

ITEM	9
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	71
COUNCIL MEETING 1983 11	21

RE: ANIMAL CONTROL
 LETTER TO COUNCIL 1983 NOVEMBER 21 FROM
 MR. IAN R.H. JOHNSTON, 2439 HAYSEED CLOSE, NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Chief Licence Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
 FROM: CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR
 RE: ANIMAL CONTROL

1983 November 16

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Ian R.H. Johnston, 2439 Hayseed Close, North Vancouver, V7H 1N4.

REPORT

On Council's agenda for the meeting of 1983 November 21 is a letter from Mr. Ian R.H. Johnston requesting a refund of a pound fee.

The circumstances regarding the impoundment of the Johnston's dog are as described by Mr. Johnston. A resident in the neighbourhood of 23 North Fell Avenue took charge of the dog because it was running loose and apparently lost. When this person could not establish contact with the owner they turned the dog over to the poundkeeper.

Impoundment fees for dogs running at large - off leash, as set out in the Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law No. 6191 are,

Licensed dog - \$26.50 Unlicensed dog - \$42.50 plus cost of licence

It is our policy to honor a current licence issued by another jurisdiction if the dog is visiting in Burnaby. Therefore, the Johnston's dog was released at the licenced rate of \$26.50 because it is currently licenced in North Vancouver.

By-law 6191 does not authorize waiving of an impoundment fee for any reason.

The impounding of a dog under circumstances similar to Mr. Johnston's dog is for its safety and protection, and as a service to the owner. A dog that strays away in strange neighbourhood may not find its way home and runs a risk of being injured. This is particularly applicable to a dog that is regularly confined because it may wander aimlessly and lacks experience in retracing its route, and because it has no sense of danger in traffic thus constituting a hazard to drivers and to itself. The animal shelter is the most logical place for an owner to check for a missing dog.

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It is the poundkeeper's responsibility to ensure that impounded animals are returned to their rightful owner whenever possible. Pound and licence fees are calculated to offset the majority of the costs of providing an animal control program, animal shelter facilities and related services. When the services of the poundkeeper are invoked and the facilities of the shelter are utilized there are corresponding costs incurred. In cases where a dog owner is absent for some period after an impounding and no one is available to redeem it, the dog is kept at the shelter until the owner returns. In such cases the owner is liable for the pound fee and the daily board fee. In all cases if an injured dog or other animal is apprehended at large or otherwise placed in the custody of the poundkeeper they receive medical attention, the cost of which is recovered from the owner.

The matter of the impounding, the resulting pound fee, and the fact that a refund could not be granted was discussed with a member of the Johnston family.

The Johnston's dog was impounded in accordance with the provisions of By-law 6191. Under the circumstances this was in the best interests of the dog and the owner. By-law 6191 does not authorize waiving of pound fees, therefore, no refund of the \$26.50 pound fee can be granted to Mr. Johnston.



P. Kenzie
CHIEF LICENCE INSPECTOR

cc. Director Finance