

ITEM 16  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 50  
COUNCIL MEETING 92/07/27

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE  
SUBJECT: MANDATORY SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF CATS

1992 JULY 23  
File: D-57

PURPOSE: To provide information requested by Council.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Maria J. Winters, 7606 - 18th Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 1H9.

REPORT

On 1992 July 13, Council received a letter from Maria J. Winters expressing concern about stray cats in Burnaby and requesting Burnaby adopt a bylaw to impose mandatory spaying and neutering of cats. Arising from discussion, Council requested a report on the issues raised in the letter. This report provides that information.

The Burnaby Animal Control Bylaw limits the number of cats to be kept in a dwelling unit to four. Council is empowered to regulate the keeping of cats under section 933 of the Municipal Act. The Municipal Solicitor advises that a mandatory spay and neuter bylaw is possible under the same authority granted by the Municipal Act.

In 1991 June, at the request of the S.P.C.A., Council supported a Union of British Columbia Municipalities (U.B.C.M.) resolution to support any programs involving the spaying and neutering of cats and dogs in order to reduce the surplus pet population problem. This resolution was endorsed by the membership of the U.B.C.M. at its 1991 convention.

Where neighbourhood concerns arise regarding stray cats, the S.P.C.A. will respond by providing traps where the cat appears to be disabled, sick or injured. Burnaby and the S.P.C.A. promote responsible pet ownership and spaying and neutering of cats through Information Burnaby, posters, pamphlets and the Critter's Corner television program.

The B.C.S.P.C.A. supports the mandatory spaying and neutering of cats. Although the S.P.C.A. agrees that enforcement would be difficult, they feel that a bylaw would aid their public education campaign.


A review of municipalities in the Greater Vancouver area and other selected Canadian jurisdictions reveals that none currently require spaying and neutering of cats. Toronto and Hamilton require cats to wear an identification collar similar to that utilized in the Vancouver S.P.C.A. Shelter's cat identification program.

In that nuisance cats are typically stray, it is difficult to determine and prove ownership in order to take action. For this reason, we feel that mandatory spaying and neutering would not be enforceable, and would be a

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Staff will continue to monitor the situation and in conjunction with the S.P.C.A., promote responsible cat ownership. This approach is consistent with the overall responsible pet ownership policy promoted by the S.P.C.A. and the municipality. In addition, we will be exploring the feasibility of implementing a cat identification program through the S.P.C.A.

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Rick Earle  
DIRECTOR FINANCE

KGB:vm

cc. Municipal Solicitor  
B.C.S.P.C.A. - Michael Weeks, Executive Director