

ITEM 8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 48
COUNCIL MEETING 1983 07 11

RE: LETTER FROM J. SORENSEN, 4163 ETON STREET, BURNABY, B.C., V5C 1K1
ANIMAL CONTROL

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Director Finance be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE
RE: ANIMAL CONTROL

1983 July 05

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law No. 6191 not be amended to permit dogs to be off a leash when under full control of their master while on a highway or public place; and
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. J. Sorensen, 4163 Eton Street, Burnaby, B.C., V5C 1K1.

SUMMARY

This report examines the leash law provisions of the Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law No. 6191 and compares the number of complaints of dogs running at large and the resulting impoundments or issuances of violation tickets.

REPORT

1. Introduction

On Council's agenda for the meeting of 1983 July 11, is a letter from Mr. J. Sorensen, 4163 Eton Street, Burnaby suggesting that the Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law No. 6191 be amended to provide that "All dogs must be on a leash or under full control of their masters". A copy of By-law 6191 has been mailed to Mr. Sorensen as per his request.

2. By-law

By-law No. 6191 requires that the owner of a dog shall keep it on a leash while on a highway or public place. The "leash law" was enacted in 1972. Prior to that time the owner of a dog was required to keep it under the immediate control of a competent and responsible person when it was on a highway or public place.

The reason for enacting a leash law was that enforcement of the running at large provision of the by-law continually resulted in disputes as to what constituted immediate control; what are responsible actions on the part of a person in charge of a dog, and who would be competent to be in charge of a dog.

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Based on the experience of staff over many years, and the experience of personnel in other jurisdictions, it was concluded, due to the great variety of size and temperament of dogs, the degree to which owners train and maintain training of their dogs, and the age of a person that may be entrusted with a dog, that a leash law is the most effective means to achieve control of dogs.

Throughout the Greater Vancouver area virtually every jurisdiction has a leash law for the control of dogs.

3. Enforcement

Under the provisions of By-law No. 6191, enforcement takes two forms; impoundment if a dog is loose and unattended, or a summons issued as a ticket if a dog is accompanied by a person but not on a leash. Also, a ticket is issued if the poundman cannot capture a dog running loose but is able to follow it home.

During 1982 and for the period of 1983 January 01 to 1983 May 31 the number of complaints registered and the resulting enforcement actions were:

	<u>1983 January 01 - May 31</u>	<u>1982 January - December</u>
Complaints	471	1213
Impoundments	513	1188
Violation Tickets	513	596

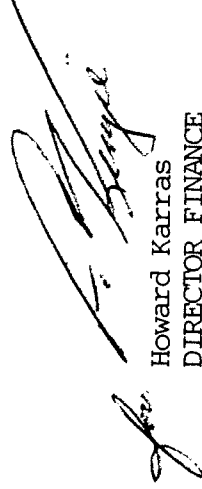
The penalty for an impounding or violation ticket is:

Licensed Dog	\$26.50
Unlicensed Dog	\$42.50 plus cost of licence
Board Fee - Impounded Dog	\$ 3.25 daily

4. Conclusion

While it may be possible to control a well trained dog without a leash, it is our experience that this is seldom the case. It would not be administratively feasible or effective to attempt enforcement action that would necessitate that a poundman put a dog through a form of obedience trial to determine if it is sufficiently trained so as to be completely controlled by its owner or the person in charge of it, and thus avoid the issuance of a ticket. Therefore it is recommended that:

The Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law not be amended to permit dogs to be off a leash when under full control of their master while on a highway or public place.



Howard Karras
DIRECTOR FINANCE