

Animal Sheltering Services for Wards 19-26 - Toronto Humane Society Contract

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Board of Health recommends that:

- (1) the recommendations embodied in the following report (November 5, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health be deleted;**
- (2) the contract between the Toronto Humane Society and the City of Toronto for the provision of animal sheltering and related services for Wards 19 to 26 be amended by:**
 - (i) extending the term of the contract until June 30, 2000, at \$60,500.00 per month;**
 - (ii) requiring stray dogs and cats to be impounded for a minimum period of five days; and**
 - (iii) increasing the Notice of Termination from 120 days to 180 days;**

and be in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and
- (3) if the review of the delivery of animal services in the amalgamated City of Toronto is not completed by May 1, 2000, the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to direct the City Solicitor to extend the Agreement between the City of Toronto and the Toronto Humane Society respecting animal sheltering services until December 31, 2000:**

Purpose:

To extend an interim arrangement for the provision of animal sheltering and related services for Wards 19 to 26, pending the results of the comprehensive review of options for the long-term provision of animal services in the City.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

The proposed Public Health 2000 Operating Budget contains funds in the amount of \$726,000.00, to pay for 12 months of animal sheltering and related services for Wards 19 to 26. This is the same amount as budgeted in 1998.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Chief Administrative Officer and the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to extend the contract to June 30, 2000, between the Toronto Humane Society and the City of Toronto for the provision of animal sheltering and related services for Wards 19 to 26, for a total of \$363,000.00 or \$60,500.00 per month, upon the amended terms and conditions, in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and
- (2) the contract between the City and the Toronto Humane Society (the "THS") be further amended to require the THS to impound stray animals for a minimum period of five days.

Background:

City Council, at its meeting held on November 25, 26 and 27, 1998, adopted Clause No. 2 of Board of Health Report No. 13, which authorized further amendments to the agreement with the Toronto Humane Society to provide for the continuation of the animal care services in Wards 19 to 26. Approval was given to extend the contract a further term of 12 months from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999.

At its meeting of March 27, 1998, the Board of Health adopted the March 12, 1998 report from the Chief Administrative Officer and Medical Officer of Health, entitled "Interim Arrangements for the Provision of Animal Services in 1998." One of the adopted recommendations stated that the Chief Administrative Officer, with resources provided from Finance, Audit and the Amalgamation Office, conduct a comprehensive review of options for the delivery of animal services across the City.

Furthermore, City Council, at its meeting held February 2, 3, and 4, 1999, adopted Clause No. 1 of Report No. 1 of The Board of Health, which passed By-law No. 28-1999, a by-law respecting animals, to come into force on July 1, 1999.

Comments:

Animal sheltering services for Wards 1 to 18, 27 and 28, are provided by City owned and operated animal centres. The Toronto Humane Society currently provides animal sheltering services under contract to the City of Toronto for Wards 19 to 26, for a fee of \$726,000.00 per 12-month period or \$60,500.00 per month. The current contract with the THS ends on December 31, 1999. The review of the delivery of animal services is nearing completion, however, there will be a number of steps that the subsequent recommendations of the review will have to follow before any or all of such recommendations are implemented. This may take us into next year before any changes occur that may affect how the service is provided. A six-month (rather than 12-month) extension of the present contract provides the optimal balance between securing services and leaving flexibility to address the recommendations of the animal services review.

The new City by-law respecting animals, By-law No. 28-1999, came into effect on July 1, 1999. The by-law requires that dogs and cats seized by the City be impounded for a minimum period of five days. The City's contract with the THS requires that stray dogs be impounded for six days

and that stray cats or ferrets be held for four days. It is recommended that the THS contract be amended to require the THS to impound stray animals for a minimum period of five days.

Conclusions:

At present the animal sheltering and related services for Wards 19 to 26 is being provided by the Toronto Humane Society. The report containing a review of options for the delivery of animal services across the City is expected to be received before the end of November 1999. The contract with the THS contains a clause that provides either party with the ability to terminate the contract with 120 days' notice. Therefore, it is recommended that the contract with the THS, including the above amendment to the holding times for dogs and cats, be extended up to and including June 30, 2000.

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The Board of Health reports, for the information of Council having also had before it during consideration of the foregoing matter a communication (November 14, 1999) from the Toronto Humane Society advising that the Toronto Humane Society recommends a one-year extension to its contract with the City of Toronto to provide animal sheltering services for Wards 19 to 26; and that the current contract fee of \$726,000.00 be increased by \$9,000.00 per month.