

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2005 December 05
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE
SUBJECT: TETHERING AND CHAINING OF DOGS
PURPOSE: To provide Council with information on the provisions of the bylaw

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

At the Open Council meeting held on 2005 October 17, Council adopted the staff recommendation to amend the Burnaby Animal Control Bylaw to regulate the tethering of dogs. Arising from consideration of the staff report, Council requested that in developing the bylaw amendment, staff reassess the period of time animals can be tethered unattended as well as the definition of collars, harnesses, choke chains and training collars.

The proposed bylaw amendment to regulate the tethering of dogs is intended to protect dogs from the inhumane practice of regular and continuous tethering. The bylaw permits the unattended tethering of a dog for no more than one hour in a day. Bylaw provisions for exemptions to the tethering regulation or increases in the unattended tethering period have been considered. Variances to the regulation are likely to increase the potential for adverse health and behavioral issues for tethered dogs and, in turn, negatively impact neighbours and the community. To maintain a clear and consistent City position in this regard, exemptions to the tethering regulation or the temporary tethering period are not recommended.

Bylaw wording with respect to collars has been expanded to specify that no person shall tether with a choke collar, training collar or studded collar or otherwise than with a collar that is properly fitted to the dog and in a manner that will not injure the dog or enable the dog to injure itself by pulling on the tether. In that the bylaw specifies what collars and effects are not permitted for tethering, a harness control is acceptable for temporary tethering.

The BCSPCA have been consulted on both of these reassessments and support both positions.



Rick Earle
DIRECTOR FINANCE

CMC:ae

Copied to: City Solicitor
BCSPCA Attn: Mark Takhar, Burnaby/Vancouver Branch Manager