



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 12, 2024  
**From:** Cecilia Achiam **File:** 12-8060-01/2024-Vol  
 General Manager, Community Safety 01  
**Re:** **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – January 2024**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – January 2024”, dated February 12, 2024 from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

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

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

## 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

As of February 6, 2024, approximately 4,338 dog licences have been issued. Dog licences are valid for a calendar year and are not based on the purchase date of the dog. Owners have until February 29, 2024, to renew their licences for a discounted fee. Following this deadline, staff will begin canvassing efforts to follow up with accounts that have not renewed or updated their status. Social media content reminding owners to register their dogs in advance of February 29, 2024 has been posted, with another additional posting going out in February.

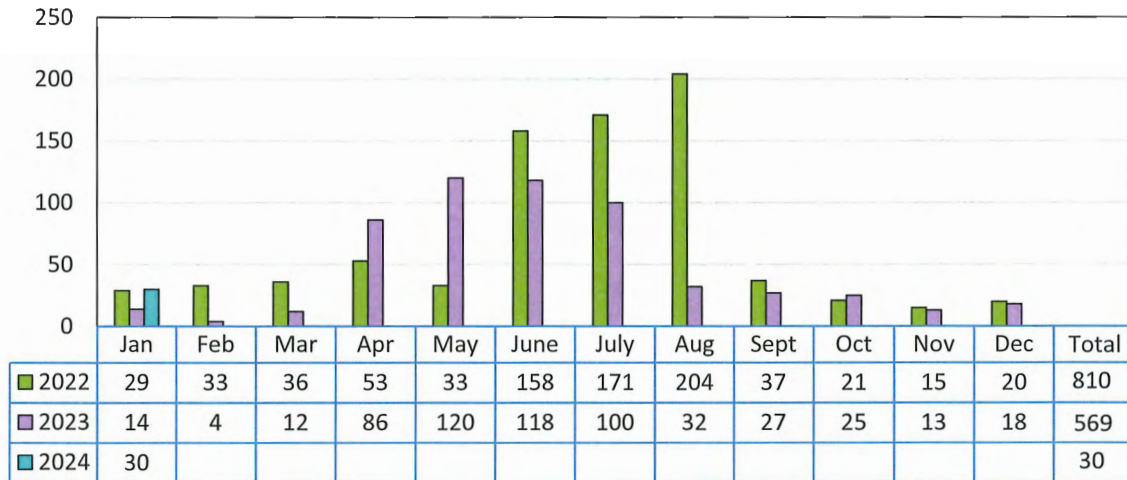
In January, BC SPCA Officers responded to 131 calls for service pertaining to a range of animal control and dog licencing violations. The officers also engaged in 44 park patrols covering numerous parks, dikes and school grounds. In addition to the standard patrol locations of Garry Point, West Dyke Trail and Garden City, staff also visited the "hot spot" locations of Homma Elementary, AR MacNeill and the South Dyke Trail.

Throughout the month of January, a total of 30 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 and failure by owner to confine a dog to their property. 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.

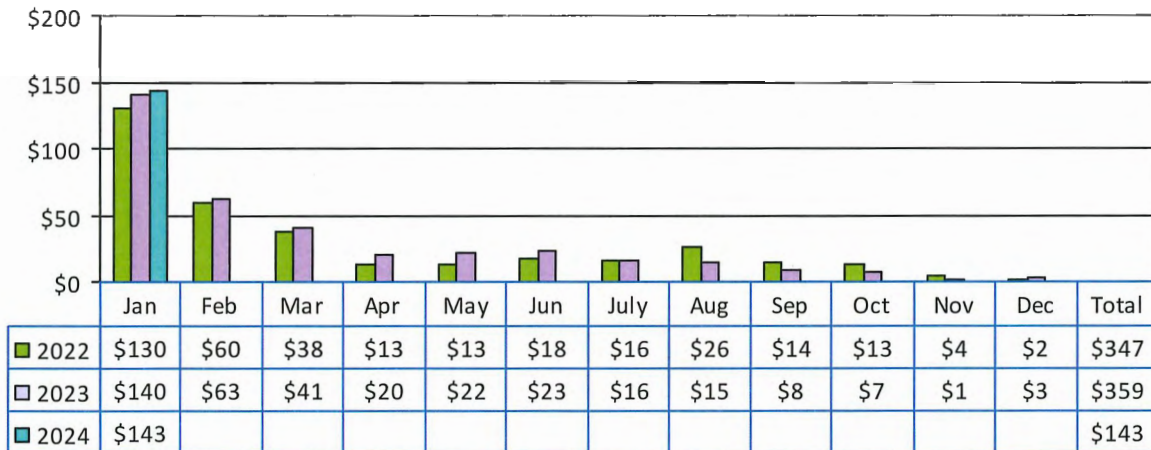
With the beginning of the 2024 dog licence application/renewal cycle, violation notices issued for failure to obtain a valid dog licence generally decrease until the canvassing period begins in April.

Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison



The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 2. While ticket issuance is within cyclical norms in the post-canvassing period, the overall year revenue is up slightly as of the end of January. This can be attributed to strong renewal rates experienced so far into 2024.

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



Richmond Animal Shelter Activity

In January, a total of 42 domestic animals were adopted from the Richmond Animal Shelter. An additional 14 animals were redeemed by their owners. Among the 42 adopted domestic animals, 12 were dogs and 23 were cats. The remaining seven adopted animals in January were domestic birds or rabbits.

Administrative Staff Activity

In January, staff received 455 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, adjudication process and general inquiries. There was an increase in calls to the administrative team due to the 2024 dog licenses renewal program.

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

There are no violation notices currently requiring adjudicator review. Once a minimum threshold of dispute applications is received, an adjudication session will be scheduled.

Revenue and Expenses

The Animal Protection Services department derives revenue from dog licences and fines as shown in Table 1. Table 2 highlights Animal Protection Services revenue and expenses within the Community Safety division.

Table 1: Animal Protection Services Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Jan 2024	Actual Jan 2024
Dog Licences	115,991	141,918
Fines	370	875
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>116,361</b>	<b>142,793</b>

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

	Budget Jan 2024	Actual Jan 2024
Revenue	116,361	142,793
Expenses	124,759	133,384
<b>Net Revenue (Expense)</b>	<b>(8,398)</b>	<b>9,409</b>

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

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



Geoff Bramhill  
Acting Manager, Animal Protection Services and Contract Administration  
(604-276-4136)