

Memorandum to Council

Legal and Enforcement Services

Enforcement Services Division



To: Mayor and Members of Council

CC: Andre Gratton, Manager of Enforcement Services

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,
Chief Administrative Officer**

From: Francesco Santaguida, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement Services/Town Solicitor

Date: September 15, 2023

File #: LS 04-23

Subject: Update to LS 04-23 - Review of Animal Sheltering Options for the Town of Whitby

This Memorandum is to provide Council with an update to Report # LS 04-23 since its initial release and withdrawal in July 2023.

Animal Services has consistently had been amongst most popular web and social media spaces at the Town

The Town's Animal Services Social Media pages receive some of the highest engagement of all the Town's social media and web-based services. The Animal Services pages are consistently within the top 10 web and social media pages that the Town that residents and members of the public engage with. In particular, the pages related to pet adoptions receive the highest engagement amongst the various Animal Services pages.

This high level of engagement has helped staff drive an increase in donations for animal care from members of the public, and has led to the substantial increase in the number of adoptions from the shelter. In addition, Animal Services' educational, adoption and pet micro-chipping efforts have made our community safer, connected pets with new families, and helped members of our community recover their lost pets.

Taken together, these data indicate that Animal Services continue to be an important service provided by the Town, and a service that our residents and the public consistently engage with.

Further Discussions with the Humane Society of Durham Region (“HSDR”)

Since the initial release of the Report, staff have had an opportunity to discuss and clarify some of the aspects of the proposal from HSDR.

The first clarification is related to the disposal of deceased animals. HSDR clarified that they would be able to dispose of deceased dogs above 23 kg (50 lbs) but would not be able to dispose of other types of large wild or domesticated deceased animals (e.g., deer or cattle). While disposal of cattle by the Town is very rare, the Town is often required to dispose of other large and small wildlife, especially in the event of a collision with a vehicle on the Town’s roadways. The disposal of large and small wildlife is a service that would need to be maintained by the Town.

Secondly, HSDR sought to clarify their animal surrender policies. HSDR indicated that accepting surrendered from Whitby/Durham residents is a core service of theirs, but it is not a typical “dog pound” service that is provided by municipalities, generally. However, this is a service that the Town and current Whitby Animal Services Centre provides to the residents of Whitby, which the Town seeks to continue. HSDR indicated that they are generally able to provide that as a community service.

Lastly, with respect to Court-ordered animal holds, the proposal indicates that HSDR will hold an animal for no additional charge up to thirty (30) days, after which the Town will be subject to a maximum \$100/day fee plus any other expenses or costs incurred. Whitby typically receives 2-3 animals per year under these types of holds. For an animal that would be subject to this type of hold, the cost would be at least \$6,000 per animal for a 3-month hold, and \$33,500 per animal for a one-year hold.