



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## Item No. 11.1.4

Halifax Regional Council  
January 13, 2009

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan English".

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** December 15, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Animal Licensing Strategy for 2009

### ORIGIN

Staff are requesting Regional Council approve a special rate for dog licenses that would result in increased compliance with the licensing component of the A-300 by-law, Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council approve the amendment to Administrative Order #11 (attached as Attachment #1).

### BACKGROUND

The Registration and Regulation of dogs in the Halifax Regional Municipality is governed by By-law A-300. The Financial Services Business Unit is responsible for the administration of the Licensing component of By-Law A-300 and the Halifax Regional Police Business Unit is responsible for the enforcement of By-Law A-300.

Residents of HRM have not significantly complied with the animal licensing provision over the years. Although it is difficult to accurately report the number of licenses issued before Hansen, it is believed we received approximately 6700 licenses in 2005/06 & 2006/07 years. This represented \$90,000-100,000.00 annually.

On July 31, 2007 Regional Council approved the licensing strategy for 2008. The strategy included:

*1) a campaign that would highlight the need for licensing, the cost for the service and the fines for not licensing your animals.*

*2) a time limited, one time only fee of \$10.00 applied to all dogs, regardless of where they fall within the fee schedule.*

*3) making registration and payment easier so residents can walk-in to Customer Service Centres, apply for new licenses or renew their license by using Visa or MasterCard and placing a call to 490-4000 as well as through our partner Veterinarians or the SPCA.*

*4) Internal communication to participating business units to be aware of initiative and their roles, concentrated efforts by HRM Police (including Parks Patrol and Animal Services) to stop and educate dog owners observed during patrols.*

*5) Timeline*

*-January 1, to May 31, 2008, every dog licensed at a low fee of \$10.00. Education with minimal enforcement.*

*- May 31 to June 30, 2008 , every dog charged regular fee for licensing. Education with minimal enforcement.*

*- June 30 to July 31, 2008 , owner of unlicensed dog fined \$222.00, with the option to have the ticket cancelled (\*\*fees apply) if animal licensed during August.*

*-August 1, 2008 forward, Pro charge enforcement of unlicensed dog violations.*

Presently, only renewals can be taken over the phone at 490-4000 because of the requirement for dog owners to provide verification of spaying/neutering or inoculation. A By-Law amendment is required to have this requirement removed.

## **DISCUSSION**

A review of the 2008 strategy provides the following information:

Total licenses issued in 2007 - approximately 6700

Total licenses issued 2008 year to date - 13,700

Revenues in 2007/08 first 9 months:                 \$87,549.00

Revenues 2008/09 year to date:                     \$140,500.00

This has represented a significant increase in compliance with the licensing requirements and has contributed to more animals being re-homed rather than placed in the shelter.

Due to the success of the 2008 Licensing Strategy, staff are recommending that HRM again offer dog owners a special rate of \$10.00 for the period of February 1 to April 30, 2009.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

During the peak enforcement and registration period there may be an increase to overtime and advertising costs, but this will be recovered through additional revenue and existing budgets.

## **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**

1. Status quo- Offer no special license program, and have all owners pay the required fee presently in place for 2008/09.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

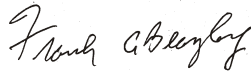
1. Proposed Amendments - Administrative Order #11
2. Existing Administrative Order #11

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.

Report Prepared by : S/Sgt. Robin McNeil, Halifax Regional Police 490-4817



Report Approved by: Deputy Chief F. A. Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police 490-7138



Report Approved by: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police, 490-6500

## ATTACHMENT 1

### AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER #11

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality that Administrative Order # 11 be amended as follows:

1. Section 2 is repealed.
2. Section 3 is repealed and the following section substituted:
  3. The annual license fees payable by the owners of animals commencing April 1, 2008 shall be as follows:

**2009 Special - Dogs \$10.00 from period of February 1 to April 30**

Dog \$50.00

Spayed/Neutered dog \$15.00

Senior citizens, upon presentation of Government

issued identification confirm age 65 years or greater 50% discount

Service Animal No Charge

Dangerous Animal Registration \$100.00

Prohibited animals \$50.00

Prohibited animal owned as in A-300 Section 10, 3 (a),(b) No Charge

Replacement Tag \$5.00

3. Section 5 is repealed.
4. Section 6 is repealed.

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER # 11**

IT IS ENACTED by the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality as follows:

- 1 (a) The Shelter Keeper for the Municipality is the Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- (b) The Shelter for the Municipality shall be the facility of the Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals located at 5 Scarfe Court, Halifax, N.S.
- (c) The Shelter is authorized to receive any animals impounded by the Halifax Regional Municipality Animal Services.
- (d) The Shelter Keeper may charge a redemption fee of \$100.00 from the owner of any impounded animal released to the owner.
- (e) The Shelter Keeper may charge a daily boarding fee of \$25.00 from the owner of any impounded animal released to the owner.

2 The annual license fees payable by the owners of animals for the period between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2008 shall be as follows:

Unaltered Dog	\$30.00
Unaltered and rabies inoculated Dog	\$25.00
Spayed/Neutered Dog	\$15.00
Spayed/Neutered and rabies inoculated Dog	\$10.00
Senior citizens, upon presentation of Government issued identification confirm age 65 years or greater	20% discount
Service animal, upon providing proof of the service animal status of the animal to be registered	No Charge
Kennel Registration Fees	\$100.00

3 The annual license fees payable by the owners of animals commencing April 1, 2008 shall be as follows:

Dog	\$50.00
Spayed/Neutered Dog	\$15.00
Dangerous Animal Registration	\$100.00
Service Animal	No Charge
Senior citizens, upon presentation of Government issued identification confirm age 65 years or greater	50% discount
Prohibited animals	\$50.00
Prohibited animal owned as in A-300 section 3 (a),(b)	No Charge
Replacement Tag	\$5.00

- 4 The registration fee payable by the owners of animals for any period starting after the 1<sup>st</sup> of October of any year and continuing to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the following year, shall be the amounts indicated in Section (2) and (3) reduced by 33.3%.
- 5 Notwithstanding the foregoing license fees, there will be a one time special license fee of \$10.00 for all licenses purchased between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 - May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- 6 Notwithstanding the forgoing license schedule as above, any registration or renewal received after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, will be issued the 2008/09 licence (1, 2 or 3 bonus months).
- 7 Prohibited Animals:
- (1) wildlife, as defined by the Wildlife Act, which has been designated as endangered, threatened or protected pursuant to any laws of Nova Scotia or Canada;
  - (2) all venomous snakes, reptiles, insects and arachnids;
  - (3) these seven species of the Boid Family;

<b>Species English</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Eunectes murinus</i>	Green anaconda
<i>Eunectes notaeus</i>	Yellow anaconda
<i>Python reticulatus</i>	Reticulated python
<i>Python sebae</i>	African rock python
<i>Python molurus bivittatus</i>	Burmese python
<i>Python molurus molurus</i>	Indian python
<i>Morelia amethystina</i>	Amethyst python

- (4) an adult snake's length cannot exceed 3.3 meters and an adult lizard's length cannot exceed 2 meters (measured from snout to the tip of the tail).

Done and passed in Council this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2007.

Mayor Peter J. Kelly

Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk

Amendment

Notice of Motion: waived by Council

Approved: October 23, 2007

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Amendment

Notice of Motion: Please see Regional Council Minutes March 18, 2008

Approved: June 17, 2008

Effective Date: June 28, 2008