



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 20, 2023
From: Cecilia Achiam **File:** 12-8375-01/2023-Vol
 General Manager, Community Safety 01
Re: **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – September 2023**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – September 2023”, dated October 20, 2023 from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam
 General Manager, Community Safety
 (604-276-4122)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

This report for the Animal Protection Services department provides information and statistics for enforcing bylaws related to Animal Protection Services.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

Analysis

Animal Protection Services

In September 2023, a total of 57 new dog licences applications were received and tags issued with zero renewal applications. Staff followed up and closed 17 dog licence accounts. The cumulative count of licenced dogs for the current year now stands at 7,556. This is a decrease of 8 licences when contrasted with the same time period last year.

During the same period, BC SPCA Officers responded to 209 service calls pertaining to a range of animal control and dog licencing violations. The officers also engaged in proactive patrols covering a total of 30 parks, dikes and schools.

Throughout the month of September, a total of 27 bylaw violation notices were issued by BC SPCA Officers. These violations span a variety of offences, primarily for permitting a dog to be at large, deprivation of food or water and failure to obtain a licence. In addition to enforcement actions, these patrols also serve an educational purpose by contributing to increased compliance awareness.

Figure 1 below reflects the monthly and year-to-date animal control and dog licencing enforcement activity measured by ticket issuance.

The decrease in violations issued in September can be credited to proactive efforts undertaken, in the preceding months of 2023, to resolve outstanding dog licence accounts. Accounts found in arrears are verified by staff, and when possible, dog licences are renewed or accounts are closed. As of September 2023, there are 145 accounts outstanding which represents a 63% (390) decrease compared to the same period last year.

It should be noted, for reference, that the annual canvassing of outstanding dog licences is conducted by staff during the months of April through October. The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 2. While ticket issuance is in line with the winding down of the canvassing period, overall revenue today exceeds the total revenue collection in the prior year.

Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison

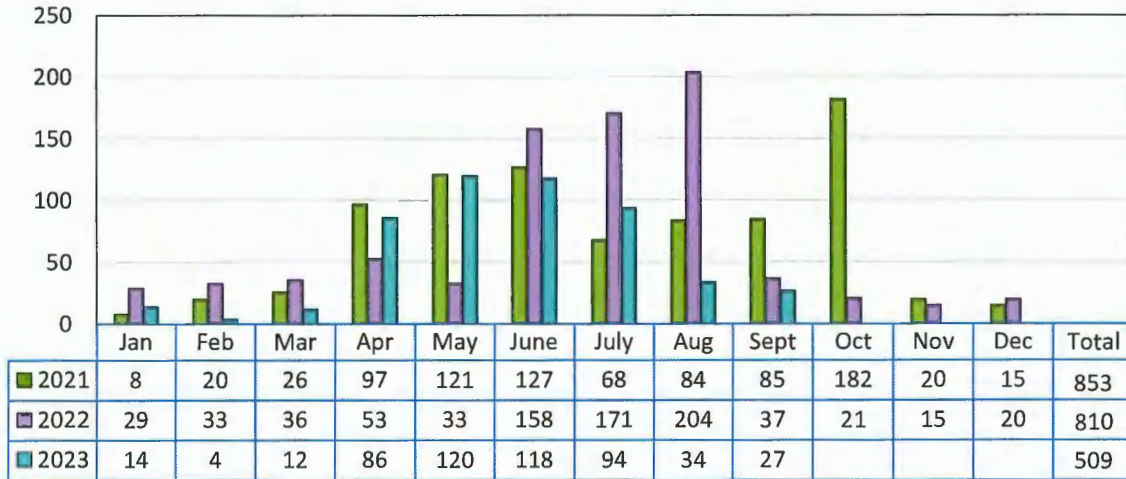
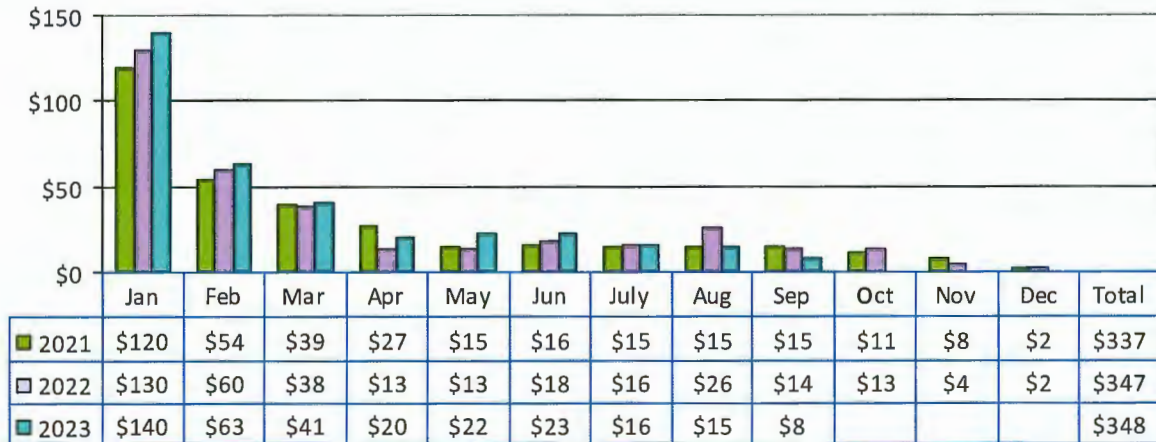


Figure 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue Comparison (000's)



Administrative Staff Activity

In September, staff received 86 calls from the public related to animal services. These calls consisted of a variety of subject matters related to dog licences, bylaw infractions, off-leash dogs in parks, the adjudication process and general inquiries. For September year-to-date, there were 2,907 administrative inquiries and requests.

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

The next adjudication session is scheduled for November 6, 2023. Six violation notices are under dispute.

Revenue and Expenses

The Animal Protection Services department derives revenue from dog licences and fines as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Animal Protection Services Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Sep 2023	Actual Sep 2023	YTD Budget Sep 2023	YTD Actual Sep 2023
Dog Licences	7,037	3,329	250,292	294,599
Fines	1,419	4,275	7,342	53,415
Total Revenue	8,456	7,604	257,634	348,014

Table 2 highlights Animal Protection Services revenue and expenses for September YTD.

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

	YTD Budget Sep 2023	YTD Actual Sep 2023
Revenue	257,634	348,014
Expenses	1,212,750	1,270,604
Net Revenue (Expense)	(955,116)	(922,590)

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Staff administer a wide range of bylaws related to animal protection, which includes public parks and school grounds, dog licencing and animal control. This report provides a summary of monthly enforcement and educational activity, including revenue and expenses.



Geoffrey Bramhill
Acting Manager, Animal Protection Services and Contract Administration
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