



Regional Board Report

Information

To: Regional Board

From: Director Community Services

Date: June 1, 2023

Subject: Update - BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA s. 208

Purpose: To provide an update to the Regional Board regarding the service agreement between the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Executive Summary:

The BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has maintained a contractual relationship with the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) for over thirty years. Under the current contract, the Kelowna Branch rehomes animals that end up in the care of Regional Dog Control staff and, with support of the RDCO Dog Licensing program, helps ensure pets are reunited with their families. The latest contract was updated in January 2022 to ensure that the service funded by the Regional Dog Control program continues to meet the needs of our residents and the community.

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receive the Report from the Director of Community Services, dated June 1st, 2023, with an annual update from the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the provision of the Spay, Neuter and Micro-chip Program, Community Outreach Service and Dog Control Adoption Services.

Respectfully submitted by: David Gazley, Manager Protective Services

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cashin".

Todd Cashin
Director Community Services

Attachment(s): SPCA Powerpoint Presentation
SPCA Contract for Services

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Sustainable Communities, Economic Development

Values: Relationships, Collaboration

Background:

The RDCO has created and maintained a contractual relationship with the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for over thirty years. The BC SPCA, formed in 1895, quietly celebrated 125 years of operation in 2020. Each year in the Central Okanagan, the BC SPCA adopts and rehomes over 1,000 animals which includes spay, neuter and permanent identification. The SPCA (Kelowna Branch) is also contracted to rehome animals that end up in the care of Regional Dog Control and, with support of our RDCO dog licensing program, help ensure pets in our community are reunited with their families.

In consultation with the SPCA, a new contract was drafted in January 2022 to ensure that the services funded by the regional dog control program meet our residents and community needs. The new contract includes the standard contractual provisions, and more specifically, the contractor's representations and warranties for the services being provided.

The most significant change from the previous MOU, which expired in December 2021, is the change in one of the contracted services from an animal care education program to the community outreach service. This is a result of changes in our community over the past few years, which resulted in a shift to online animal care and education programs, and a rise in needs for short-term sheltering particularly in partnership with social service providers in the RDCO. Schedule A of the contract outlines the three services; Spay, Neuter & Microchip Program, Community Outreach Service and Regional Dog Control Adoption Services, while Schedule B lists the remuneration for each of the three services over two years with the possibility of a contract extension for a further two years.

Services & Programs:

The following provides more information on the services proposed in the RDCO – SPCA Service Agreement (2022-2024):

Spay, Neuter and Microchip Program:

The Spay, Neuter and Microchip Program not only works with surrendered dogs from our Regional Dog Pound but helps over 400 low-income families in the Central Okanagan per year with sterilizing and providing a microchip that is registered with BC Pet Registry. This program impacts the number of unwanted litters, and the length of time anxious owners wait to be reunited with a lost pet.

Community Outreach Services:

The SPCA (Kelowna Branch) also offers temporary boarding of domestic and farm animals to Central Okanagan community members who need safe and reliable shelter for their pets and livestock. Typically, the service is time-bound to two-weeks however, through the power of the volunteer foster network, the SPCA have been able to help animals for much longer.

Emergency Boarding may be necessary when an animal owner is:

- Fleeing domestic abusive situations.

- Hospitalization of a short duration when no family or friends can take the animal(s); and
- Natural disasters, such as, floods, fires, and unexpected home loss.

The SPCA provides all animals a physical exam, vaccination update, and parasite management at the time of admission. There are no fees charged for this service. In collaboration with the Regional Dog Control Service, the SPCA provides access to those members of the public and animal owners seeking temporary support with food and supplies.

The SPCA also partners with the Animal Food Bank (AFB) that independently operate an online ordering system. AFB delivers food and supplies to their clients, however, do receive food from a variety of sources and in return provide the program with excess donated supplies and food. This collaboration started in the Spring of 2020 just prior to the pandemic restrictions. To date, nearly 40,000 pounds of food including 18,000 cans of dog and cat food have made it into the homes of pet owners in our community.

Regional Dog Control Adoption Services:

The RDCO Dog Control Service works closely and continuously with the SPCA (Kelowna Branch) on the rehoming of dogs not claimed within a 72-hour period. The rehoming program follows a managed admissions policy and provides ongoing care to unclaimed animals. The SPCA staff assess the animal's behaviour, provide feedback to Dog Control officers, and promote animal adoptions. All dogs are spayed / neutered, microchipped, and licensed at the time of adoption.

From time to time, Regional Dog Control Officers bring forward an animal for euthanasia that has been surrendered by owner or necessary by court order. In many cases, the RDCO relies on the SPCA manager's expertise and values their opinion, prior to euthanasia ensuring that all parties including our veterinarian agree.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

A new agreement has been reached for the continuance of our partnership with the SPCA for the next two years with the option to extend a further four years.

This agreement centers on three main services:

- Spay / Neuter and Microchip Program;
- Community Emergency Services; and
- RDCO Dog Control Adoption Services.

Over the last five years, statistics indicate that the Regional Dog Control Service has turned over 106 dogs for adoption:

- 2019: 21 dogs
- 2020: 33 dogs
- 2021: 27 dogs
- 2022: 25 dogs, 2 cats

Financial:

For these services the RDCO pays to the SPCA a fixed annual sum of \$96,600 distributed as follows:

- \$57,750.00 only for the Spay and Neuter Program;
- \$21,000.00 only for the Community Emergency Boarding Services; and
- \$17,850.00 only for the Dog Control Adoption Services.

Considerations not applicable

- Legal/Statutory Authority

Approved for Agenda

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO