

SER-001-028

Strathcona County
Municipal Policy Handbook

Nuisance & Pest Control

Date of Approval by Council: 11/21/2006

Resolution No: 741/2006

Lead Role: Chief Commissioner

Last Review Date: August 19, 2010

Next Review Date: 08/2013

Administrative Responsibility: Transportation and Agriculture Services.

Special Notes: Three previous policies (SER-001-007, SER-001-015, SER-001-021) are consolidated within this one policy.

Policy Statement

The control of Nuisances, Pests and Problem Wildlife is a shared responsibility between Landowners, the Province of Alberta and Strathcona County. Strathcona County's Nuisance and Pest Control Policy ensures that prevention, control, or destruction of Nuisances, Pests and Problem Wildlife is undertaken efficiently, effectively and humanely with due consideration of human safety, and municipal liabilities.

Definitions

"Act" means the Agricultural Pests Act, (RSA 2000, c A-8), as amended from time to time by the Province of Alberta.

"County" means Strathcona County.

"Inspector" means a person appointed by the County pursuant to the Act.

"Landowner" means the registered owner under the Land Titles Act (RSA 2000, c L-4), as the owner of the land.

"Nuisance" means a nuisance as defined by the Act excepting a vertebrate animal.

"Occupant" means a person occupying or exercising control over or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land.

"Pest" means a pest as defined by the Act, excepting a vertebrate animal.

"Problem Wildlife" means any animal or bird that is defined as wildlife in the Wildlife Act, (RSA 2000 c W-10), as amended from time to time, and which is destroying or harming or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock, or property within the County.

Guidelines

This policy will provide administration with a policy outlining the awareness, monitoring, emergent issues, and enforcement programs to meet the County's legislated responsibilities associated with nuisance, pest and problem wildlife control issues.

All procedures will comply with the provincial legislation; more specifically, the Agricultural Pests Act (RSA 2000, c. A-8), the Wildlife Act (RSA 2000, c. W-10) and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (RSA 2000, c. E-12), all as amended, repealed or replaced from time to time.

Procedures

Awareness Program

- 1) The County shall fund and manage an education awareness program for its residents.
- 2) Transportation and Agriculture Services shall provide an awareness program that informs residents of possible Nuisance, Pest and Problem Wildlife control issues during each calendar year.
- 3) Transportation and Agriculture Services shall ensure the awareness program provides and distributes communications to the residents through the use of local newspapers, newsletters, open houses and posters. The awareness communications shall include identification and recommended control and destruction techniques for possible Nuisance, Pest and Problem Wildlife control issues.

Monitoring Program

- 1) The County shall fund a monitoring program for possible Nuisance, Pest and Problem Wildlife control issues.
- 2) Transportation and Agriculture Services shall maintain, on a yearly basis, a record of affected areas where confirmed incidents of Pest control issues have occurred.

Emergent Issues Program

- 1) The County shall fund and manage a communication program throughout the calendar year whereby emergent issues are identified to our residents.
- 2) Transportation and Agriculture Services shall identify those areas of the County affected by the emergent issues.
- 3) Transportation and Agriculture Services shall provide to the Landowner or Occupant, who lives within the identified area, with training or communication which will aid the Landowner or Occupant with identification and control and proper destruction of the Nuisance or Pest.
- 4) Transportation and Agriculture Services shall also provide any other services required by the Act.

Enforcement Program

- 1) The County shall fund and manage an enforcement program pursuant to the Act.
- 2) The County shall appoint an adequate number of Inspectors.
- 3) The County's Agricultural Service Board shall hear and determine all appeals in accordance with the Act.
- 4) Transportation and Agriculture Services will respond to all complaints regarding a possible Nuisances, Pests and Problem Wildlife control issue.

- 5) An inspector from Transportation and Agriculture Services shall be responsible to respond to the complaint.
- 6) If required, the Inspector will conduct an on-site inspection to confirm the presence of the possible Nuisances, Pests and Problem Wildlife control issue.
- 7) If determined by the inspector or the Act as required, a field sample will be obtained and analyzed.
- 8) In the case of a Pest control issue, the Inspector may issue a notice, as set out in the Act.
- 9) The notice shall inform the Landowner and/or Occupant in writing of the required control and destruction procedures that must be completed by the Landowner or Occupant within five (5) days of issuance of the notice.
- 10) If the Landowner or the Occupant fails to comply with the written notice, the non-compliance may result in Transportation and Agriculture Services taking enforcement proceedings as provided for in the Act.
- 11) Pursuant to the Act, the entity that receives the notice may file an appeal to the County's Agricultural Service Board.
- 12) All costs associated with the control of the Pest, is the responsibility of the Landowner.
- 13) Pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, (RSA 2000 c. M-26) all costs incurred by the County, in the enforcement and control of the Nuisance or Pest, are transferable to the tax roll if they remain unpaid.
- 14) In the case of a possible Problem Wildlife issue, the Inspector may provide instruction to the Landowner or Occupant of the recommended control options.