Toronto Animal Services

Amendments to Municipal Code, Chapter 349

Licensing & Standards Committee
May 27, 2013

Municipal Licensing & Standards Division
Background

- Supports the findings of the Core Service and the Auditor General reviews

- Reflects the City of Toronto’s current needs and industry standards of animal welfare

- Intends to clarify meanings within the existing legislation, undertake technical amendments and enhance overall animal care regulations
Stakeholder Consultation

- 6 public consultations
- 2 online surveys – 860 responses
- 17 written submissions
- 1 petition – protesting the prohibition of public tethering

Meetings with advocate groups such as: Toronto Humane Society, Animal Justice Canada and Animal Alliance of Canada

Results are appended to the report
New & Revised Definitions

Including:

- Feral Cat & Colony
- Guard Dog
- Notice to Caution & Muzzle
- Rescue Group
- Service Animal
- Trap Neuter Return Program
Prohibited Animals

- Amendments proposed will provide authority for seizure and transfer of prohibited animals found at large
- Amendments to the list of exceptions, including updating current park locations
Pet Limits

- Advocacy groups support higher limits or no limits and approximately 40% of the survey respondents support an increase to the limit of cats.

- Forms part of an overall strategy to encourage greater opportunity for cat placements and to reduce euthanasia rates.
Improved Animal Care

- Introduces **specific** requirements for animal care
- Improvements include:
  - Food of sufficient quantity
  - Adequate access to potable water
  - Access to an enclosed structure
  - Adequate bedding to protect against cold and dampness
  - Appropriate veterinary care
  - Continuous access to adequate space for exercise
Tethering in Public

- Chapter 349 does not permit tethering animals in public places, such as outside of shops.

- Majority of the public consulted did not know tethering on public lands is prohibited.

- 72% of the public want public tethering to be permitted.
Tethering – Public Safety

- Public Health investigates over 2,000 animal bites/year

- Approximately 200 bites were reported as being by unattended dogs

- Dogs who are tethered are stressed and anxious

- TAS maintains public tethering may pose a risk to the safety of the public
Other Proposed Amendments

- Caution Orders – to address dog bites occurring on private property

- Guard Dogs – posting of notice
Feral Cats, Trap Neuter Return Program

- Program was introduced in May 2010 as part of the Toronto Feral Cat TNR Coalition
- TAS, as a member of the Coalition, is committed to participating in a strategic Trap–Neuter–Return program in the City of Toronto
- Since the inception of the program TAS has sterilized 943 feral cats
- This program is supported through donations to TAS
Feral Cat Management
Trap Neuter Return - How it Works

- Educate & Train Colony Caretakers
- Register Colonies
- Track Colony Population
- Trap & Transport Feral Cats
- TAS Sterilizes Feral Cats
- Recovery & Return Cats to Colony

Toronto Feral Cat TNR Coalition
Trap Neuter Return Program – Goals

✓ Improve quality of life for feral cats

✓ Reduce the number of feral cats that are euthanized

✓ Reduce or eliminate feral cat colonies
T–N–R: Measuring Success

The bar chart illustrates the intake of kittens, cats, and total intake from 2010 to 2012. The highest intake was observed in 2011 for both kittens and cats, with a slight decrease in 2012. The total intake shows a similar trend, with a peak in 2011 and a minor decline in 2012.
Lowering Cat Retention Period

- Cat retention period lowered from 5 to 3 days and aligns with Provincial standards
- The longer cats stay in animal care centres, the more likely they will become sick
- Sick cats are more difficult to manage and adopt out
Fees – Why Increase?

- Fees have not been increased since 1999
- The current fee for surrender does not reflect the costs to deliver the service to shelter and care for the animals
- Fee increases are being proposed to mitigate the subsidization of these services
## Surrender Fee Comparators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>DOGS</th>
<th>CATS</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRAMPTON</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAMILTON</td>
<td>$174 – $276</td>
<td>$174</td>
<td>$64</td>
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<td>MISSISSAUGA</td>
<td>$78 – $222</td>
<td>$52 – $106</td>
<td>$21</td>
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<td>$85</td>
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<td>$75</td>
<td>$65</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROPOSED FEE</td>
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Authority to Waive Fees

- The by-law currently gives authority to waive fees for compassionate reasons for surrendering, impoundment, and sheltering.

- Also gives the authority to waive adoption fees during adoption drives (12 weeks/year in total).

- Amendments propose to expand this authority to reduce or waive fees for adoptions all year round and for spay/neuter services.

- Waiving of fees is a common tool used by animal shelters throughout North America.
Customer Service

- Harmonization of pet licence renewal dates for multiple pet owners
- Ongoing enhancements to the e-Pets licensing system
- Implement electronic billing and receipts
No Cost Spay Neuter Services

- Introduction of a program to provide low income Torontonians with no cost spay neuter services for their cats
- Costs are supported through donations

Benefits
- Improves the health of animals
- Supports pet retention
- Contributes to animal control
No Cost Spay Neuter – Eligibility

✓ 18 years of age or older

✓ A resident of Toronto

✓ Owner or keeper of the animal

✓ Proof of income per LICO
Animal Cruelty Issues

- TAS recommends that Toronto advance a one stop solution for animal cruelty complaints
- TAS also requires authority to more effectively deal with hoarding situations where animals are involved
- Currently TAS has no power of entry and no authority to remove animals from an owner’s private residence
- TAS is investigating options to expand the authority to provide for better management of hoarding and cruelty investigations
The Great Care TAS Provides

TWIGGY BEFORE

TWIGGY AFTER
Questions