

**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2002 03 18

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 65-06-01

**SUBJECT:** DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL WASTE

**PURPOSE:** To respond to a letter from Roslyne and Jeff Taylor regarding the disposal of animal waste.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information; and
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to:

Roslyne and Jeff Taylor  
4340 Rumble Street  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5J 2A1

**REPORT**

Appearing elsewhere on the Council Agenda is a letter dated 2002 March 1 from Roslyne and Jeff Taylor regarding the current City practice of not collecting animal waste as part of the solid waste collection service.

Burnaby's waste management system is one of the most recognized solid waste models in the region. The range and level of service provided by the City crews to the residents in the community have long been recognized as one of the many excellent service programs delivered by the City. As a part of the health and safety program for the refuse collection workers who perform the daily physically demanding tasks, provisions are made in the collection protocol to prohibit the disposal of obnoxious and inappropriate matter in the waste stream that may be injurious to the health of the workers.


Under the current City's Solid Waste Bylaw, the term "obnoxious matter" includes any offensive or unwholesome matter that may be germ or vermin infested, have an offensive odour or be injurious to the health of the workers. Each City refuse truck collects approximately 10,000 kg of waste every day. Each truck is equipped with a hydraulic packer to compact the collected refuse for transportation. The compaction of animal waste mixed in with the garbage stream presents serious health concerns to the collection crews when the worker stands behind the truck to operate the hydraulic system and to compact the waste. The waste residue leaves behind in the truck box also need to be thoroughly cleaned before the truck mechanics can service the truck box. Currently there

are dog stations located in several park sites in the City to help keep the park clean and to facilitate the pick up and disposal of dog waste by dog owners who use the park facilities. The disposed animal waste is collected by the Parks refuse collection trucks which carry a significant lighter load than the residential garbage trucks and require much lower compaction.

When public enquiry is received regarding animal waste disposal alternative, residents are advised to flush the waste in the toilet or retain the service of a dog waste management company. Staff have contacted several cities in the region that provide in-house waste collection service and all of them employ the same practice as that used by Burnaby.

While the City is recognized for its wide range of waste collection services and its commitment to a model of service excellence, the City also endeavors to create a healthy and safe environment in the workplace. In order to minimize the potential injurious effect to the health of the City collection crew, animal waste and other obnoxious waste is prohibited from the regular garbage stream. Dog owners are encouraged to divert animal waste from the regular garbage disposal by using the sewer facility or the service of a company specialized in animal waste collection.

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information and forward a copy of the report to the correspondents.

  
W.C. Sinclair, P.Eng  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

cc Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services