



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: General Purposes Committee
FROM: Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Community Bylaws
RE: "Cat" / Bylaw Amendments to existing
Animal, Bird and Beekeeping Bylaw No. 7137

To General Purposes - April 2/01
DATE: March 19, 2001
FILE: ~~8000-07~~
8060-20-721
yr: 8060-20-7212

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Bylaw No. 7211, which amends the Animal, Bird and Beekeeping Bylaw No. 7137, by adding several new "cat" subsections; and,

That Amendment Bylaw No. 7212, which amends the Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7139, to allow for the enforcement, and penalties, pertinent to the added subsections referenced immediately above:

be given first, second and third readings.

Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Community Bylaws

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Law	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

Council at their September 27, 1999 meeting directed staff to bring forward bylaw amendments that would address various cat issues in our community. Council's direction was in response to the initiatives of the Cat and Dog Companion Animal Task Force Report dated August 24, 1999. The proposed bylaws have been reviewed by both the SPCA and Richmond Homeless Cats Society.

ANALYSIS

Based on the need to address issues related to the good and welfare of cats in Richmond, the Task Force recommended bylaw changes that would see cat: identification; mandatory spaying / neutering; breeders permit; and advertising of the breeder permit number when cats or kittens are offered. An applicable fine / ticket bylaw structure is also included.

The benefits, in addition to encouraging responsible pet ownership, of the proposed bylaw are as follows:

- 1) **Cat identification** will provide a means of establishing ownership and facilitate the return of lost cats.
- 2) **Cat neuter/spaying** should reduce the number of feral and unwanted cats.
- 3) **Cat Breeding Permits** coupled with the **Advertising Requirements** makes the cat owner aware of the choices and makes the identification of indiscriminate cat breeders identifiable for education and enforcement purposes.

The Task Force also recommended that the Cat Spay / Neuter Bylaw be kept simple. The goal intended would be for cat owners to spay or neuter their animals within a certain time frame; a time frame that is reasonably short. The recommended age to have a cat spayed or neutered is 6 months.

This bylaw approach is not only a reminder to cat owners about responsible pet ownership but also assists in controlling the number of unwanted cats. This initiative should reduce the number of household cats which are either lost, or abandoned, which in turn causes them to join the feral cat population.

For individuals who do not want their cat(s) spayed or neutered, a breeder permit must be obtained. The breeder permit process allows a person to breed cats; however it also requires them to advertise their breeder permit number when young cats are placed up for sale or for general dispersal.

The existence of the breeder permit and advertising requirements assists and educates a new cat owner in knowing that there are choices to be made.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

CONCLUSION

The combination of bylaw amendments proposed clearly define a responsible approach to cat ownership. These measures are anticipated to contribute to a reduction in the feral and unwanted cat population.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Lang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

R.J. Lang
Supervisor, Community Bylaws

CITY OF RICHMOND

**ANIMAL, BIRD & BEEKEEPING REGULATION
BYLAW NO. 7137, AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 7211**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. Part Two of Bylaw No. 7137 is amended by adding the following section:

2.1A Cats

2.1A.1 Owner Obligations

2.1A.1.1 Every **owner** of a **cat** must:

- (a) ensure that such **cat** bears sufficient identification to enable any person finding the **cat** to contact the **owner**;
- (b) where such **cat** is actually or apparently over six months of age, ensure that such **cat** has been spayed or neutered, as applicable, by a veterinarian, unless the **owner** holds a valid **cat** breeding permit for the **cat**; and
- (c) ensure that where such **cat** is not spayed or neutered, such **cat** is not permitted to be **running at large**.

2.1A.1.2 The identification required under clause (a) of subsection 2.1A.1.1 may take the form of, but is not limited to, a collar and tag, tattoo, or microchip implant.

2.1A.2 Cat Breeding Permits

2.1A.2.1 Every **owner** of an un-spayed **cat** who offers to sell, give away, or otherwise transfer ownership or dispose of the offspring of such **cat** must:

- (a) obtain a **cat** breeding permit in accordance with the provisions of subsection 2.1A.2.2; and
- (b) include the number of such **cat** breeding permit in any advertisement regarding the offspring.

2.1A.2.2 The **Contractor** may:

- (a) prescribe the form of application required by any person who wishes to obtain a **cat** breeding permit; and

(b) upon receiving an appropriate application form and the fees for a **cat** breeding permit specified in Schedule A, issue a **cat** breeding permit, valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance.

2.1A.2.3 The penalty for violating clause (c) of subsection 2.1A.1.1 may be waived by the **Contractor**, upon having been provided proof, within 30 days after the date the citation was issued, that the **cat** has been spayed or neutered.

2. Part Eight of Bylaw No. 7137 is amended by adding the word "Dog" in parentheses after "Running At Large" and adding the following in the appropriate alphabetical order:

CAT means a **household pet** of the feline species and includes a kitten.

RUNNING AT LARGE (CAT) means being elsewhere than on the premises of the **owner** while not under the control of the **owner** by leash, cord, chain, or other similar means of physical restraint that is not more than eight feet in length.

3. Schedule A of Bylaw No. 7137 is amended by adding:

3. Cat Breeding Permit Fee

Permit for three years \$35

4. This bylaw is cited as "**Animal, Bird & Beekeeping Regulation Bylaw No. 7137, Amendment Bylaw No. 7211**".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED



MAYOR

CITY CLERK

CITY OF RICHMOND

**MUNICIPAL TICKET INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION
BYLAW NO. 7139, AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 7212**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

- Schedule B 1 to Bylaw No. 7139 is amended by inserting the following in the section entitled "Animal, Bird & Beekeeping Regulation Bylaw No. 7137 immediately after the offence of "inadequate outdoor shelter":

Offence	Bylaw Section	Fine
Owning a cat which is not spayed or neutered without holding a cat breeding permit	2.1A.1.1(b)	\$100
Permitting cat which is not spayed or neutered to be running at large	2.1A.1.1(c)	\$100

- This bylaw is cited as "**Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7139, Amendment Bylaw No. 7212**".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

APPROVED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADOPTED

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.

APPROVED for legality by Solicitor