

Bylaw 37-2017 Responsible Dog Ownership**Report Purpose**

To provide the draft Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw (37-2017) to Council for consideration.

Recommendation

1. THAT Bylaw 37-2017, the Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw, be given first reading;
2. THAT Bylaw 37-2017 be given second reading;
3. THAT Bylaw 37-2017 be considered for third reading;
4. THAT Bylaw 37-2017 be given third reading.

Council History

July 4, 2017

THAT draft Bylaw 37-2017 be referred back to Administration to address the following issues raised by Council, and to return to a later Council meeting:

- Irresponsible breeding or puppy mills;
- Reconsider the limit for rural properties;
- Reconsider whether tethering a dog in a public space should be permissible;
- Reconsider the provisions for tethering a dog to a bicycle;
- Consider exemptions for the lawful use of dogs in the offences section (part 4); and
- Clarify provisions with respect to dogs in vehicles.

May 16, 2017

Priorities Committee received an overview of the results of the public engagement process undertaken for the review of the Dog Control Bylaw.

December 12, 2006 Council passed Bylaw 85-2006, the Dog Control Bylaw.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: The development of clear bylaw legislation is part of a well-governed municipality and increases confidence in the community's leadership.

Social: Rules and responsibilities surrounding dog ownership will help residents to live in harmony in the community and promotes a climate of safety.

Culture: n/a

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: Clearer criteria for the exercise of administrative obligations will assist administration to fulfill Council's direction in relation to dog-related matters.

Legislative/Legal: The Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw would replace the Dog Control Bylaw on the effective date of January 1, 2018.

Interdepartmental: Legislative Legal Services collaborated with several departments including Family and Community Services and Enforcement Services.

Summary

The current Dog Control Bylaw was passed more than a decade ago. Since that time, there has been growing public awareness of dog care, and dog behaviour issues resulting in the adoption of responsible dog ownership bylaws in many jurisdictions. Responsible dog ownership places the onus on dog owners to control and manage their dogs, instead of focussing on the dog behaviours that create community issues.

From November of 2016 to March of 2017, administration undertook a lengthy public engagement process with residents of Strathcona County to gather input on their views on what constitutes responsible dog ownership. The public engagement report was presented to Priorities Committee on May 16, 2017. An initial draft bylaw was prepared and presented to Council for discussion at the July 4, 2017 meeting. Council debated a number of issues in relation to the bylaw and some of those items are noted in Council's referral motion that returned the draft bylaw to administration to address or re-consider items in the referral motion.

In response to Council's direction, administration reviewed the public engagement report, and considered the matters that discussed at the public engagement sessions and at Council. Administration also undertook a careful review of the draft bylaw to streamline the language and provisions to improve the bylaw's readability while maintaining its legal effect. The attached version of bylaw 37-2017 is the product of administration's collaboration subsequent to receiving Council's July 4 direction.

Communication Plan

Administration obtained input from the community on dog-related matters as presented in the public engagement report presented to Priorities Committee. Since the express provisions of the new bylaw differ from the current one, communication prior to the effective date of January 1, 2018 will be required.

Enclosure

- 1 Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw 37-2017
- 2 Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw presentation