

Implications of a Cat Bylaw in Sherwood Park

Priorities Committee Meeting
October 20, 2020

Objective

- Current state
- Review of other municipalities
- Options for a Cat Bylaw
- Summary

Current State

- There is currently no Cat Bylaw for Sherwood Park nor any municipal policies or rules to address cat control
- The *Alberta Animal Protection Act* is the most relevant piece of provincial legislation
 - The Act allows Peace Officers to take actions such as:
 - Take an animal into custody if the Officer is of the opinion – on reasonable and probable grounds – that the owner or caretaker is not likely to provide for the animal
 - Take an abandoned animal into custody after being left more than 24 hours without adequate food, water or shelter

Current State

- Housecats that are let outside regularly can be a nuisance to property owners and neighbours
- No formal complaint processes in place
- County residents have few options to deal with cats as there is no local run shelter, facility or holding area

Municipal Review

A detailed survey of 18 municipalities which concluded:

- 7 municipalities have a cat bylaw:
 - Edmonton, Calgary, Leduc, Fort Saskatchewan, Red Deer, Wood Buffalo, Grande Prairie
- In 10 municipalities Bylaw Officers were not involved in capturing cats
- 14 municipalities have a humane trap program

Municipal Review

A summary of the municipal review concluded:

- There is no “single” or perfect solution to the County’s cat question
- Licencing of cats is the first step towards effective management of domestic cats
- Many municipalities have a humane trap program

Option #1 – Full Scope

This option would include:

- County responsible for all enforcement, administration and infrastructure
- Full shelter facilities with veterinarian partnerships
- Full adoption program along with partnerships with third-party adoption and fostering agencies
- Construction of a new County facility (shelter-kennel) or repurpose an existing facility/building for the management of the program, as well as housing of the cats
- Cat registry software

Options #1 – Full Scope

Expenses	Start-Up	Annual
Administration (cat tags, legal service assistance)	\$50,000	N/A
2 CPO's plus benefits	\$242,000	\$242,000
2 Administrative/support staff plus benefits	\$135,658	\$135,658
2 Facility labourers plus benefits	\$120,000	\$120,000
1 CPO Vehicle plus equipment	\$110,000	\$110,000
Licensing software plus annual maintenance fee	\$250,000	\$50,000
Building/infrastructure - small to medium/large construction	\$750,000	\$50,000
Cat Traps - initial purchase of 25 traps, annual maintenance	\$3,000	\$500
Veterinary Services - shots/examinations/spay/neuter	\$120,000	\$120,000
Veterinary Services - euthanasia	\$6,000	\$6,000
Awareness Campaign	\$10,000	\$2,000
Total Expenses	\$1,796,658	\$836,158
Revenues	Start-Up	Annual
Trap rental fees	\$1,250	\$1,250
Impoundment fees	\$1,000	\$1,000
Fines	\$10,000	\$10,000
Licensing based on 500 cats	\$17,500	\$17,500
Total revenues	\$29,750	\$29,750
Net Cost	\$1,766,908	\$806,408

Option #2 – Partial Scope Implementation

This option would:

- No licensing component or fines for violation
- Not have any rules pertaining to the maximum number of cats
- Construction of a new County facility to hold and maintain humane traps as well as cats pending transfer, to a local partner/adoption agency, or to a veterinarian for treatment/adoption or euthanasia
- Cats would be kept for a period of less than three days

Options #2

Expenses	Start-Up	Annual
Administration (cat tags, legal service assistance)	\$50,000	N/A
1 CPO's plus benefits	\$121,000	\$121,000
1 Administrative/support staff plus benefits	\$64,000	\$64,000
1 Facility labourers plus benefits	\$60,000	\$60,000
1 CPO Vehicle plus equipment	\$110,000	\$110,000
Building/infrastructure - small or medium/large construction	\$375,000	\$10,000
Cat Traps - initial purchase of 25 traps	\$3,000	\$500
Euthanasia	\$12,000	\$12,000
Awareness Campaign	\$10,000	\$2,000
Total Expenses	\$805,000	\$379,500
Revenues	Start-Up	Annual
Trap rental fees	\$1,250	\$1,250
Impoundment fees	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total revenues	\$2,250	\$2,250
Estimated Cost	\$802,750	\$377,250

Option 3 - Contracted Service

County role

- Implementation of a bylaw
- Responsible for administration and licencing, but not infrastructure

Contract Service Provider role:

- Operation and funding of its own shelter/facility
- Contracted CPOs for bylaw enforcement
- Administer the return of cats to their owner, for adoption or euthanasia

Option 3 - Contracted Service

COST OF CONTRACT with CONTRACT SERVICE PROVIDER (CSP)

Annual value of contracted services to the CSP is indeterminate, but could be based on a handling/drop-off charge, per cat.

300 cats/year at \$400/cat = \$120,000

500 cats/year at \$400/cat = \$200,000

700 cats/year at \$400/cat = \$280,000

The \$400 fee could be inclusive of assistance with capture, plus delivery to the facility and subsequent handling and care of the cat, including adoption options and euthanasia.

Summary

- For some the status quo is not acceptable
- There is a risk of citizen backlash if the County does not establish a cat bylaw
- Financial costs may be more prohibitive/problematic than the status quo

Questions?

