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MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	1
COUNCIL MEETING	94/01/10

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 1993 12 23

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 65-00-01

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE

PURPOSE: To provide Council with additional information on Burnaby's Solid Waste Bylaw and garbage regulations pertaining to animal waste.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Chantal Y. Caron, 4787 Fernglen Place, Burnaby, B.C., V5G 3W2.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

A letter from Ms. Chantal Caron of Fernglen Place appears under correspondence items in Council agenda of 1994 January 10.

Ms. Caron has questioned the protocol for disposal of pet excrement, and staff offer the following information on effective means of dealing with this nuisance item.

2.0 BYLAW AND POLICY

Burnaby's Solid Waste Bylaw No. 7646 quoted in the letter provides for a system of collection and disposal of solid wastes.

The bylaw defines the collection and disposal system, types of solid waste, and the duties of owners or occupiers receiving the service. Owners or occupiers receiving the collection service are required to ensure that *"no liquids, semi solids, free water or obnoxious matter is placed in or allowed to run into, accumulate or remain in any receptacle"*. *Obnoxious matter is broadly defined as "any offensive or unwholesome matter that may be germ or vermin infested, have an offensive odour, or be injurious to the health of the person handling it"*.

As a matter of policy for the interest of health and safety; animal wastes or carcasses, household chemicals, paints and toxic materials, or any material that may damage the truck packer unit, are excluded from collection.

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3.0 DISCUSSION

Ms. Caron's letter makes reference to the issue of developing an appropriate disposal system for pet excrement, and educating the public.

Garbage regulations vary from municipality to municipality primarily with regard to the manner in which material is set out for collection, however most municipalities identify animal excrement, paints and household hazardous waste as "not acceptable" items.

3.1 Disposal Options

Alternative options for disposal of pet excrement include:


- collection and buried disposal
- collection and disposal through a household toilet
- private companies offer services of pet excrement disposal
- "septic tank" disposal system

The first three alternatives are self-explanatory. The "septic tank" disposal system is described in the attached informative article which appeared in the Vancouver Sun.

3.2 Education

The City's current efforts in public education have been limited to providing information on the garbage and recycling collection calendars, listing animal waste as one of several specific items not accepted in collection. Information numbers for garbage and recycling services are provided should residents wish more detailed information.

Staff will expand the education component of our service and will prepare an article discussing "non-acceptable" items in the garbage for the next issue of Information Burnaby alerting the public to the regulations printed on the garbage and recycling collection calendar, and continue to mail out material requested through our information lines.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

RGB/WCS:jb
Attach.

105

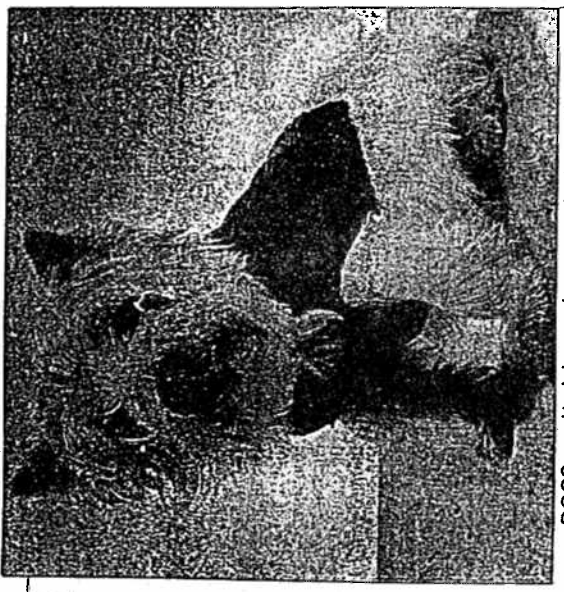
cc: Director Admin. & Community Services
Medical Health Officer

*hole must be deeper + wider than basin.

Dogged by a messy garbage item

SANITATION

Garbage collectors see red when people put out bags full of dog droppings for collection. DOUGLASSAGI comes up with a cheap, clean, odorless alternative



DOGS need training: males are particularly difficult

You may occasionally argue with a policeman, denounce the mail carrier as a fool or get into a fight with the income tax persons, but it is a foolhardy individual who offends his-garbage collector. Indeed, he or she (though I am advised that this is one territory almost exclusively masculine) is best treated with courtesy. Call them what they ask to be called, be it refuse disposal technician or sanitation engineer. It is thoughtful to leave them cool drinks on warm days and remember them at the holiday season. Offend them and they have the ultimate recourse. They will refuse to serve. The demonstration is firm and absolute. If they do not like your garbage, they will refuse to collect it. They are within their rights according to Vancouver's and most other municipal bylaws. What you put into your garbage may well be your business, but if they do not like it, it is not their business to

pick it up and put it in their trucks. There is a rule against putting "offensive" material in household garbage. At the top of the list of things garbage persons do not want to collect is dog droppings. "Particularly when people save up a yard full of the stuff and put it in a plastic bag. It gets thrown into the truck and compressed and it bursts. If you are standing behind the truck, you get showered with it. That is offensive," explains Larry Balla of the Vancouver sanitation service. "People are not supposed to put dog doo in the garbage, but it is a rule often violated. Balla says dog droppings should be flushed down toilets or buried in yards. This is what your garbage person will advise when you are caught with the droppings in your garbage can. This can be inconvenient. Dog droppings do not flush easily, especially when the only time you get around to it is when you mow

pan), an old garbage can top or piece of plywood for a lid and a package of septic tank starter. The starter costs \$2 or \$3 for a small box of four packets and is available in most supermarkets. Find a spot in the back yard that is well-drained and somewhat out of the way, but handy enough to get to with a trowel full of the day's offerings. You do not want it under a tree because you do not want roots growing into it. Dig a hole about half a metre deep and 30 centimetres in diameter. Take some time to make a neat hole. It should be big enough to contain the plastic basin at the bottom. *

Collect the dog doo and drop it into the basin. (If you haven't cleaned up for more than a week, be sensible and put no more than a couple of days supply in the basin.) Sprinkle two of the packets of septic tank starter on top of the dog doo and add a litre or so of water. Cover the hole with the lid.

Within 48 hours, the septic tank starter, which is non-caustic, promoting natural bacterial growth, will have begun its work and you can add more dog doo. Add the

dog doo daily. Give the system a bucket of water once a week and a packet of starter (one of the four in the box) once or twice a month. The dog doo turns to liquid, most of which washes away, dissolved by the bacteria. What remains is a humus that collects at such a slow rate it need only be dug out and spread around the yard every two or three years. The DDS does not smell, even on the warmest summer days, though the basin may need an extra pail of water now and then. The system will not work in freezing temperatures, but it perks along through much of a Lower Mainland winter. (You can probably avoid offending your garbage collector with well-wrapped packages during the cold months.)

The Vancouver health department says DDSs are okay with it as long as the neighbors do not complain, and the neighbors will have nothing to complain about.

Some of us are now working on training the dog to lift the lid to drop in the deposits directly. There seems to be some difficulty getting male dogs to close the lid after they've finished. ♦

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Encounter with the Gods.

The Tibetan deity Padmasambhava wields a scorpion against spiritual materialism. Another protector deity, the nine-headed Ravana, ...

The Royal Ballet

well made plastic basin (or dish

What you do need is a spade, a

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