



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## Item No. 8.1

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 16, 2007**  
**October 23, 2007**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan English".

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**SUBJECT:** **Harmonized By-Law A-300 - Respecting Animals**

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### SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

#### ORIGIN

During the October 2, 2007 Regional Council meeting, Councillor Rankin requested more information regarding the Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Approve Administrative Order #11 as amended and attached.
2. Approve the Proposed A300 By Law, Respecting Animals as amended and attached;
3. Upon adoption of Bylaw A300, authorize staff to submit a request to the Province to include penalties levied under the By Law in the Summary Offence Proceedings Act.

## **BACKGROUND**

A TNR program consists of stray, feral cats being humanly trapped, then evaluated, vaccinated, and sterilized by veterinarians. Kittens and tame (stray) cats are adopted into homes and healthy adult feral cats are returned to their outdoor territories to be monitored and cared for.

The intent of the TNR is to lower the cat population by breaking the reproduction cycle.

Staff have completed research on 17 Canadian Municipalities and consulted other key stakeholder and experts. Based on the research completed there is no legislation in place regarding TNR programs. The TNR programs are being done in Canada thru various animal groups.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **TNR Components:**

The components associated with a TNR program would include the following:

- capturing/trapping
- Sterilization
- Recuperation
- maintenance of the colony- includes housing, food, etc.

For an HRM run program, using our present cat enforcement strategy of residents trapping and delivering the cat to a facility, there are no additional operational costs. The average rate for sterilization and vaccination of a cat is \$150.00. Based on an average 6 night stay for recuperation (less for neuter, more for spay) the shelter costs would be approximately \$150.00 per cat. Most sponsored TNR programs include a volunteer maintenance program for the colonies, but costs could be incurred for housing, food and ongoing vet care. Based on the above, it would cost HRM a minimum \$30,000 for every one hundred stray/feral cats that are turned in for a TNR program.

### **Estimated Cat Population:**

Based on our research the estimated owned domesticated cat population with the HRM, using the Calgary model is 39,248. Based on the Consultant report of 2005, the owned cat population within HRM is 93,600. Staff were not able to locate a formula that would calculate the stray/feral cat population; however, it has been suggested that the feral cat population is equivalent to the owned domestic cat population.

### **Current Situation:**

Through the public hearing and discussions with stakeholders it appears there are individuals and groups within the HRM that currently practice a form of TNR. Although the cost data is not available, it would appear that the cost relative to this program would be limited for sheltering, as

it is provided by volunteers and the sterilization services have been offered at discounted rates.

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The City of Calgary does not have a TNR program. The current practice in Calgary regarding feral cats is the responsibility of the SPCA. They employ a full time Humane Trapper, who traps ferals which are then considered for adoption and /or euthanized.. The decision not to offer a TNR program was partly based on the harsh winters, as the climate is hard on the animals and such a program would require monitoring and caring for the cats that have been released back to the outdoors. Once the cats are released there would be a requirement for adequate housing, food, care etc.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There would be budget implications if HRM were to fund a TNR program, The total annual budget would be dependant on the number of cats captured by citizens. Based on the data, every stray or feral cat could cost a minimum \$300.00.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The following alternatives are identified for Regional Council:

1. Council approve a TNR program. This alternative is not recommended because of the potential budget implications and we could not find any research to support a fully funded Government program.
2. Status quo.
3. Council approve the current Cat Enforcement Strategy before them which could includes working with stakeholders through Public Education to encourage responsible pet ownership (ie. have pets spayed or neutered, do not release pets to wild).

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Finance Approval by:

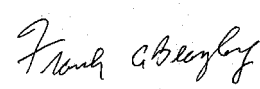


Catherine Sanderson, Ssenior Manager, financial Services, 490, 1562



Report Approved by:

Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police, 490-7138



Report Approved by:

Frank Beazley, Chief of Police, 490-6500