



**COUNCIL REPORT**

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Public Works  
**Date:** August 1, 2019  
**Subject:** Animal Control Bylaw Amendment- Cats

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council directs Administration how to proceed regarding the question of whether to regulate cats within the District of Mackenzie.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting Council received a request from Mr. Ted Lepp to consider an amendment to the current Animal Control Bylaw, specifically to include the regulating of cats within the District’s boundaries.

A phone call to Grande Cache, as this was the town that Mr. Lepp referenced, revealed that they contract out the animal control services, and while it is part of their bylaw, enforcement is limited to residents bringing the cats to their contractor. The cats are then released back to an owner with boarding fees and small fines administered.

A search of BC Animal Control Bylaws that included cats, returned a Model Animal Responsibility Bylaw produced by BCSPCA. This model bylaw included 25 of BC’s largest municipalities and an additional 18 with BCSPCA branches. In that model bylaw the following was noted:

Number of Municipalities with mandatory dog licensing	42
Number of Municipalities restricting dogs at large	42
Number of Municipalities with mandatory cat licensing	10
Number of Municipalities restricting cats at large	8
Number of Municipalities with licensing and restrictions for cats	2

**OPTIONS:**

Mandatory licensing of cats will require additional administrative time including expanding the dog licensing to include cats, mailing out possibly multiple notices to owners and maintaining an inventory of tags for cats. Patrolling and capture for cats at large is difficult and potentially dangerous.

If Council wishes to amend the Animal Control Bylaw to regulate cats in Mackenzie, the following options are provided for Council's consideration:

Option 1: Amend the current Animal Control Bylaw to restrict cats at large.

Option 2: Amend the current Animal Control Bylaw to include both mandatory licensing and restrict cats at large.

For either option it is recommended that enforcement be limited to cats that are brought in by residents and charging an escalating at large fee and applicable boarding fees.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

**Good Governance**

- Provide services that support our quality of life, protect our health and safety, and promote economic and the social well-being of our community
- Engage with the community in the major decisions or development of policies that impact the interests of residents and stakeholders.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Scott Drysdale  
Director of Operations



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Approved for Submission to Council

**6. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

31095.            MOVED by Councillor Wiens  
Implementation    *THAT the report from Recreation Services dated August 8, 2019 be received;*  
Date -  
Recreation Fees    *AND THAT Council authorize the implementation of the approved updates to*  
& Charges            *the Recreation Fees and Charges Policy 8.1 to begin on September 1, 2019.*  
Policy 8.1

CARRIED

31096.            MOVED by Councillor Wiens  
Animal              *THAT the report from Public Works dated August 1, 2019 be received;*  
Control  
Bylaw                *AND THAT Council directs Administration to proceed with amending the Animal*  
Amendment        *Control Bylaw to restrict cats at large with escalating fines/penalties.*  
Cats

CARRIED

31097.            MOVED by Councillor Grogan  
Housing             *THAT the report from Administration dated August 7, 2019 be received;*  
Needs  
Assessment        *AND THAT Council awards the Housing Needs Assessment and Report contract*  
Contract            *to MNP in the amount of \$19,750 plus applicable taxes;*  
Award  
  
*AND THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to*  
*execute the contract.*

CARRIED

31098.            MOVED by Councillor Hancock  
Tourism             *THAT the report from Administration dated August 7, 2019 be received;*  
Capital  
Investment        *AND THAT Council, if successful in its application to the Northern Development*  
Analysis            *Initiative Trust Capital Investment Analysis grant program, awards the Tourism*  
Contract            *Capital Investment Analysis contract to Cadence Strategies in the amount of*  
Award               *\$20,000 plus applicable taxes;*

*AND THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to*  
*execute the contract.*

CARRIED