



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** September 15, 2023
From: Cecilia Achiam **File:** 12-8375-01/2023-Vol
 General Manager, Community Safety 01
Re: **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – August 2023**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – August 2023”, dated September 15, 2023, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Mark Corrado
 Director of Community Bylaw & Licencing
 (604-204-8673)
 Acting on behalf of Cecilia Achiam, General Manager of Community Safety

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: CA
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 as well as education and public awareness initiatives.

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 August 2023, a total of 88 dog licenses were issued including 85 new dog license applications and 3 renewals of existing licenses. The cumulative count of licensed dogs for the current year now stands at 7,516. This is an increase of 98 licenses when contrasted with the same time period last year.

During this same period, BC SPCA Officers responded to 257 service calls pertaining to a range of animal control and dog licensing violations. These officers also engaged in proactive patrols covering a total of 37 parks, dikes and schools.

Throughout the month of August, a total of 32 bylaw violation notices were issued by BC SPCA Officers. These violations were primarily identified through foot patrols carried out by these officers in non-permitted off-leash parks, City dike and school grounds. 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. 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.

The decrease in violations issued in August can be credited to proactive efforts undertaken, in the preceding months of 2023, to resolve outstanding dog license accounts. Accounts found in

arrears are verified by staff, and when possible, dog licenses are renewed or accounts are closed. As of August 2023, there are 151 accounts outstanding which represented a 66% (445) decrease compared to the same period last year.

Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison

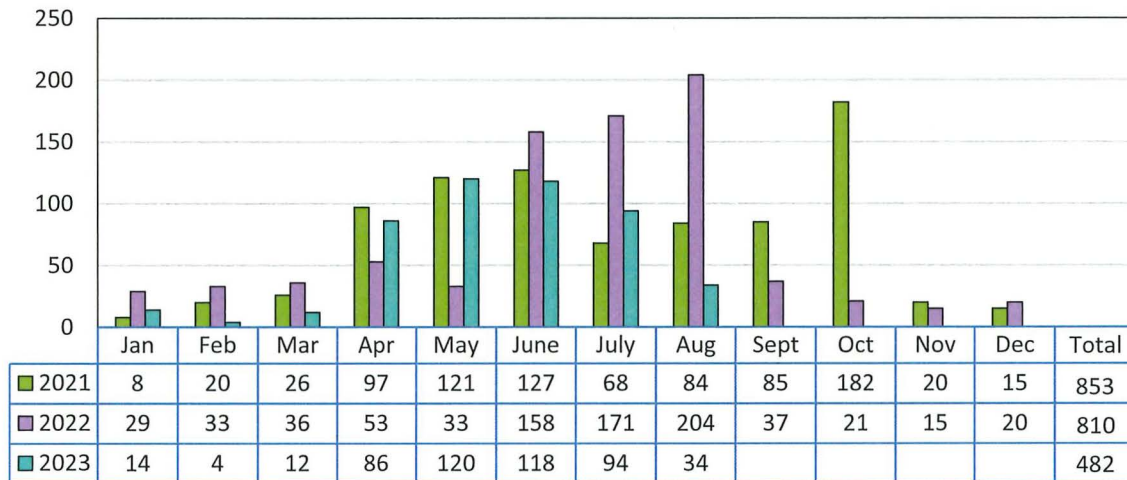
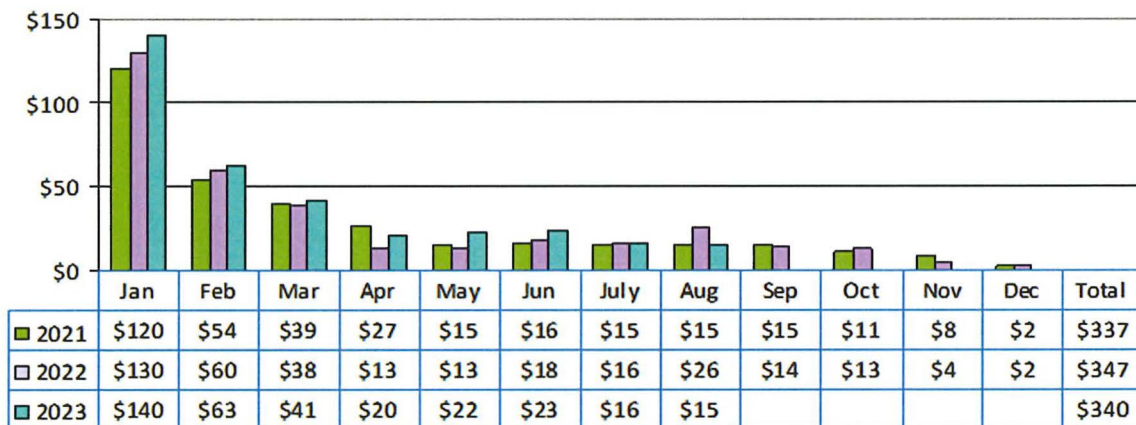


Figure 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue Comparison (000's)



Administrative Staff Activity

In August, staff received 144 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 dog parks, adjudication process and general inquiries. From January to August 2023, there were 2,821 Calls for Service.

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

The next adjudication session is scheduled for November 6, 2023. A total of 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 Aug 2023	Actual Aug 2023	YTD Budget Aug 2023	YTD Actual Aug 2023
Dog Licences	9,635	5,699	243,255	291,271
Fines	1,908	9,075	5,923	49,140
Total Revenue	11,543	14,774	249,178	340,411

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

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

	YTD Budget Aug 2023	YTD Actual Aug 2023
Revenue	249,178	340,411
Expenses	1,078,000	1,131,650
Net Revenue (Expense)	(828,822)	(791,239)

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
(604-276-4136)