

## Administrative Backgrounder

### Councillor Notice of Motion

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sheltering Services for Unwanted or Stray Cats and Dogs (Councillor Berry)</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide information in response to Councillor Berry's notice of motion made at the October 11, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.
<b>Proposed Motion(s)</b>	That Council direct Administration to provide information and recommendations regarding sheltering services for unwanted or stray companion cats and dogs no later than the December 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.
<b>Previous Council / Committee Direction</b>	None.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	<p><b>Thriving Communities</b> – Creating positive community well-being by providing opportunities for residents to enable quality of life for companion animals that are stray and without a home.</p> <p><b>Operational Excellence</b> – Supports future focused thinking by responding to resident needs in finding alternative supports of stray companion animals.</p>
<b>Statutory Requirement Considerations</b>	<p><b>Bylaw 1352/15 - Dog Control Bylaw</b> – This Bylaw focuses on Dog Control in Sturgeon County.</p> <p><b>Animal Protection Act (Alberta)</b> – Provides the authority for Alberta SPCA Officers to take an animal into custody if distressed or abandoned. Conditions of abandonment include left more than 24 hours without adequate food, water, or shelter.</p>
<b>Alignment to Levels of Service Delivery</b>	There are no direct service delivery levels related to this request.
<b>Anticipated Human Resource Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researching of data points, options and associated financial impacts would require an estimated 50-60 hours of staff time.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Financial Resource Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated costs of moving forward with options would range based on options selected.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Additional Background Information</b></p>	<p><b>Stray or Unwanted Companion Cats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local governments receive a large number of complaints regarding free-roaming cats which may have an owner.</li> <li>• In 2021, Sturgeon County Animal Control generated 24 incidents reports related to found cats. Seven incidents have been generated to date in 2022.</li> <li>• Organizations willing to take in cats focus on re-homing and will not accept feral animals.</li> <li>• Potential other programs in place for stray cats include Trap-Neuter-Return. Stray/feral cats are captured in a live trap, neutered by a veterinary clinic, and then once recovered returned to their previous location.</li> <li>• A review of surrounding municipalities indicates that Parkland County, Strathcona County, and Leduc County do not have a Cat Bylaw in place.</li> <li>• In Parkland County and Leduc County, Peace Officers are referring people to community resources such as the Edmonton Humane Society and private and not-for-profit agencies that will shelter cats until they are reconnected with their owner or re-homed.</li> <li>• A one-year pilot in Strathcona County with the Greater Edmonton Animal Rescue Society (GEARS) is estimated at \$100,000. Citizens of Strathcona County would be able to surrender cats to this shelter during the pilot phase.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stray or Unwanted Dogs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sturgeon County entered into a contract with Parkland County Kennels effective July 27, 2022 as they are integrated with Parkland County Enforcement and have processes in place specific to afterhours admissions (gate and key card access, guaranteed staffing levels for next day follow up, etc.). Sturgeon County has used this service for dogs that are brought to the kennel by Sturgeon County Peace Officers. This service has been used three times since inception of the agreement.</li> <li>• The agreement with Parkland County Kennel is a fee-for-service model with shelter fees of \$22.50 per day and \$80.00 per transportation to a veterinarian to receive medical care. Owners are required to pick-up their dog and required to pay any related costs thus no charges to Sturgeon County.</li> <li>• Prior to entering this contract, Enforcement Services reached out to several kennels within the County, but these businesses indicated they did not have the capacity, were not interested, or did not meet the County's operational requirements (after-hours access).</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sturgeon County works primarily with the Edmonton Humane Society to manage stray dogs. The arrangement with the Edmonton Humane Society is not formalized and therefore there is no exchange of funds. Sturgeon County provides an annual donation of \$2,500 to the Edmonton Humane Society.</li> <li>• A one-year pilot in Strathcona County with the Greater Edmonton Animal Rescue Society (GEARS) is estimated at \$100,000. With regard to stray dogs, Animal Control will attempt to locate the owner through various means (license, tag, microchip, neighborhood inquiries and social media).</li> </ul>
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	None.
<b>Report Reviewed by:</b>	Christine Wells, Director, Community Services Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO