



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jodie Foster".

To: Regional Board

From: Todd Cashin
Director, Community Services

Date: March 28, 2022

Subject: Update - BC SPCA Contract for Services

Jodie Foster, Acting CAO

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Majority – LGA 209*

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

Executive Summary:

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) has created and maintained a contractual relationship with the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) 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 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 proposed 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.

The recommendation to the Board is to approve the new service agreement with the SPCA and continue with these services to our residents for the next two to four years.

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board approve the contract with the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) for the provision of the Spay, Neuter and Micro-chip Program, Community Outreach Service and Dog Control Adoption services in the form attached to the report from the Director of Community Services dated March 28, 2022;

AND THAT the Board Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the contract.

Respectfully Submitted:



Todd Cashin,
Director Community Services

Prepared by: David Gazley, Manager Protective Services

Attachments: SPCA Contract for Services

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Economic Development, Sustainable Communities

Values: Relationships, Collaboration

Background:

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. 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 are able to 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 animals 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 are in agreement.

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 three years, statistics indicate that the Regional Dog Control Service has turned over 81 dogs for adoption:

- 2019: 21 dogs
- 2020: 33 dogs
- 2021: 27 dogs

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:

Alternate Recommendation:
