

Original signed by: Deputy City Manager, Kari Bolton

City Staff Report

Report Date: May 27, 2018**Meeting Date:** June 5, 2018**To:** Policy and Bylaw Committee**From:** Director of Development Services**Subject:** Animal, Bird, and Insect Control and Licensing Bylaw

Purpose

Require Dog Licenses for all dogs using City of Quesnel Parks and Trails.

Summary

- In October of 2017 Staff requested Council consider to require all users of the dog park (City of Quesnel resident and non-resident) for the following reasons:
 1. facility under both taxation and licensing fees;
 2. will further encourage City dog owners that use facility to purchase dog licences; and
 3. will assist the Bylaw Enforcement Department in the identification of animals that are causing disturbances at the park.
- The Policy and Bylaw Committee recommended that users of all city facilities with dogs (ie all parks and trails) should be required to have dog licenses.
- Staff spoke to the municipalities of Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Vernon whom all indicated on their websites that dog licenses are required for utilization of city parks.
- All required licenses for dogs from municipalities with dog licensing to have a license when using their parks. Vancouver was the only municipality that required that dogs from areas without licensing to have a license but also provided the opportunity to have out of area dogs licensed with Vancouver to allow use of the amenities.
- Nanaimo did not require licenses but noted that several people from outside the municipality licensed their dogs with the City for identification purposes.

Recommendation

THAT Council provides the first three bylaw readings, under the Bylaw section of the Agenda, for the proposed Animal, Bird and Insect Control Amendment Bylaw No. 1855 of 2018;

AND THAT Council endorses waiving the \$10 late fee for individuals residing outside of the City boundary purchasing dog licenses this year.

Statutory Requirements

Community Charter

Local Government Act

Council Policy

Animal, Bird and Insect Control Bylaw

Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw



Background

Community Review

Staff reviewed a number of community's websites with regards to their dog licensing policies. Nanaimo, Vernon and Vancouver were contacted due to what appeared to be clear policy that all dogs required licenses that use their amenities. Once contacted there was differences in understanding with respect to whether or not the City could require persons from communities without licensing to purchase a dog license from the City. Legislation review confirmed that the City could require only licensed dogs to use the facility, and that it is possible to issue City of Quesnel licenses to individuals outside the city boundary.

All three municipalities did require that dog owners from communities with licensing programs have a license for their dog if visiting their facilities. They all discussed the importance of educating people on the benefits of obtaining a dog license.

Fees

Currently dogs are licensed at \$10 for spayed or neutered, \$25 for unsprayed or unneutered, with an additional \$10 fee if applied for after March. As this bylaw is coming in following the March 31st date staff recommend that the \$10 late fee not be charged to persons from outside the City obtaining a license this year.

Enforcement

Staff recognize there will be an educational period for informing individuals outside the city that a dog license is required to use the public amenities and will proceed with an information first, warning second and fine third approach.

People travelling through Quesnel will be breaching the bylaw if they temporarily let their dog run around in the park. This is not common enough to be a real concern and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer would exercise their discretion to ensure we were welcoming to tourists and provide information on the benefits of dog licensing. Staff from the other communities all noted this as being their approach.

Financial Implications

Additional Dog Licensing Revenue to offset costs of Dog Park – user pay.

Attachments

Animal, Bird and Insect Control and Licensing Amendment Bylaw N0. 1855 of 2018

Options

1. Approve initial readings of the bylaw.
2. Recommend changes to the bylaw.
3. Defeat the bylaw.