally not medically feasible until they are approximately six months old. A person who acquires a puppy is therefore faced with payment of a \$21.00 licence fee even though they intend to have it sterilized at the earliest possible time.

The S.P.C.A. will not provide dogs or cats for adoption unless the prospective owner agrees to have it sterilized. At the time of adoption, prepayment for sterilization is made according to the applicable rates of the S.P.C.A.'s clinic and the owner is issued a certificate for spaying or neutering as the case may be.

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This certificate declares that the credit may be used at their clinic or at a private clinic of the owner's choice. If the operation is performed at a private clinic, the veterinarian submits the certificate to the S.P.C.A. for reimbursement of the prepaid amount. Any additional charges are a matter between the animal's owner and the operator of the clinic.

At the time the certificate is issued, the dog owner pays a licence fee based on a sterilized dog. In the event the dog owner does not proceed with sterilization, the prepaid surgical fee is turned back and applied to a full licence fee and any surplus is refunded.

Since the opening of their clinic, the S.P.C.A. has extended use of the certificates to persons who already own a dog and wish to have it sterilized. This program appears to be working satisfactorily, particularly in view of the fact that since the clinic opened, there has been a waiting period of up to six weeks.

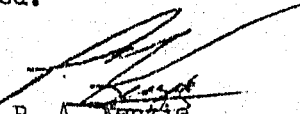
A local veterinarian has questioned this practice on the point that in order to receive the benefit of reduced licence fees, dog owners are obliged to make arrangements exclusively through the S.P.C.A. and, therefore, we are favouring their clinic.

In order to maintain a neutral position, we have examined an adjustment to this program. The Municipal Solicitor advises that Council may enact a by-law to fix and vary the amount of licence fee according to the sex, age, size or breed of dog. Therefore, we propose that every dog owner shall pay a licence fee of \$21.00 for each dog and they shall then be eligible for a refund of \$15.00, this being the difference between a full licence fee and the fee for sterilized dogs, if the dog is sterilized within six months of the issuance of the licence. In this way owners would proceed independently to arrange for sterilization of their dogs. The refund would be granted on receipt of an application accompanied by confirmation of sterilization in the form of a vet's certificate.

The vets practicing in the Municipality indicate that the adjusted program is acceptable to them. In my opinion, provision for the \$15.00 refund would further our animal control program by encouraging owners to sterilize their dogs, and would enable persons who acquire puppies to comply with licencing requirements while still being eligible for the reduced licence fee applicable to neutered male and spayed female dogs.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a by-law to amend By-law No. 6191 be brought down to provide for a \$15.00 refund of a dog licence fee within six months of the purchase of a licence if the owner provides medical certification that the dog has been sterilized.


P. A. Kenzie
CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR

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cc. Municipal Treasurer