

ITEM Suppl. 13
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 8
COUNCIL MEETING 87/02/02

RE: ANIMAL CONTROL: 1987 S.P.C.A. CONTRACT

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

1987 January 30

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

RE: ANIMAL CONTROL: 1987 S.P.C.A. CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the contract with the S.P.C.A. be renewed for the period 1987 January 01 to 1987 December 31 at a cost of \$245,414, plus 35% commission on dog licence fees collected by the S.P.C.A., as outlined in this report.
2. THAT the terms and conditions outlined in this report be retro-active to 1987 January 01.

SUMMARY

The S.P.C.A. proposes to provide poundkeeping services to the municipality in 1987 at a cost 2.5% higher than in 1986. Their proposal would maintain the same basic level of service as in 1986, with the following changes:

- expanded evening and park/beach patrols
- an annual door to door dog licence canvass covering one-half of the municipality each year
- a revised commission rate paid to the Society for dog licence fees collected by them

REPORT1. INTRODUCTION

The poundkeeping contract with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.) expired 1986 December 31. Council on 1986 December 15 approved a recommendation that "the S.P.C.A. continue to provide the services of a poundkeeper on a month to month basis until 1987 January 31, under the terms and conditions of the 1986 contract, with the rate to be negotiated for services to be performed in 1987 being retroactive to 1987 January 01."

A contract proposal for 1987 has been received from the S.P.C.A. and reviewed by staff. This report outlines the services provided by the S.P.C.A. to the municipality and presents the terms and conditions of the proposed 1987 poundkeeping contract.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE S.P.C.A.

As Municipal Poundkeeper, the S.P.C.A. provides the following services in Burnaby:

- Enforcement of the Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law
- Investigation of reported biting or savaging of persons or other animals
- Care and disposition of impounded animals
- Sale of licences
- Administration of the Animal Shelter
- Removal of dead animals from the streets and public areas
- Operation of the animal crematorium
- Door to door dog licence canvass

A statistical overview of these services as provided by the S.P.C.A. through the poundkeeping operations for 1984, 1985 and 1986 is presented below:

	1984		1985		1986	
	Park/ Beach Patrols Year	Total for Year	Park/ Beach Patrols Year	Total for Year	Park/ Beach Patrols Year	Total for Year
Complaints recorded	54	1004	57	967	96	982
Dogs and other animals impounded	95	1116	58	847	89	900
Dog bitings investigated		44		42		67
Violation tickets issued	244	350	138	277	163	236
Impounded dogs and other animals redeemed		514		498		507
Impounded dogs euthanized		323		193		186
Dead animals removed from streets		385		320		304
Additionally, at the request of owners, the SPCA euthanized dogs and cats		569		542		643

In delivering the poundkeeping service, the S.P.C.A. notes an increase in the expressions of concern from residents regarding the keeping of certain breeds of dogs. High profile coverage of incidents involving dogs have undoubtedly contributed to this heightened sensitivity in the community.

There has also been a significant increase in the number of reported dog bitings in 1986 over the previous two years.

As a result of this, the S.P.C.A. is spending an increasing amount of time and resources investigating and resolving resident complaints. In response to this trend, the S.P.C.A. is placing more emphasis on educating the public regarding the care and control of animals. In addition, staff have discussed with Crown Counsel the need for expedient processing of animal control by-law violations involving public safety.

3. PROPOSED 1987 POUNDKEEPING CONTRACT

The S.P.C.A. has submitted a 1987 contract proposal to provide municipal poundkeeping services at a cost of \$245,414 plus commissions to be paid on dog licence fees collected by the S.P.C.A. This represents a \$3,560 or 1.5% increase over the 1986 contract cost of \$241,854. Including commissions, the cost of poundkeeper services to Burnaby would increase by \$6,260 or 2.5% in 1987 over 1986. These costs are summarized in the following table:

	1986	Proposed	1987	Increase
	Budget	Budget	Over	1986
	\$	\$	\$	\$
SPCA Basic Contract Proposal				
Operating costs	256,219	262,046		5,827
Income earned by the Society (including licence commissions from Burnaby)	(26,500)	(31,200)	(5,600)	
NET OPERATING COSTS	229,719	230,846	1,127	
SPCA evening patrols	1,735	3,804	2,069	
SPCA park and beach patrols	10,400	10,764	364	
TOTAL SPCA CONTRACT COST	241,854	245,414	3,560	1.5%
Estimated cost to Burnaby of commissions on licence fees collected by the SPCA	8,500	11,200	2,700	
TOTAL COST OF POUND SERVICE TO BURNABY	250,354	256,614	6,260	2.5%

Funds for the S.P.C.A. contract are provided in the 1987 provisional budget. Funds for the park and beach patrol program are included in the Recreation and Cultural Services departmental budget.

The S.P.C.A. estimate that their total program cost will be \$276,614 or \$31,200 higher than our contract costs. This additional amount, borne by the S.P.C.A., is used to provide humane care and treatment of animal services, as well as for public informational and educational programs, and comes from adoption fees, public donations and commissions earned on dog licence sales.

The proposed 1987 contract would maintain the 1986 level of services and extend the evening and park/beach patrols by two months to include April and September. The basic services include providing animal shelter and community patrols as outlined below:

A. Hours that the Animal Shelter will be open to the public are:

Monday to Friday	9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Twenty-four hour emergency service is provided for injured animals, pickup of dead animals, investigations of bitings or savaging of persons, and assistance to the Burnaby Fire Department and R.C.M.P.

B. Hours of general community patrol will be:

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

C. Hours of evening and park/beach patrol will be:

A five day week covering the weekend; 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. one week and 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. the following week; April through September.

In 1986 the S.P.C.A. carried out the bi-annual municipal door to door dog licence canvass on a trial basis. Comparing the 1986 S.P.C.A. canvass with the 1984 municipal canvass shows that there was a \$7,500 increase in the net gain to Burnaby in 1986 over 1984. Staff have therefore concluded that it is cost effective to have the S.P.C.A. continue to carry out the canvass.

In reviewing the canvass, staff also considered whether it should be run on an annual basis and have concluded that it should not for the following reasons:

- A. An annual canvass would probably result in dog owners waiting for a visit from the canvasser to renew their licences. Dog owners doing this may inadvertently place themselves at risk for higher violation and impoundment fees if their animal were impounded prior to the canvasser selling them a licence. This may also reduce the enforceability of our animal control by-law and weaken our case in the eyes of the Courts.
 - B. An annual canvass could undermine public perception of animal control by overemphasizing the fee and penalty aspects of the municipal program. This may have the effect of presenting the municipality in a heavy-handed manner.
- The S.P.C.A., on the other hand, support an annual canvass as a way of maintaining their presence in the community and an effective means of licencing dogs. The Society also believes that it would enable them to develop and maintain a more constant level of skilled staff.
- Consideration of the S.P.C.A.'s suggestion has led staff to the conclusion that an annual canvass covering half the municipality would maintain the cost effectiveness of the Society delivering the service; would address our concerns regarding the integrity of the animal control by-law, and would satisfy the needs expressed by the S.P.C.A. Therefore it is proposed to proceed with an annual door to door dog licence canvass covering half the municipality each year.

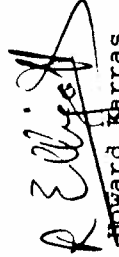
A further step in considering the canvass is the commission rate paid on licence fees collected by the Society. The current rate is 35% on the first \$24,300 (\$8,500 commission) and 17.5% on any additional sales. In order to stabilize the S.P.C.A. commission income, and in support of their community information and educational works, it is proposed that the commission rate on all dog licence fees collected by the Society be 35%. It is estimated that this would increase the commission income to the S.P.C.A. by \$1,300 annually. This cost is part of the 2.5% increase in the total costs of poundkeeping services to the municipality in 1987.

4. CONCLUSION

The S.P.C.A. continues to provide an effective poundkeeping service to the Corporation and are expanding their community education role regarding the owner's responsibility in the care and control of animals. The poundkeeping duties are integrated with humane animal care, which results in a comprehensive service that is essential to the needs of the community.

It is recommended that the contract with the S.P.C.A. be renewed for the period 1987 January 01 to 1987 December 31 at a cost of \$245,414 plus 35% commission on dog licence fees collected by the S.P.C.A. as outlined in this report.

It is also recommended that the terms and conditions outlined in this report be retroactive to 1987 January 01.


Howard Marras
for DIRECTOR FINANCE

RE:gw

cc: Director Recreation &
Cultural Services
S.P.C.A.
Municipal Solicitor

