

TO: CITY MANAGER  
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE  
SUBJECT: CATS

1997 OCTOBER 21  
File: A53-1

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval for changes to the Cat Spay Rebate Program.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT the Burnaby Cat Spay Rebate Program be expanded to include cat neutering.
2. THAT the amount of the cat spay and neuter rebate be increased to \$15.00.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. Mary Hardy, 4281 McKee Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 2T3.

**REPORT**

On 1996 May 06, Council received a delegation from Mrs. Mary Hardy who discussed the City of Regina Low Cost Spay and Neuter Program. Staff have met with Mrs. Hardy on two occasions, most recently on 1997 February 27. This report provides information about the City of Regina program, local efforts to reduce the surplus cat population and recommends expansion of the Burnaby Cat Spay Rebate Program.

**BACKGROUND**

The Regina Low Cost Spay and Neuter Program, implemented in 1990 May, is a cooperative effort between Regina, veterinarians within the city and pet owners. In the program, each of the three participants pays one third of the cost of having the dog or cat spayed or neutered. The discounted cost for spay and neuter ranges from \$20.75 to \$36.25. Participating pet owners in Regina must produce proof of licencing before their pet undergoes the procedure. As part of the program, these pets are also tattooed to aid in future identification.

In 1996, Regina contributed \$60,076 to subsidize low cost spaying and neutering for 2,084 cats (*Attachment 1*). Additional statistics on Regina's program are included in *Attachment 2*.

Staff have consulted with the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (B.C.S.P.C.A.) and the British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association (B.C.V.M.A.) who have indicated that a comprehensive approach to spay and neuter that combines education and financial assistance is preferred. Recently, the B.C.V.M.A. and the B.C.S.P.C.A. announced that they will be working together to study aspects of a Spay and Neuter Action Plan to address the surplus cat population in British Columbia. This program builds on an earlier "Life In Your Hands" campaign that targeted low income cat owners outside the Lower Mainland.

This new program includes:

- a Province-wide media campaign targeting new owners
- a review of mandatory spay, neuter and registration programs in the City of Vancouver
- the production of an educational video
- the establishment of a spay and neuter assistance fund to subsidize the cost of the procedure.

The spay and neuter assistance fund was launched with two \$5,000 donations from the B.C.V.M.A. and the B.C.S.P.C.A. As part of the action plan, additional donations will be sought from the pet industry at large. Disbursements from this fund are not expected to be available until 1998 February.

Since the mid 1970's, Lower Mainland residents have had access to low cost spay and neuter services at the Vancouver S.P.C.A. Animal Hospital. The construction of this facility was partially financed by Burnaby Council. Spay, neuter and vaccination costs for this and other veterinary facilities are detailed in *Attachment 3*.

### THE BURNABY SPAY REBATE PROGRAM

Since 1995 June, Burnaby has promoted low cost spaying through the Cat Spay Rebate Program. A rebate of \$10 is available to Burnaby residents who present proof of cat spaying to the Animal Shelter Superintendent. To date an amount of \$1,050 has been paid out on this rebate program as shown below.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COST OF REBATE</u>
1995	\$620.00
1996	\$400.00
1997	30.00
	<u>\$1,050.00</u>


*Attachment 4* shows a graphical representation of the number of cats euthanized at the Burnaby Shelter. From a high of 1,104 euthanized in 1985, the number of cats euthanized has trended down to a low of 203 in 1995. The last two years have seen a reversal of this trend.

While there has been a significant reduction in the number of euthanized cats at the Animal Shelter since 1985, the recent upturn in these numbers indicates that continued effort is required to address the cat population program. An expansion of the cat spay rebate program is proposed that would have rebates for neutering cats and an increase in the rebate to \$15.00. By broadening the scope of the program and increasing the rebate, an increase in participation is anticipated.

Participants in the program contact the S.P.C.A. at the Burnaby Animal Shelter and present evidence of the spaying or neutering. Spayed cats are currently eligible for the rebate. Cats neutered after this date would now also be eligible.

Funding for the program has been allocated in the 1997 Recast Budget and the 1998 Provisional Budget. The program will be publicized through an article in the next *Information Burnaby*.

This expansion of the Burnaby Cat Spay Rebate Program and the renewed efforts of the B.C.S.P.C.A. and the B.C.V.M.A. provide an appropriate response to the surplus cat population in Burnaby.

  
for Rick Earle  
DIRECTOR FINANCE

BP/CAC:vm

cc: Animal Shelter Superintendent

CITY OF REGINA LOW COST SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM1996 STATISTICS - CATS

	<u>TOTAL COST OF PROCEDURE</u>	<u>ONE THIRD COST</u>	<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>	<u>TOTAL COST TO REGINA</u>
Female Cat spay	\$108.75	\$36.25	1,086	\$39,367.50
Male cat neuter	62.25	20.75	<u>998</u>	<u>20,708.50</u>
			2,084	<u>\$60,076.00</u>

CATS SPAYED AND NEUTERED IN REGINA

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Male cats	1,096	1,132	1,004	1,022	1,024	998
Female cats	1,111	2,220	1,008	1,061	1,140	1,086
TOTALS	<u>2,207</u>	<u>3,352</u>	<u>2,012</u>	<u>2,083</u>	<u>2,164</u>	<u>2,084</u>

REGINA ANIMAL SHELTER STATISTICS - CATS

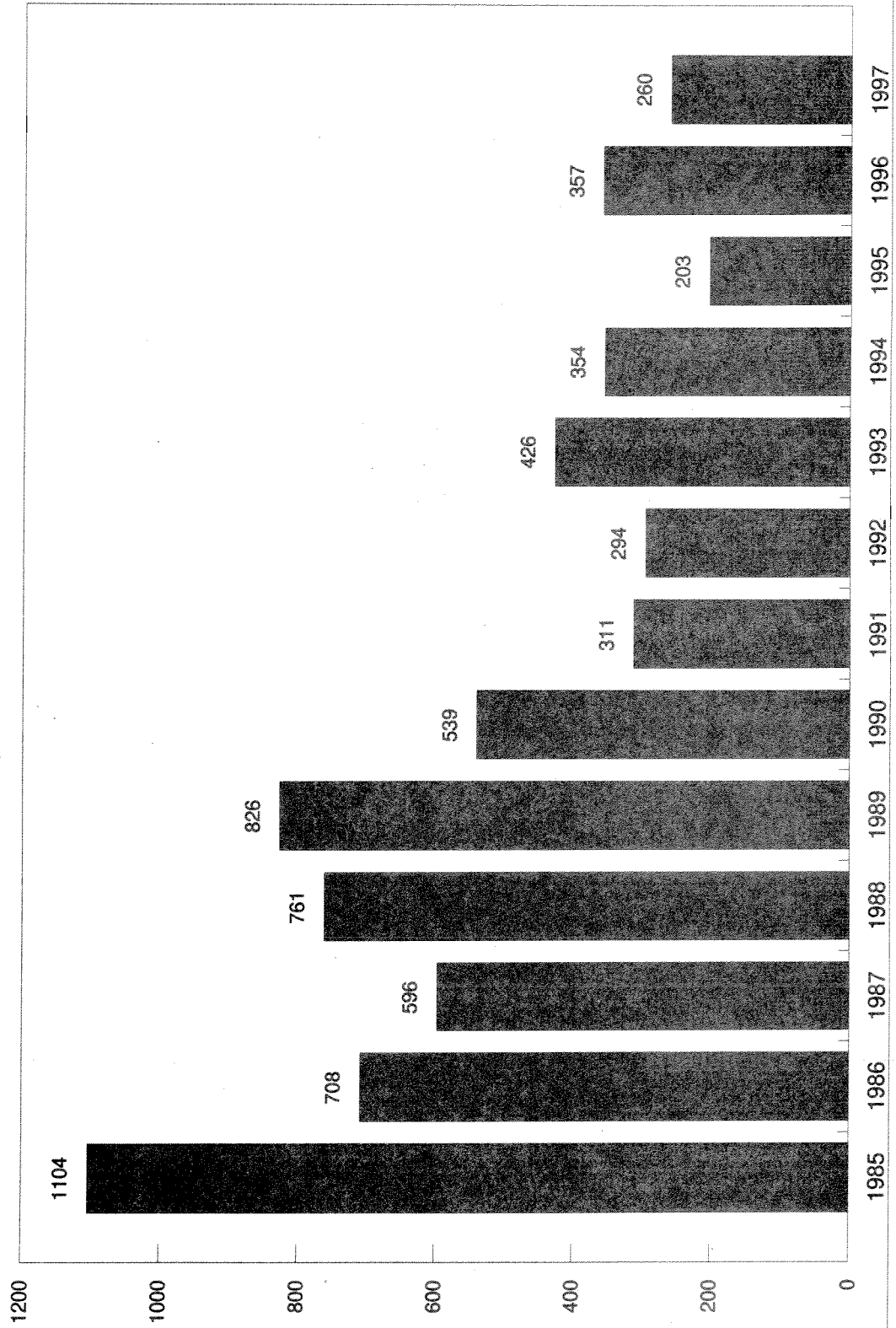
	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Cats admitted to Shelter	2,406	2,531	2,478	2,287	2,169	2,386
Cats Euthanized	1,530	1,491	1,524	1,351	1,258	1,359
Cats Returned or Adopted	876	1,040	954	936	911	1,027

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## SPAY AND NEUTER COSTS - BURNABY

AGENCY	COST OF PROCEDURE		VACCI- NATION	TOTAL	
	SPAY	NEUTER		SPAY	NEUTER
Vancouver S.P.C.A. 879-7721	\$44	\$45	\$25	\$70	\$70
Aberdeen Animal Hospital 4856 Hastings Street 293-1294	\$75 - \$85	\$40	\$59	\$134-144	\$99
Burnaby New West Central Animal Hospital 7877 Kingsway 521-0781	\$64.75 - \$85.00	\$44.50	\$65	\$129.75 - \$150.00	\$109.50
Burnaby Veterinary Hospital 2210 Springer 299-0688	\$82.55 - \$119.78	\$53.18	\$51.90		
Central Park Veterinary Hospital 3805 Kingsway 435-5595	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$75	\$120.00	\$105.00
ON TUES. & THURS. DOCTOR'S FEE WAIVED ON SPAY/NEUTER & VACCINATION PACKAGE.	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$75	\$ 93.00	\$ 78.00
North Burnaby Veterinary Hospital 4431 Hastings 298-9941	\$55 - \$85	\$50	\$45	\$100.00 \$140.00	\$95.00
South Burnaby Veterinary Hospital 6170 Kingsway 439-0334	\$75 - \$120	\$56	\$75	\$150.00- \$195.00	\$131.00
Coast Cat Clinic 5514 Hastings 299-3395	\$86 - \$113	\$63	\$88	\$174.00- \$201.00	\$151.00
Burquitlam Animal Hospital 559 Clarke, Coquitlam 936-3447	\$75 - \$85	\$50	\$71	\$146.00 - \$156.00	\$121.00
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$84.94</b>	<b>\$48.49</b>	<b>\$65.25</b>	<b>\$150.19</b>	<b>\$113.74</b>

**Burnaby Animal Shelter**  
Cats Euthanized 1985 - 1997



\*\*THESE STATISTICS INCLUDE CATS EUTHANIZED AT OWNER'S REQUEST\*\*

