



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Dave Semple
 Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
Re: Dogs in Parks Task Force

Date: April 17, 2008
File: 11-7200-20-DPAR1-01/2008-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Vision and strategic directions identified in the report, Dogs in Parks Task Force, dated April 17 2008 from the Director of Parks and Public Works Operations be endorsed.
2. That a public consultation process regarding the recommendations of 2008 Dogs in Parks Task Force be undertaken throughout the fall of 2008 and report back to Committee in early 2009.

Dave Semple
 Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
 (604-233-3350)

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Community Bylaws	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>all alive</i>
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO
		<i>sw12</i>			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
					<i>AT</i>

Staff Report

Origin

At the September 10 2007 meeting of Council the following referrals were received:

1. *That the City continue to consult and collaborate with RRDOG as outlined in the report (dated July 18 2007 from the Director of Parks and Public Works Operations)*
2. *That the concept of a dog management strategy be received for information and report back to Committee in early 2008.*
3. *That RRDOG's three pillar approach to Dog Management Strategy for Richmond be referred to staff for review, including the financial implications;*
4. *That staff investigate the feasibility of designating a portion of Railway Ave as a potential off-leash area; and*
5. *That staff investigate the feasibility of banning dogs on the West Dyke during nesting season.*

This report responds to these Committee referrals and makes recommendations for a dog management strategy in Richmond.

Analysis

To address the diversity of interests with regard to the broader issues of dogs in parks, staff convened a six person task force with participation from areas that were selected based on best practices and other models used in the Lower Mainland. The terms of reference for the Task Force (Attachment 1) included the following purpose for the group:

“The Task Force will provide input and information regarding dogs and parks, specifically pertaining to:

- the identification of stakeholders and potential partnerships
- the proposed enhancements to Richmond's existing off-leash program
- the design of infrastructure required for accommodating dogs, including the identification of locations for dog owners
- the education of dog owners
- the enforcement of dog-related rules and regulations

Membership on the Task Force included two RRDOG (Richmond Responsible Dog Owners Group) directors, a professional dog walker, a professional dog trainer, and a citizen at large. The task force met nine times over a period of six months including a Saturday morning tour of existing and potential off-leash sites. The outcome of the work of the Task Force is the attached Dogs in Parks Task Force Report – April 29th 2008. (Attachment 2)

Key to the work of the task force is the following vision:

“That Richmond is a dog-inclusive community which meets the needs of its residents through safe, clean and accessible open spaces, fair and effective enforcement, and comprehensive and collaborative education promoting responsible dog ownership.”

The Task Force also developed a number of strategic directions which closely relate to the three-pillar approach (education, enforcement and environment) identified by RRDOG and considered throughout the work of the Task Force. The strategic directions are as follows:

1. *Opportunities for accessible, off-leash use of open spaces for Richmond dog owners.*
2. *Effective communications regarding dogs in Richmond.*
3. *Effective, efficient and sustainable delivery of services and support for issues which affect dogs in the community.*
4. *Enforcement of dog-related bylaws is coordinated, consistent, fair and adequately funded.*

Finally, each strategic direction is supported by a number of recommendations including the continued exploration of a designated off-leash area on the Railway Avenue Right of Way, the need for more effective and coordinated enforcement to allow proposals such as banning dogs on the West Dyke during nesting season to be feasible and the proposed commitment of funding to engage an organization to conduct public education about dogs and dog ownership in Richmond.

One specific recommendation, “Consider the establishment of a comprehensive public dog education program with roles for the City and for Community partners,” relates to RRDOG’s request for funding from the City through the community grants program. RRDOG’s application was denied with the rationale that the work of the Task Force was not yet complete. Given that the work is now complete and the Task Force has made this recommendation, staff suggest that, as implementation of the task force recommendations proceeds, the addition of a public education role to that of the animal shelter contract be considered. RRDOG could apply for this contract or work in partnership with another organization.

The Task Force recognized through its process and reporting that issues related to dogs in parks and, more broadly, dogs in Richmond, are city-wide concerns and that a wider consultation is required prior to implementation of the recommendations.

It is recommended that staff, with the support of the Task Force membership, undertake a public consultation process throughout the fall of 2008. The consultation will consider all of the Task Force recommendations including the following three issues which remain major points of discussion for the task force members:

1. Dogs at Garry Point Park.
2. Dedicated (primary use) off-leash areas.
3. Issues related to persons with disabilities and dogs.

Ongoing assessment of the Task Force recommendations will occur throughout the consultation process.

There may be a financial impact of implementing the Task Force recommendations. Staff will bring back to Council the financial (capital and operating) implications with the identification of an implementation plan upon the conclusion of the consultation process.

Financial Impact

The costs of the public consultation will be funded through existing resources in the 2008 Parks operating budget.

Conclusion

The members of the dogs in parks task force are to be commended for their work over the past six months. Dogs are an important part of our City and our lives and issues related to them can be difficult and emotional. Successfully addressing these issues will help Richmond to achieve its vision of being the most liveable, well-managed community in Canada.



Serena Lusk
Parks Programs Manager
(604-233-3344)

SL:sl



DOGS IN PARKS

Task Force Report - April 2008

Introduction

In July of 2007, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of Council recommended the development of a dog management strategy to address the following issues:

- Dog ownership and licensing
- Education of dog owners
- Enforcement of dog-related rules and regulations
- Infrastructure required for accommodating dogs, including signage, dog bag dispensers, and design features
- Proposed enhancements to Richmond's current off-leash program
- Identification of stakeholders and potential partnerships

In October 2007, the Richmond Dogs in Parks Task Force was formed to look at dog-related issues and provide recommendations for a comprehensive dog management strategy. The mandate of this Task Force was to address the issues while keeping forefront the following objectives:

- A balanced compromise between restraint and freedom for dogs
- A safe and exciting parks and recreation experience for all
- A sharing of public spaces within specified practices, rules, and regulations
- A fair representation of all views
- The identification of baseline data and key success factors
- The identification of realistic and cost-effective solutions

Membership

The Richmond Dogs in Parks Task Force was comprised of six members:

- Jack Buchan, Richmond Responsible Dog Owners Group (RRDOG) member
- Julie Halfnights, Thompson Community Association board member
- Judi Hutchison, City of Richmond staff member and dog trainer
- Ryan Lake, Richmond Responsible Dog Owners Group (RRDOG) Director
- Carol Reichert, Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS) Executive Director
- Shelley Smith, Professional dog walker and dog trainer

The Task Force was provided support and resources from the following City staff:

- Dave Semple, Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
- Serena Lusk, Manager of Parks Programs
- Mike Redpath, Manager, Parks – Planning & Design
- Wayne Mercer, Manager, Community Bylaws
- Paul Brar, Coordinator, Parks Programs



The Task Force met regularly between October 2007 and March 2008 to perform the following activities related to the development of a dog management strategy for Richmond:

1. Review of Current Reality
2. Identification of Stakeholders
3. Situational Analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
4. Identification of Strategic Issues (design, education, partnerships, enforcement)
5. Development of Recommendations

The outcome of the Task Force's work includes a series of strategic directions and recommendations that relate to dog management in Richmond. These recommendations form the basis of this report.

Current Reality

Infrastructure:

Richmond currently has six designated off-leash areas (attachment 1). These areas include:

- McDonald Beach Park
- South Dyke Trail (south end of No. 3 Road & Woodward's Slough)
- Cambie Field Neighbourhood Park
- Shell Road Trail
- Horseshoe Slough Trail
- Hamilton Highway Park

These off-leash areas have multiple uses. There are no dedicated off-leash areas in the City's parks and open space inventory.

Signage at these locations informs users of these areas of the following conditions:

- Dogs must be kept under control by their owners at all times
- Stoop and scoop, clean up after your dog
- Dog owners must carry a leash at all times
- All dogs must be currently and visibly leashed
- Dog owners must maintain effective verbal control of their dogs and always be able to see their dog when off-leash
- Any dog exhibiting aggressive behaviour must be leashed immediately

The City's designated off-leash areas are defined in Animal Control Bylaw 7932 (attachment 2) and the rules associated with them in section 2.3.5 of the same bylaw.

Community members, non-profit organisations, volunteer groups, and businesses have the opportunity to partner with the City through the adoption or sponsorship of dog bag dispensers. Adopted dog bag dispensers are located in four locations in the City:

- McDonald Beach
- West Dyke Trail at Blundell Road
- Imperial Landing
- Britannia Heritage Shipyard
- South Dyke Trail at No. 3 Road

Herringer's Meats, Richmond Animal Hospital, and Steveston Rotary Club are currently supporting this program as sponsors. In addition to these adopted dispensers, the City supplies and maintains a dog bag dispenser at Garry Point Park. The dog waste bags that are currently used in these dispensers are made of low density poly ethylene (LDPE), which is not a biodegradable material.

In addition to designated off-leash areas, there are parks and open spaces where dogs are specifically not permitted. These areas include:

- Richmond Nature Park West and East
- Terra Nova Rural Park
- Artificial Turf Fields



South Dyke Trail



Trail and park signage



Dispenser locations and signage



Etiquette and regulatory signage

Enforcement:

In accordance with Dog Licensing Bylaw 7138, the total number of dog licenses that have been issued or invoiced for 2008 is 6,138 (attachment 3). Total revenue from these licenses is approximately \$134,500. The greatest concentration of these licenses are issued to Richmond residents living in the southwest corner of the City (attachment 4). In regards to unlicensed dogs in the City, the Community Bylaws Division notes relatively high levels of compliance and estimates the number of unlicensed dogs to be 15%.

Animal control and the operation of the animal shelter is currently contracted to the Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS). RAPS has one animal control officer active seven days a week from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The Community Bylaws Division supports animal control outside of these hours.

Education:

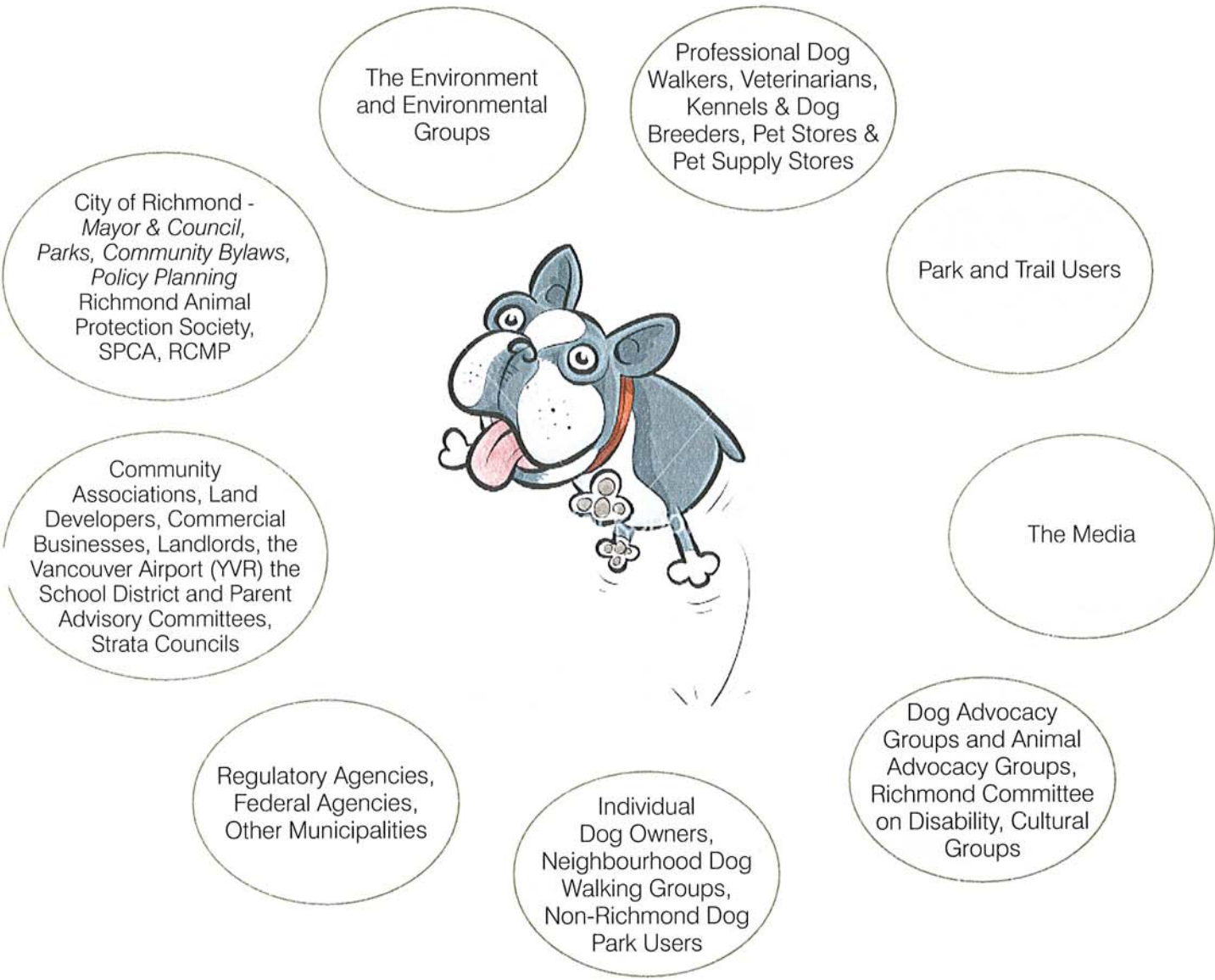
Education regarding designated off-leash areas, dog licensing, and enforcement is promoted primarily through the City of Richmond website and brochures. The City website provides information on how to report problems and contact information on dog-related programs and services. Brochures are distributed with licensing invoices and are available at the animal shelter, City Hall, community centres, and the Parks Office.

Education on responsible pet guardianship and animal wellness is further promoted through the Richmond Animal Wellness Expo, put on by Bylaws and Parks in mid-summer at Garry Point Park. This event features participation by over 40 local and regional advocacy groups, volunteer organisations, rescue societies, trainers, and pet oriented businesses. The Richmond Animal Wellness Expo is now into its fourth year and attracts over 500 spectators annually.

Education of dog owners is also done on an ad-hoc basis as issues arise through the media or directly to dog owners from animal control officers or RAPS staff.

Stakeholders

The Dogs in Parks Task Force created the following stakeholder map to help ensure that broad consideration for needs was given when considering issues related to a dog management strategy:



Situational Analysis:

The Dogs in Parks Task Force identified that there are many strengths of Richmond's current dog management strategy. These **strengths** include the following:



Animal Wellness Pet Expo

- Established off-leash program (it's a great start & services many dog owners)
- On-leash areas
- Dyke access – Richmond has waterfront
- Dispenser bags provided at some locations
- Network of trails for dogs and owners
- Accommodations for dog walkers
- Licenses all relatively inexpensive
- Passionate advocates in the community – the issue has a voice
- Swimming spots for dogs
- Established advocacy group – RRDOG
- RAPS is doing a great job with shelter with resources they have
- Motivated City Council
- Staff dedicated to the issues
- Signage at dog parks
- Comprehensive bylaws (Animal Control & Dog Licensing)
- Education channels (e.g. Animal Wellness Expo and Pet Page)
- Brochures available to the public advising them where they can legally go with their dogs.

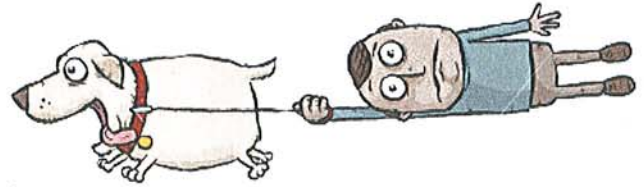
The Task Force also identified many **weaknesses** in the current situation:



No enclosed area for exercising dogs

- Difficulty in enforcing bylaws
- Conflicting Bylaws
- No fenced in off-leash areas
- More dogs off-leash than on leash in many areas
- Not enough areas on or off-leash
- Off-leash areas are not readily accessible (not enough of them, have to drive to get there)
- Signage is too small, outdated or difficult to follow
- Insufficient educational programs
- More enforcement for “dangerous dogs”
- “Off-leash dog in parks” is misnomer
- Limited separation of dogs and park users
- Increase in licensing fees for dangerous dogs has driven them underground
- RAPS is underfunded and does not have capacity to respond effectively
- No environmentally friendly disposal of dog waste
- Too much poop not enough scoop
- Language – regulations and signs need to be communicated in languages other than English that are in high use by community members
- Residents who blatantly disregard established Bylaws
- Off-leash brochure needs to be updated
- More information, education for dog owners
- No enclosed areas for exercising, socializing untrained dogs & pups

- Lack of adequate, affordable, community centred obedience and etiquette training.
- Lots of untrained dogs and owners
- Lack of dog bag dispensers in high-use locations
- Dog bag sponsorship can be marketed better
- Dyke is de facto off-leash (deters families, leashed dogs)
- No exemption for disabled persons with obedience trained dogs
- Absence of positive motivation to encourage culture of compliance
- Overpopulation: conflicts among users
- Public perception that there is little or no enforcement of rules
- Lack of initiative to train (no reward for trained dogs. ex: greater use privileges)



Untrained dogs and owners

A number of **opportunities** to improve the current situation were identified by the Task Force:

- Large amounts of potential space for designated/separate areas for dogs
- Working with local breeders (recreational – training)
- Working with local and other language media – education
- Better resources for education of owners and dogs
- Public consultation for dog issues
- Technology for bags and disposal of waste
- Lots of open space in Richmond
- Dog waste composting
- Partnership with RRDOG
- Motivated bylaw enforcement officers
- More, better enforcement
- Biodegradable bags
- Oval and surrounding areas – new ideas can be tried
- Continuing stakeholders communication
- Population who are motivated to use outdoor space and thus resolve issues related to dogs
- Motivated council
- Grants/funds available or programs supporting sustainability
- Capitalizing of the city's commitment to a triple bottom line approach
- Partnering with media to give dog issues positive attention and profile
- All dog "sellers" can be involved in education
- Vibrant business community – source of funds
- Cultural diversity and open society
- Number of qualified trainers that are residents of Richmond
- Lulu island sewage plant (methane)
- Desire for more education regarding dogs – bylaw enforcement staff
- Progress is being made in dog waste composting
- City Centre Area Planning process
- The funding structure and enforcement structure of the animal shelter can be reviewed and re-assessed prior to next bidding process

In addition, some potential external **threats** to success for a dog management strategy were identified as existing:



Competition for space

- Cultural phobias
- Urban concentration
- Too few park spaces and too many users leads to competition for the same space
- Media attention to bad dog incidents
- Anti dog groups
- Costs
- Lack of responsible dog owners
- Untrained dogs at large
- Overpopulation and densification has diminished open space
- There has been a hesitation by some schools and community centre to offer space for dog training or education programs
- Too many stakeholders
- Perceptions of some breeds as “bad”
- Lack of clarity (for the public) around rules
- Conflicting interests: elected officials, staff, public
- Environmentalist/wildlife/advocates (SICA etc)
- Unlicensed dogs (invisible and no \$)
- Untrained dogs at large
- Lack of education
- Public’s lack of understanding of dogs - behaviour and motivations
- Language challenges
- People vote with their FEET
- No precedent for allocating resources to dog issues
- School parks may be problematic (PACs, school board)
- Many dog suppliers operate outside of the City but impact Richmond
- Professional dog walkers from outside the community using facilities without paying fees.

Vision

A thorough understanding of the current reality, the stakeholders involved, and the situational realities of dog management concerns in Richmond led the Task Force to the following vision:

That Richmond is a dog-inclusive community which meets the needs of its residents through safe, clean and accessible open spaces, fair and effective enforcement, and comprehensive and collaborative education promoting responsible dog ownership.

Strategic Directions

As an outcome of the vision, the Task Force proposes the following strategic directions to address the issues of design, education, partnerships, and enforcement:

1. Opportunities for accessible, off-leash use of open spaces for Richmond dog owners.
2. Effective communications regarding dogs in Richmond.
3. Effective, efficient and sustainable delivery of services and support for issues which affect dogs in the community.
4. Enforcement of dog-related bylaws is coordinated, consistent, fair and adequately funded.

Each of these strategic directions is supported by a number of desired outcomes and specific recommendations as outlined in the following pages.

Issue 1: Infrastructure and Design

Issue Discussion

The Task Force acknowledged that off-leash spaces provide opportunities for dog owners to train their dogs, exercise them effectively, and socialize them with other dogs and people. Dogs, like people, come in different shapes and sizes and have differing needs. Larger dogs tend to need more space, and some breeds require more opportunities to socialize with people and other dogs. In order to meet the needs of all dogs, it is important for the City to have a broad range of off-leash spaces in its open space inventory. These can include the addition of dedicated off-leash areas and time-sensitive off-leash areas.

An area that is dedicated for dog off-leash use would specify the only use of that space is for off-leash use. There are currently conflicts in the areas designated for off-leash use but with multiple other uses. The analogy of a soccer game was used as a parallel. In a soccer game, confusion and conflict would arise if someone was to bicycle through or if dogs were allowed to run off-leash. The same could be said for an off-leash area. Dedicated off-leash areas can be enclosed or fenced with natural or manmade barriers to clearly define these zones within a park.

There was also discussion on time sensitive programming of certain areas. An off-leash area can be designated as such at different periods of the day. The times would have to be communicated clearly and enforced consistently to avoid conflict or confusion.

The dog licensing demographic chart indicates that there are heavier concentrations of dog owners in the southwest corner of the City and in and around Garden City Road (attachment 4). There is a need to have off-leash spaces that are readily accessible to all Richmond residents, including those in these areas.



Being a dog inclusive community



Natural or man-made barriers



McDonald Beach off-leash area

On Saturday, December 8th, 2007, the Dogs in Parks Task Force toured existing and potential off-leash areas. The tour included the following locations:

- Miller Road Field (Sea Island)
- McDonald Beach
- Cambie Field Neighbourhood Park
- Bath Slough Trail and BC Hydro Right of Way (ROW)
- Minoru Park (northwest corner)
- South Dyke Off-Leash Area
- Railway Right-of-Way (ROW)
- Steveston Community Park Ball Diamond

The need for a public process at Garry Point Park and the Dyke Trail was discussed. A survey conducted by RRDOG last year at the Animal Wellness Expo provides indication that issues such as an enclosed off-leash area and time sensitive off-leash privileges are important and controversial ones at Garry Point. It was acknowledged that both these park areas are considered "citywide" and that the public process should be open to the community at large, not just residents of the immediate neighbourhood.

In regards to creating new off-leash areas, pilot projects can be an effective way of implementing change on a trial basis. At the end of the period, the success of the pilot can be reviewed before committing to permanent changes or additions with a park.

Strategic Direction No 1:

Opportunities for accessible, off-leash use of open spaces for Richmond dog owners.

<p>Desired Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-defined and designed dog off-leash areas. • Dog off-leash areas located in areas where demand is greatest. • Dog off-leash areas located in areas where entitlement is lowest. • Safe open spaces for both dog owners and other Richmond residents
<p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure no net loss of space for designated off-leash areas. 2. Clear paths at existing McDonald beach dog off-leash area to improve accessibility to site. 3. Consider designating a portion of the Railway Ave Right-of-Way as a designated off-leash area. 4. Consider designating the space at the west side of Minoru Park which currently contains the fitness circuit as a fenced designated off-leash area. 5. Consider designating the Bath Slough Trail as a designated off-leash area. 6. Plan for future designated off-leash areas in the City Centre parks to meet the needs of the growing population. 7. Consider adding fenced / naturally bounded designated off-leash areas within existing off-leash areas to allow for puppies and less well-trained dogs to run unimpeded. 8. Implement a public process to determine the appropriateness of and possible location for off-leash activity at Garry Point Park. 9. Begin a dialogue with School District 38 to discuss and address uses related to off-leash dogs on school grounds. 10. Begin a dialogue with YVR to discuss greater use of Sea Island for designated off-leash areas including the Miller Road Field and the area to the east of McDonald Beach. 11. Consider the concept of time-sensitive designated off-leash areas in parks across the City. 12. Consider the concept of dedicated off-leash areas in locations around the City.

Issue 2: Education

Issue Discussion

The Task Force discussed the need to raise awareness on issues such as spay/neutering, licensing, and "poop-and-scooping." Education and raising public awareness were seen as critical factors in a successful dog management strategy. Significant and sustained effort must be made to promote awareness of the social and environmental concerns in parks and educate the public about responsible dog ownership and etiquette.

Opportunities to educate the community about dogs and dog ownership through the schools, community centres, and non-profit community organisations should be explored. There may also be cultural phobias to dogs from new immigrants. It is important to work with cultural groups to increase levels of comfort with dogs and promote educational opportunities.

There was discussion as to the need to appropriately support a comprehensive education program. Support must include funding, The City should provide an adequate level of funding for dog programs in the community regardless of the number of licensed dogs. Without a commitment by the City to provide this funding, problems will be inherent in its dog management program. Task Force members felt that a positive correlation existed between increased levels of public education and increased levels of bylaw compliance.



Education through messaging

Strategic Direction No 2: *Effective communications regarding dogs in Richmond.*

Desired Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dog-inclusive culture. • Awareness of the responsibilities associated with dog ownership including spaying and neutering. • Minimized conflicts between dog owners and non-dog owners.
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Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update all signage at designated off-leash areas to include references to current bylaws. 2. Update all signage at designated off-leash areas to include a responsible dog ownership message. 3. Collaborate with the media (both English and other language) to share the message of the benefits of a dog inclusive culture. 4. Collaborate with dog producers (pet stores, breeders, etc) and media to share the message of responsible dog ownership. 5. Explore opportunities with schools, community associations and cultural organizations to teach a message of responsible dog ownership and safety around dogs. 6. Consider the establishment of a comprehensive public dog education program with distinct roles for the City and for community partners.
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Issue 3: Partnerships

Issue Discussion

As the City has limited resources, partnerships are an important pillar in an effective dog management strategy.

There are a number of agencies and societies in the community which can assist with the dog-related programs, particularly in the realm of education. The Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS), Richmond Responsible Dog Owners Group (RRDOG), Society for the Prevention for Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) are just a few of the groups that are available as resources. Community Centres and the Richmond School District are potential partners and important stakeholder who need to be approached to help solve dog-related problems in the community.

There was discussion on the need to enact regulations restricting or prohibiting the sale of dogs from pet stores. Many dogs that end up at the Richmond Animal Shelter are “impulse buys” from local pet stores, which provide inadequate information on what is required for the proper care of animals. As these stores have a “no return” policy, they end up abandoned at the Animal Shelter. Furthermore, dogs sold in pet stores often derive from puppy mills, a method of producing dogs which is receiving international attention for its cruel breeding practices. Many cities in Australia and the United States are enacting regulations that prohibit or restrict the sale of dogs in pet stores, making them available only through animal shelters, breeders, or adoption centres. There are currently three pet stores in Richmond.



Partnerships

Strategic Direction No 3:

Effective, efficient and sustainable delivery of services and support for issues which affect dogs in the community.

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| <p>Desired Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration among all stakeholders in the delivery of services to dog owners. • Increased funding for dog-related issues in Richmond. • Environmentally responsible methods of dog waste disposal. |
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Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reprioritize and refocus the “Adopt-a-Dog Bag Dispenser” program. 2. Ensure bags in dog bag dispensers are biodegradable. 3. Explore alternative avenues for disposing of dog waste materials. 4. Provide recognition for ‘exemplary’ dogs. 5. Create an advisory board for dog control issues. 6. Seek to enact a bylaw to ban the sale of dogs from storefront locations. 7. Support a reduction in the fine for the return of an impounded dog if the dog is spayed or neutered. 8. Maintain the financial incentive for licensing spayed or neutered dogs. 9. Consider a dialogue with disabilities groups regarding their unique concerns and needs. |
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Issue 4: Enforcement

Issue Discussion

The Task Force focused on gaining a greater understanding of the roles, responsibilities and current mandate of the Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS), under contract to provide animal control services to the City of Richmond. It was reported that RAPS is currently short approximately \$10,000/month in operating its programs.

It was felt that the contractor for the animal shelter requires more resources to provide effective enforcement. Adequate levels of funding need to be identified and established as a baseline for the contract, regardless of the amount of revenue received back to the City through the issuing of dog licenses or fines. Without this commitment to adequate funding, the public perception that enforcement is coordinated, consistent, fair, and effective will be challenged.

In regards to dog licensing, the City could look at having more locations for dog licensing to take place. Currently, dog licenses can only be obtained at City Hall. The only time a dog can be licensed at the Richmond Animal Shelter is if it has been impounded. Additional locations for licensing can include the Richmond Animal Shelter on a regular basis or community centres. An outreach program should also be initiated to promote higher levels of compliance.

The Task Force discussed the concerns of dog walkers and the challenges they face in operating a business under the stipulations of the Animal Control Bylaw, which restricts the number of dogs allowable off-leash to three. In regards to an exception for professional dog walkers with a Richmond business licence, it was felt that six dogs would be a more appropriate number for dog walkers to effectively manage their dogs and still operate a viable business.

Richmond is also facing challenges with dog walkers from neighbouring cities using Richmond's facilities. In particular, McDonald Beach is used quite heavily by Vancouver dog walkers. Metro Vancouver has a user pay system in place for commercial dog walkers which helps to regulate the facilities and provide revenue for its maintenance. The adoption of a user pay model similar to that implemented by Metro Vancouver may help regulate the overuse of McDonald Beach and promote conformity to City bylaws.

There was also a discussion of whether or not special exemptions for exemplary dogs can be made for dog handlers with disabilities. This exemption would have to involve some kind of certification or special license.



Enforcement and resources

Strategic Direction No 4:

Enforcement of dog-related bylaws is coordinated, consistent, fair, and adequately funded.

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| Desired Outcomes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong enforcement presence exists in parks and open spaces. • Enforcement is supported by public education. • More licensed dogs in Richmond. Public perception that enforcement is fair and effective. |
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Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan an annual outreach licensing effort. 2. Provide a more streamlined method of licensing dogs. 3. Ensure random checks of dog licenses, behaviour and 'poop and scoop' are conducted on a regular basis. 4. Consider a new type of animal control officer which has an education role first and peace officer capabilities second. 5. Update Animal Control Bylaw 7932 to eliminate conflicting provisions. 6. Consider updating Dog Licensing Bylaw 7138 to include service as well as assistance dogs. 7. Explore exceptions to section 2.3.5.2 of the Animal Control Bylaw 7932 for professional dog walkers with a Richmond business license and a proposed dog-walking permit. |
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Definition of Terms

The following definition is taken from the Animal Control Bylaw 7932, section nine:

- **Designated dog off-leash area** – means an area posted by sign, which defines the geographic area and/or time period that dogs can be off-leash

The Task Force felt that it was important to have the following definitions accompany the strategic directions and recommendations

- **Enclosed designated dog off-leash area** – means an area posted by sign and defined geographically through natural or man-made barriers, where dogs can be off-leash
- **Accessible** – accessibility of location including transportation and walking options; accessibility for people with disabilities
- **Dedicated dog off-leash area** – means an area posted by sign which is used solely for the purpose of dogs off-leash

Next Steps

Pending Council approval of the vision, strategic directions, and recommendations set forth in this report, the next steps in the process of forming a dog management strategy would involve the creation of an implementation plan and public consultation.

Attachment No. 1



Attachment No. 2



DOG LICENCING

BYLAW NO. 7138

EFFECTIVE DATE – JULY 24, 2000

CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY

This is a consolidation of the bylaws below. The amendment bylaws have been combined with the original bylaw for convenience only. This consolidation is not a legal document. Certified copies of the original bylaws should be consulted for all interpretations and applications of the bylaws on this subject.

AMENDMENT BYLAW

EFFECTIVE DATE

Bylaw 7165	October 23, 2000
Bylaw 7165 (Schedule A)	January 1, 2001
Bylaw 7933	June 13, 2005
Bylaw 7965 (Schedule A)	July 11, 2005

CITY OF RICHMOND

DOG LICENCING

BYLAW NO. 7138

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CITY OF RICHMOND
DOG LICENCING BYLAW NO. 7138

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

PART ONE: DOG LICENCING REQUIREMENTS

1.1 Requirement to Possess a Dog Licence

1.1.1 Every person who keeps or has in his or her possession, any **dog** over the age of 8 weeks, must:

- (a) (i) obtain a **dog licence** for such **dog** in accordance with this bylaw; or
- (ii) obtain a **dog licence (Dangerous Dog)** for such **dog** in accordance with this bylaw;
- (b) attach such **dog licence** to a suitable collar on the dog; and
- (c) (i) produce such **dog licence** at the request of an **Animal Control Officer**; or
- (ii) produce such **dog licence (Dangerous Dog)** at the request of an **Animal Control Officer**.

1.2 Authority to Issue Dog Licences and Receive Fees

1.2.1 A **Licence Inspector** or an **Animal Control Officer**, has the authority to:

- (a) receive **dog licence** fees, and
 - (b) issue **dog licences** and replacement **dog licences**
- on behalf of the **City**.

1.3 Neutered and Spayed Dogs

1.3.1 Every person applying for a **dog licence** for a neutered or spayed **dog** must present written certification from a licenced veterinarian, that such **dog** has been neutered or spayed.

PART TWO: DOG LICENCES AND FEES

2.1 Annual Licence Fees

- 2.1.1 An annual, non-refundable **dog licence** fee, as shown in Schedule A, which is attached and forms a part of this bylaw, is payable for each dog over the age of 8 weeks.
- 2.1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2.1.1, every **dog licence** fee paid by an **owner** who is aged 65 or older, will be reduced by 50% of the amount shown in Schedule A, upon production of proof, satisfactory to the **City**, of such **owner's** age provided that:
- (a) (i) for **dogs** licenced in the previous calendar year, the **dog licence** is purchased prior to March 1 of the current licence year, or
 - (ii) for **dogs** acquired during the current licence year, the **dog licence** is purchased within 30 days of acquiring the **dog**; and
 - (b) the dog is spayed or neutered.
- 2.1.3 The provisions of subsection 2.1.2 do not apply to a replacement **dog licence** issued in accordance with section 2.3.

2.2 Dog Licence Period

- 2.2.1 Every **dog licence** expires on the thirty-first day of December, following the date on which such **dog licence** takes effect.

2.3 Replacement Dog Licence

- 2.3.1 A replacement **dog licence** may be issued upon payment of the fee shown in Section 3 of Schedule A when:
- (a) the original **dog licence** has been lost or stolen, or
 - (b) a valid and current **dog licence** for the **dog** in question has been issued by another **jurisdiction**.

2.4 Change of Ownership

- 2.4.1 In case of a change of ownership of a licenced **dog** during the calendar year for which such **dog** is licenced, the original **owner** of the **dog** must notify a **Licence Inspector** or an **Animal Control Officer** of such change of ownership.

2.5 Exemptions from Licencing

- 2.5.1 The provisions of this bylaw do not apply to any **dog**:

- (a) **owned** by, and harboured at, Commercial or Hobby Dog Kennels for which a business licence has been issued by the **City**;
- (b) whose **owner** has obtained a **dog licence** for such **dog**:
 - (i) under the provisions of the *Livestock Protection Act*, or
 - (ii) pursuant to a bylaw of another **jurisdiction**,
 for the unexpired portion of the licencing period.

2.5.2 A **dog licence** will be provided at no charge, for an **assistance dog** or **assistance dog** in training, which has been certified by a training facility acceptable to either the **Licence Inspector** or an **Animal Control Officer**, provided that appropriate proof of such certification is provided to either the **Licence Inspector** or the **Animal Control Officer**.

2.6 Authority To Enter Onto Property

2.6.1 The **Licence Inspector** or an **Animal Control Officer** are authorized to enter, at all reasonable times, onto any property within the **City**, to determine whether the provisions of this bylaw are being complied with.

PART THREE: VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

3.1 Any person who:

- (a) violates or who causes or allows any of the provisions of this bylaw to be violated; or
- (b) fails to comply with any of the provisions of this, or any other bylaw or applicable statute; or
- (c) neglects or refrains from doing anything required under the provisions of this bylaw; or
- (d) makes any false or misleading statement,

is deemed to have committed an infraction of, or an offence against, this bylaw and is liable on summary conviction, to the penalties provided for in the *Offence Act*, and each day that such violation is caused, or allowed to continue, constitutes a separate offence.

PART FOUR: INTERPRETATION

4.1 In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

means:

- (a) a person appointed by **Council** as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer; or
- (b) a person employed by the Contractor to undertake animal control services.

ANIMAL SHELTER	means any facility designated by Council as an Animal Pound, as provided for in the <i>Municipal Act</i> .
ASSISTANCE DOG	means a dog specifically trained to assist a person with disabilities in the performance of daily activities.
CITY	means the City of Richmond.
CONTRACTOR	means the person, firm or society with whom the City has entered into an agreement for (i) the operation of an animal shelter ; (ii) the provision of animal control services; (iii) the provision and supplying of Animal Control Officers ; (iv) the licencing of dogs ; and (v) the issuing of tickets under the provisions of the Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw.
COUNCIL	means the Council of the City .
DANGEROUS DOG	means: (a) any dog that has killed or injured: (i) a person, or (ii) a companion animal or domestic animal while running at large ; or (b) any dog that an Animal Control Officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person; (c) any dog that aggressively harasses or pursues a person or companion animal or domestic animal while running at large ; or (d) any dog owned, primarily or in part, for the purpose of dog fighting or that is trained for dog fighting; (e) a Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Pit Bull, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, or any dog of mixed breeding which includes any of these breeds; or any dog which has the appearance and physical characteristics predominantly conforming to the standards for any of the above breeds; or (f) any dog that, according to the records of the SPCA, RCMP or other municipality, or to the knowledge of the owner , has killed, injured, or aggressively harassed or pursued a person or animal .
DOG	means a household pet of the canine species.
DOG LICENCE	means a tag issued by the City , on which is stamped the dog licence number and calendar year for which such dog licence is valid.
HOUSEHOLD PET	means a domesticated animal normally kept:

- (a) in a **one-family dwelling** or a **multiple-family dwelling**; and
- (b) for pleasure rather than utility.

JURISDICTION	means any municipality in British Columbia.
LICENCE INSPECTOR	means a person appointed by Council as Licence Inspector for the City , and includes Bylaw Enforcement Officers and the Chief Licence Inspector.
MULTIPLE-FAMILY DWELLING	means a building containing two or more dwelling units, and includes any property on which such multiple-family dwelling unit is located.
ONE-FAMILY DWELLING	means a detached building used exclusively for residential purposes, containing one dwelling unit only, and includes the property on which such one-family dwelling unit is located.
OWN/OWNER/OWNED	includes possessor, harbourer, or keeper, and "owned" includes possessed, harboured, or kept.
RUNNING AT LARGE	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) being elsewhere than confined on the premises of the owner, while not on a leash and in the immediate and effective control of a competent person; and/or (b) being on any property without the consent of the owner or occupier of that property; and/or (c) being in an off-leash area, where permitted, but not under the effective control of the owner; or (d) with respect to a dangerous dog, means any dangerous dog which is not kept in compliance with the requirements of subsection 2.2.4.

PART FIVE: PREVIOUS BYLAW REPEAL

5.1 Dog Licencing and Pound Establishment Bylaw No. 4323 (adopted May 19th, 1984), and the following amendment bylaws, are repealed:

<u>AMENDMENT BYLAW</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
5578	September 24, 1990
5641	December 10, 1990
5716	May 27, 1991
5809	December 9, 1991
5793	June 1, 1992
6281	June 13, 1994
7099	March 27, 2000

PART SIX: SEVERABILITY & CITATION

- 6.1 If any part, section, sub-section, clause, or sub-clause of this bylaw is, for any reason, held to be invalid by the decision of a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.
- 6.2 This bylaw is cited as “**Dog Licencing Bylaw No. 7138**”.

SCHEDULE A to BYLAW NO. 7138

SCHEDULE OF FEES

<u>Licencing Fees</u>	Prior to January 1, 2006	Effective January 1, 2006
1. Dog - Not neutered or spayed Prior to March 1 st of the year for which the application is made	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00 \$ 50.00
2. Dog - Neutered or Spayed Prior to March 1 st of the year for which the application is made	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00 \$ 20.00
3. Dangerous Dog - Not neutered or spayed Prior to March 1 st of the year for which the application is made		\$ 250.00 \$ 200.00
4. Dangerous Dog - Neutered or Spayed Prior to March 1 st of the year for which the application is made		\$ 200.00 \$ 150.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement tag for each dog tag lost or stolen or; • for each dog licence to replace a valid dog licence from another jurisdiction. 	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00

Attachment No. 3



CITY OF RICHMOND

ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATION

BYLAW NO. 7932

EFFECTIVE DATE – JUNE 13, 2005

CITY OF RICHMOND
ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATION
BYLAW NO. 7932

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ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATION BYLAW NO. 7932

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

PART ONE: ANIMALS AND BIRDS - GENERAL

1.1 General Prohibition – All Animals and Birds

1.1.1 A person must not cause any **animal** or bird:

- (a) to be hitched, tied or fastened to a fixed object, where a choke collar or chain forms part of the securing apparatus; or
- (b) to be confined in an enclosed space, including a vehicle, without adequate ventilation.

1.1.2 Every owner of an **animal**, must ensure that the **animal** does not:

- (a) kill or injure a person or **animal**; or
- (b) aggressively pursue or harass a person or **animal** without provocation.

1.2 Basic Animal and Bird Care Requirements

1.2.1 In addition to the requirements of section 1.1, a person must not keep an **animal** or bird unless such **animal** or bird is provided with:

- (a) clean potable drinking water at all times and suitable food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth and the maintenance of normal body weight;
- (b) food and water receptacles which are kept clean and disinfected, and located so as to avoid contamination by excreta;
- (c) the opportunity for periodic exercise sufficient to maintain good health, including the opportunity to be unfettered from a fixed area and exercised regularly under appropriate control; and
- (d) necessary veterinary medical care when such **animal** or bird exhibits signs of pain or suffering.

1.3 Keeping of Outdoor Animals and Birds

1.3.1 A person must not keep an **animal** or bird which normally resides outdoors, or which is kept outdoors for extended periods of time, unless such **animal** or bird is provided with an outdoor shelter:

- (a) which ensures protection from heat, cold and dampness that is appropriate to the weight and type of protective outer coat of such **animal**;
- (b) which provides sufficient shade to protect the **animal** from the direct rays of the sun at all times; and
- (c) which is cleaned and sanitized not less than daily, of all excrement.

1.4 Authority to Enter Onto Property

1.4.1 An **Animal Control Officer** or a **Police Officer** is authorized to enter, at all reasonable times, onto any property within the **City** to determine whether the provisions of this bylaw are being complied with.

1.5 Animals or Birds in Custody

1.5.1 A person must not rescue, or attempt to rescue any **animal** or bird lawfully in the custody of an **Animal Control Officer** or any **Police Officer**.

PART TWO: HOUSEHOLD PETS

2.1 Maximum Number of Household Pets

2.1.1 Subject to the maximums per species in this Part and to any strata bylaw passed pursuant to the *Strata Property Act* respecting the number of **household pets** permitted in a strata unit, a person may keep:

- (a) a maximum of five (5) **household pets** in a **one-family dwelling** or **two-family dwelling**; or
- (b) a maximum of three (3) **household pets** in a **multiple-family dwelling**;

2.1.2 The limits prescribed in subsection 2.1.1 do not include any litter of **puppies** or **kittens**.

2.2 Cats

2.2.1 Owner Obligations

2.2.1.1 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**.

2.2.1.2 The identification required under clause (a) of subsection 2.2.1.1 may take the form of, but is not limited to, a collar and tag, tattoo, or microchip implant.

2.2.2 Cat Breeding Permits

2.2.2.1 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 2.2.2.2; and
- (b) include the number of such **cat** breeding permit in any advertisement regarding the offspring.

2.2.2.2 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.

2.2.2.3 The penalty for violating clause (c) of subsection 2.2.1.1 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.

2.3 Dogs

2.3.1 General Prohibition

2.3.1.1 A person in a **one-family dwelling** or a **two-family dwelling** must not permit more than three **dogs** to be kept in such dwelling at any time.

2.3.1.2 A person in a unit of a **multiple-family dwelling** must not permit more than two **dogs** to be kept in such unit at any time.

2.3.1.3 The provisions of subsections 2.3.1.1 and 2.3.1.2, do not apply to the housing and training of **assistance dogs**.

2.3.2 Owner Obligations - Leashing

2.3.2.1 (a) Except as provided for in subsection 2.3.5 every **owner** of a **dog** must keep such dog on a **leash** at all times while on any street or in any public place.

(b) Except as provided for by subsection 2.3.5 no **owner** may permit their **dog** to **run at large**.

2.3.3 Owner Obligations – Cleaning Up

2.3.3.1 Every **owner** of a **dog** must ensure that any excrement deposited on any **parcel**, other than the **parcel** of the **owner**, is cleaned up immediately.

2.3.3.2 The provisions of subsection 2.3.3.1 apply to an **owner** regardless of whether or not the **dog** is under such **owner's** care and control at the time of a breach of the provisions of that subsection.

2.3.3.3 The provisions of subsections 2.3.3.1 and 2.3.3.2 do not apply to the **owner** of an **assistance dog**.

2.3.4 Owner Obligations – Confinement

2.3.4.1 Every **owner** of a **dog** must ensure that such **dog**, while on the premises **owned** or controlled by the **owner**, is securely confined to the premises.

2.3.4.2 Every **owner** of a **dangerous dog** must:

(a) ensure that such **dog** is not allowed on any street or in any public place, or any other place that is not **owned** or controlled by that person, unless such **dog** is:

(i) on a leash; and

(ii) **muzzled**; and

(iii) under the care and control of an **owner**; and

(b) keep such **dog** securely confined at all times, either indoors, or in an **enclosure**, while the **dog** is on the premises **owned** or controlled by such person.

2.3.5 Designated Dog Off-Leash Areas

2.3.5.1 An **owner** may allow their **dog** to be off-leash in a **designated dog off-leash area** providing the **owner**:

(a) carries a **leash**;

- (b) keeps the **dog** in view at all times; and
- (c) maintains effective control of the **dog** so that the **dog** immediately returns when signalled.

2.3.5.2 As exceptions to subsection 2.3.5.1:

- (a) No **owner** may have more than three (3) **dogs** off-leash at any one time; and
- (b) No owner may permit a **dog**, defined as dangerous under this bylaw, to be off-leash in a **designated off-leash area**.

2.3.5.3 Every owner of a dog must immediately leash a dog when the dog exhibits aggressive behaviour.

2.4 Rabbits

2.4.1 General Requirements

2.4.1.1 Every person keeping **rabbits** in a **one-family dwelling**, a **two-family dwelling** or a **multiple-family dwelling** must ensure that:

- (a) such **rabbits** do not create a nuisance; and
- (b) all lands and premises where such **rabbits** are kept, are maintained in a sanitary condition at all times, and that excrement is not permitted to accumulate and cause, in the opinion of the **Medical Health Officer**, an objectionable odour or nuisance.

2.4.1.2 A person may keep a maximum of two (2) **rabbits** in a **one-family dwelling**, **two-family dwelling**, or a **multiple-family dwelling**.

2.5 Birds

2.5.1 General Provisions – All Birds

2.5.1.1 A person must not build, construct, reconstruct or maintain an **aviary** until the design and location of such **aviary** has been approved by the **City** with respect to building permit requirements.

2.5.1.2 A person must not feed **pigeons** or other birds in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance or disturb or interfere with the quiet, peace, or enjoyment of another person's property.

2.5.2 Pigeons

2.5.2.1 An **owner** of racing or homing pigeons, fancy pigeons, or a person on whose property such birds are kept, must not allow such pigeons to perch, roost, or nest on the land or buildings of any person in the **City**, or to stray, feed, or roost on any highway or public place, except:

- (a) on the property of which the holder is the **owner** or lessee;
- (b) for the purpose of exercising or racing, and only when such pigeons are under the control of the **owner**.

2.5.2.2 Every person keeping racing, homing, or fancy pigeons, must maintain the land and premises where such pigeons are kept in a sanitary condition at all times, and pigeon droppings must be disposed of in a manner that will not create a nuisance or health hazard.

2.5.2.3 A person may keep a maximum of five (5) **pigeons** in a **one-family dwelling** or **two-family dwelling**.

2.5.2.4 A person must not keep **pigeons** in a **multiple-family dwelling**.

2.5.2.5 An **aviary** must be located at least two (2) metres from any property line.

2.5.3 Exotic Birds

2.5.3.1 The provisions of subsection 2.5.2 with regard to **pigeons**, apply also to **exotic birds**.

PART THREE: POULTRY

3.1 General Prohibition

3.1.1 A person must not keep poultry:

- (a) on a **parcel** with an area of less than 2,000 square metres (21,529 square feet); or
- (b) in, upon, or under any structure used for human habitation.

3.1.2 Every person keeping **poultry** must ensure that:

- (a) such **poultry** does not create a nuisance; and
- (b) all lands and premises where such **poultry** is kept, are maintained in a sanitary condition at all times, and that excrement is not permitted to accumulate and cause, in the opinion of the **Medical Health Officer**, an objectionable odour or nuisance.

PART FOUR: WILD ANIMALS

4.1 General Prohibition

- 4.1.1 A person must not keep any **wild animal** in captivity on a **parcel** unless, in the opinion of the **Animal Control Officer**, adequate provision is made to ensure that such **wild animal** is securely contained on such **parcel** and poses no risk to public safety.

PART FIVE: DOMESTIC FARM ANIMALS

5.1 General Requirements

- 5.1.1 Every person keeping a **domestic farm animal** must ensure that:
- (a) flies and other insects are kept under control by good manure management and by the use of approved insecticides approved by the Pesticide Branch of the Ministry of Environment Province of British Columbia;
 - (b) both the inside and outside of any building, pen, stable, shed or structure housing a **domestic farm animal** is kept clean;
 - (c) manure does not accumulate on any **parcel** except in a properly contained manner so that that runoff to public watercourses or onto adjacent properties does not occur;
 - (d) any manure resulting from the keeping of **domestic farm animals**, that has not been suitably treated by dehydration or composting to stabilize the organic matter, must be incorporated into the soil within eight (8) hours; and
 - (e) any person allowing a **domestic farm animal** access to an outdoor area must ensure that dust caused by such **domestic farm animal** is minimized.

5.2 General Prohibition

- 5.2.1 A person must not keep a **domestic farm animal** in a **one-family dwelling**, **two-family dwelling**, or a **multiple-family dwelling**.
- 5.2.2 A person must not keep a **domestic farm animal**:
- (a) on a **parcel** with an area of less than 2,000 square metres (21,529 square feet); or
 - (b) on a **parcel** where the ratio of **domestic farm animals** to **parcel** area exceeds one (1) **domestic farm animal** for each 2,000 square metres (21,529 square feet).

PART SIX: BEEKEEPING

6.1 General Requirements

6.1.1 Every person keeping **bees**, and the person on whose property **bees** are kept must ensure that such **bees** are:

- (a) maintained in a condition so as to reasonably prevent undue swarming or aggressive behaviour; and
- (b) requeened if such **bees** are subject to undue swarming, or show signs of aggressive behaviour.

6.2 General Prohibitions

6.2.1 A person must not locate a beehive:

- (a) on any **parcel** containing a **one-family dwelling, two-family dwelling, or multiple-family dwelling**; or
- (b) within 23 metres (75 feet) of the property line of a **parcel** containing a **one-family dwelling, two-family dwelling, or multiple-family dwelling**.

6.2.2 A person must not keep more than four (4) colonies of bees on a **parcel** having an area of less than 929 square metres (10,000 square feet).

PART SEVEN: FURBEARING ANIMALS

7.1 General Prohibition

7.1.1 A person must not keep a **furbearing animal** in a **one-family dwelling, two-family dwelling, or a multiple-family dwelling**.

PART EIGHT: ANIMAL SHELTER

8.1 Establishment of Animal Shelter

8.1.1 An **animal shelter** is hereby established, and **Council** may enter into an agreement with a **Contractor** to operate such **animal shelter**.

8.2 Duties and Obligations of the Contractor

8.2.1 The agreement specified in subsection 8.1.1 may establish the duties of the **Contractor** with regard to:

- (a) the operation of an **animal shelter**, including but not limited to,
 - (i) hours of operation,
 - (ii) building maintenance and operating costs;

- (iii) payment of utilities, including electricity, natural gas and telephone services;
 - (iv) an automated telephone answering system for emergency messages;
 - (v) cleanliness and sanitation; and
 - (vi) the care and feeding of, and the provision of veterinary care, where necessary, for all impounded **animals** and birds;
- (b) the provision of animal control services, including but not limited to,
- (i) the provision of equipment, including vehicles and communication systems;
 - (ii) the impoundment of **animals** and birds;
 - (iii) the undertaking of patrols;
 - (iv) the keeping of records of impoundment, finances and **animal** disposal;
 - (v) the disposal by sale, or by humane destruction, of impounded **animals** and birds;
 - (vi) the removal and disposal of dead **animals**;
 - (vii) dealing with public complaints about **animals**; and
 - (viii) attending to, and transporting, **animals running at large**;
- (c) the provision and supplying of an adequate number of trained **Animal Control Officers**;
- (d) the licencing of **dogs**; and
- (e) the issuing of tickets under the provisions of the Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, including court attendance as and when necessary.

8.3 Authority of Animal Control Officer – Dogs

- 8.3.1 An **Animal Control Officer** or any **Police Officer**, may seize and impound any **dog** found **running at large**, for up to 96 hours, unless such **dog** is reclaimed within that time.
- 8.3.2 If an **impounded dog** is not reclaimed within 7 days of impoundment, such **dog** may be disposed of by an **Animal Control Officer**, by destruction, private sale or gift, or sale by auction.
- 8.3.3 An **Animal Control Officer**, upon apprehending any female **dog** in season found **running at large** in contravention of this bylaw, must impound such **dog** for a period of not less than 10 days, and the **owner** of such **dog** must pay the cost of boarding such **dog** during its impoundment.
- 8.3.4 Any **dangerous dog running at large**:
- (a) may be **impounded** by an **Animal Control Officer**;

- (b) must, upon request, be immediately delivered to the **animal shelter** or to an **Animal Control Officer**, by the **owner**; and
 - (c) must be kept quarantined at the **animal shelter** for a period of 14 days at the **owner's** expense, including the **maintenance fees** shown in Section 1 of Schedule A, which is attached and forms a part of this bylaw.
- 8.3.5 Before exercising the power under subsection 8.3.4, in the case of a **dog** that has acted as described in clause (a)(i) or (a)(ii) of the definition of **dangerous dog**, the **Animal Control Officer** must consider whether the **dog** was acting while in the course of
- (a) attempting to prevent a person from committing an unlawful act, or
 - (b) performing law enforcement work.
- 8.3.6 Subject to the provisions of this Part, an **Animal Control Officer** may seize a **dog** if the officer believes on reasonable grounds that the **dog** is a **dangerous dog**.
- 8.3.7 Subject to subsection 8.3.10, an **Animal Control Officer** may enter a place to **impound a dangerous dog**
- (a) with the consent of the owner, or
 - (b) in accordance with a warrant issued under subsection 8.3.8 or 8.3.9, or
 - (c) in accordance with subsection 8.3.10.
- 8.3.8 A justice who is satisfied by evidence given under oath or affirmation that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is in a place a **dog** that
- (a) has killed or seriously injured a person,
 - (b) is likely to kill or seriously injure a person, or
 - (c) has killed or seriously injured a **companion animal** or **domestic animal**,
- may issue a warrant authorizing an **Animal Control Officer** to enter and search the place and to seize the **dog**.
- 8.3.9 If it is impracticable for an **Animal Control Officer** to appear personally before a justice to apply for a warrant in accordance with subsection 8.3.8, the **Animal Control Officer** may apply for a warrant in accordance with section 22 of the *Offence Act*.
- 8.3.10 Subject to subsection 8.3.11, an **Animal Control Officer** may, without a warrant, enter and search any place except a dwelling house and seize a **dog** if the **Animal Control Officer** believes on reasonable grounds that:

- (a) the **dog** is a **dangerous dog**,
- (b) the **dog** presents an imminent danger to the public, and
- (c) the purpose of seizing the **dog** cannot reasonably be accomplished if the **Animal Control Officer** is required to obtain a warrant.

8.3.11 For the purposes of subsection 8.3.10, an **Animal Control Officer** who is not a **police officer** or special provincial constable appointed under the *Police Act* must be accompanied by a **police officer**.

8.3.12 In addition to the authority under the Community Charter or section 8 of the Livestock Protection Act, an **animal control officer** may apply to the Provincial Court for an order that a **dog** that the officer has reasonable ground to believe is a **dangerous dog** be destroyed in the manner specified in the order.

8.3.13 A **dangerous dog** seized pursuant to this bylaw may not be **impounded** for more than 21 days unless proceedings under subsection 8.3.12 of this bylaw or under the authority of the *Community Charter* or section 8 of the *Livestock Protection Act* are commenced within that time.

8.4 Reclaiming an Impounded Dog

8.4.1 The **owner** of any **dog impounded** under this Part, may reclaim such **dog** on application to an **Animal Control Officer**, by:

- (a) providing proof of ownership; and
- (b) paying the applicable impoundment fees and **maintenance fees** specified in Sections 1 and 2 of Schedule A.

8.4.2 Where the **owner** of an **impounded dog** is known, such **owner** must pay the **maintenance fees** specified in Section 2 of Schedule A, even if the **owner** fails or neglects to reclaim the **impounded dog**.

8.4.3 The charging of impoundment fees under clause (b) of subsection 8.4.1 in no way affects, derogates from or takes away from the ability to exercise the authority provided in subsection 8.3.12 to apply for an order that a **dog** be destroyed.

8.5 Authority of Animal Control Officer – Other Animals

8.5.1 An **Animal Control Officer** or any **Police Officer** may seize and impound any **domestic farm animal** or **poultry** found **running at large**.

8.5.2 An **Animal Control Officer** may sell any **animal impounded** under this Part, which have not been reclaimed, and after deducting the impounding fees and **maintenance fees** accruing in respect of such **animal**, and if applicable, the cost of advertising the sale, must pay any surplus within 30 days, to the **General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services**.

8.5.3 Where the **owner** of any **impounded animal** is known, the **General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services** must pay any surplus funds of sale, to such **owner**.

8.5.4 Where, after 3 months from the date of the sale, such **owner** is unknown, any surplus funds of sale not claimed during that time are forfeited to the **City**.

8.6 Reclaiming of Other Animals

8.6.1 Any **impounded animal** other than a **dog**, a cat or **poultry**, may be reclaimed by the **owner** prior to the date of the advertised sale, upon proof of ownership, and payment to an **Animal Control Officer**, of the applicable impoundment fees and **maintenance fees** shown in Sections 1 and 2 of Schedule A.

8.6.2 Any **impounded poultry** may be reclaimed by the **owner** prior to the date of disposal of such **poultry**, upon proof of ownership, and payment to an **Animal Control Officer**, of the applicable impoundment fees and **maintenance fees** shown in Sections 1 and 2 of Schedule A.

PART NINE: INTERPRETATION

9.1 In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR	means snarling, growling or pursuing another animal or a person.
ANIMAL	means: (a) furbearing animal ; (b) household pet ; (c) poultry ; and (d) wild animal , and includes companion animal and domestic animal .
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	means: (a) a person appointed by Council as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer; or (b) a person employed by the Contractor to undertake animal control services.
ANIMAL SHELTER	means any facility designated by Council as an Animal Pound, as provided for in the <i>Local Government Act</i> .
ASSISTANCE DOG	means a dog specifically trained to assist a person with disabilities in the performance of daily activities.
AVIARY	means a building, cage or structure for the breeding or keeping of birds, other than poultry .
BEE	means the insect <i>Apis mellifera</i> .

BUILDING	means a structure having a roof supported by columns or walls used for the shelter or accommodation of persons, animals or chattels.
BUILDING INSPECTOR	means the Manager, Building Approvals Department or those positions or persons designated by Council to act under this Bylaw in the place of the Manager.
CAT	means a household pet of the feline species and includes a kitten .
CITY	means the City of Richmond.
COMPANION ANIMAL	means an animal kept as a pet or as a guide animal.
CONTRACTOR	means the person, firm or society with whom the City has entered into an agreement for (i) the operation of an animal shelter ; (ii) the provision of animal control services; (iii) the provision and supplying of Animal Control Officers ; (iv) the licencing of dogs ; and (v) the issuing of tickets under the provisions of the Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw.
COUNCIL	means the current Council of the City .
DANGEROUS DOG	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) any dog that has killed or injured:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) a person, or(ii) a companion animal or domestic animal while running at large; or(b) any dog that an Animal Control Officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person;(c) any dog that aggressively harasses or pursues a person or companion animal or domestic farm animal while running at large; or(d) any dog owned, primarily or in part, for the purpose of dog fighting or that is trained for dog fighting;(e) a Pit Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Pit Bull, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, or any dog of mixed breeding which includes any of these breeds; or any dog which has the appearance and physical characteristics predominantly conforming to the standards for any of the above breeds; or(f) any dog that, according to the records of the SPCA, RCMP or other municipality, or to the knowledge of the owner, has killed, injured, or aggressively harassed or pursued a person or animal.

DESIGNATED DOG OFF-LEASH AREA	means an area posted by sign, which defines the geographic area and/or time period that dogs can be off-leash.
DOG	means any member of the canine species which is six (6) or more months of age.
DOMESTIC ANIMAL	means an animal that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) tame or kept, or that has been or is being sufficiently tamed or kept, to serve some purpose for the use of people, and (b) designated by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to be a domestic animal, (as defined in the <i>Livestock Protection Act</i>)
DOMESTIC FARM ANIMAL	means a horse, mule, donkey, emu, hinny, llama, ostrich, pot belly pig, swine, sheep, goat or cow, or other animal of the bovine species, but excludes a household pet .
DWELLING UNIT	means a suite of one or more rooms designed for or occupies by one family only as a single housekeeping unit providing cooking, sanitary and sleeping facilities.
ENCLOSURE	means a securely enclosed and locked structure having a concrete, asphalt or wooden floor and a wire or steel mesh sides and roof, which is sufficient to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons or the escape of the dog .
EXOTIC BIRD	means those avian species which are not normally native to the Province of British Columbia.
FURBEARING ANIMAL	means any fox, beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, racoon, skunk, chinchilla, fisher, or other like animal , other than a household pet .
GENERAL MANAGER, FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES	means the person appointed by Council to the position of General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services, or an alternate.
HOUSEHOLD PET	means a domesticated animal or bird normally kept: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in a one-family dwelling, a two-family dwelling or a multiple-family dwelling; and (b) for pleasure rather than utility.
IMPOUNDED	means seized, delivered, received or taken into the animal shelter , or into the custody of the Animal Control Officer .
KITTEN	means a member of the feline species which is less than six (6) months of age.

LEASH or LEASHED	means a device, or use of a device, of leather, metal, nylon or other similar strong material no more than three (3) meters in length and of sufficient strength and design to restrain the size and strength of animal for which it will be (or is being) used. One end must remain securely affixed to a collar or harness securely attached to the animal with the other end held by a person capable of controlling the animal at all times.
LICENCE INSPECTOR	means a person appointed by Council as Licence Inspector for the City , and includes Bylaw Enforcement Officers and the Chief Licence Inspector.
MAINTENANCE FEES	means the fees specified in Schedule A which are charged, for each day that an animal or bird is impounded , commencing the day after impoundment.
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER	means the Medical Health Officer appointed under the <i>Health Act</i> , to act within the limits of the jurisdiction of any local board, or within any health district.
MULTIPLE-FAMILY DWELLING	means a building containing two or more dwelling units.
MUZZLED	means a humane fastening or covering device of adequate strength placed over the mouth of a dog designed to prevent the dog from biting or injuring any person or another animal .
ONE-FAMILY DWELLING	means a detached building used exclusively for residential purposes, containing one dwelling unit only.
OWN/OWNER/OWNED	includes possessor, harbourer, or keeper and "owned" includes possessed, harboured, or kept.
PARCEL	means a lot, block, or other area in which land is held or into which land is legally subdivided.
PIGEON	means a bird of the family columbidae.
POLICE OFFICER	means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
POULTRY	means a chicken, rooster, turkey, goose, duck, fowl, or other bird normally kept for human consumption, excluding exotic birds and registered homing pigeons used for hobby or show purposes or racing.
PUPPY	means a member of the canine species which is less than six (6) months of age.
RABBIT	means any of various burrowing gregarious plant-eating mammals of the hare family.

- RESIDENTIAL** means a **use** which pertains clearly to the accommodation and home life of a family, and includes a group home with a maximum of 10 residents, but specifically excludes any facility operated under the jurisdiction of the *Correction Act*.
- 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.
- RUNNING AT LARGE (DOG)** means any one of the following:
- (a) being elsewhere than confined on the premises of the **owner**, while not on a **leash** and in the immediate and effective control of a competent person;
 - (b) being on any property without the consent of the owner or occupier of that property;
 - (c) being in an **off-leash area**, where permitted, but not under the effective control of the owner; or
 - (d) with respect to a **dangerous dog**, means any **dangerous dog** which is not kept in compliance with the requirements of subsection 2.3.4.
- STOREY** means a space situated between the top of any floor and the top of the floor next above it, that space between the top of such floor and the ceiling above it.
- STRUCTURE** means a construction of any kind whether fixed to, supported by, or sunk into land or water.
- TWO-FAMILY DWELLING** means a detached **building used** exclusively for residential purposes containing two **dwelling units** only, which **building** is not readily convertible into additional **dwelling units** and the plans for which have been filed with the **Building inspector** showing all areas of the building finished, the design of the **building** conforming to one of the following classifications:
- (a) Each **dwelling unit** consisting of one **storey** only, not set upon another **storey** or upon a basement; or
 - (b) Each **dwelling unit** consisting of two **storeys** only, the upper **storey** not containing a kitchen; not set upon another **storey** or upon a basement; or
 - (c) Each **dwelling unit** consisting of a split level arrangement of two **storeys** only, the upper **storey** not containing a kitchen; not set upon another **storey** or upon a basement.

For the purposes of this definition, "basement" means a **storey** located beneath the first full **storey** of the **building**, such first full **storey** having a floor level of not more than 2 m (6.562 ft.) above grade.

UNLICENCED DOG	means any dog for which the licence for the current year as required in the current Dog Licencing Bylaw of the City , has not been obtained.
USED	means used or arranged, designed or intended to be used.
WILD ANIMAL	means an animal not ordinarily tame or domesticated, and includes an exotic animal.

PART TEN: OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

10.1 Any person who:

- (a) violates or who causes or allows any of the provisions of this bylaw to be violated; or
- (b) fails to comply with any of the provisions of this or any other bylaw or applicable statute; or
- (c) neglects or refrains from doing anything required under the provisions of this bylaw,

is deemed to have committed an infraction of, or an offence against this bylaw is liable on summary conviction, to the penalties provided for in the *Offence Act*, and each day that such violation is caused, or allowed to continue, constitutes a separate offence.

PART ELEVEN: PREVIOUS BYLAW REPEAL

11.1 Animal, Bird & Beekeeping Regulation Bylaw No. 7137 (adopted July 24, 2000) and the following Amendment Bylaws are hereby repealed:

BYLAW	DATE OF ADOPTION
No. 7164	October 23, 2000
No. 7211	April 23, 2001
No. 7424	October 15, 2002
No. 7692	May 25, 2004

PART TWELVE: SEVERABILITY & CITATION

12.1 If any part, section, sub-section, clause, or sub-clause of this bylaw is, for any reason, held to be invalid by the decision of a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

12.2 This bylaw is cited as “**Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932**”.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

SCHEDULE A to BYLAW NO. 7932

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1. IMPOUNDMENT FEES**a. Dogs**

(i) FIRST impoundment in any calendar year:

Neutered Male or Spayed Female	\$ 40
Non-Neutered or Unspayed	\$120

(ii) SECOND impoundment in any calendar year:

Neutered Male or Spayed Female	\$ 80
Non-Neutered or Unspayed	\$250

(iii) THIRD and subsequent impoundments in any calendar year:

Neutered Male or Spayed Female	\$250
Non-Neutered or Unspayed	\$500

b. Dangerous Dogs**

(i) FIRST impoundment in any calendar year: \$500**

(ii) SECOND and subsequent impoundments in any calendar year: \$1,000**

****Subject always to the power set out in section 8.3.12 to apply for an order that a dog be destroyed.**

c. Unlicenced Dogs

In addition to the fees payable under sections 1 and 2 (if applicable), a licence fee will be charged, where a dog is not currently licenced.

d. Birds

Per bird	\$5.00
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e. Other Animals

Per animal	\$30
	plus transportation costs

SCHEDULE A to BYLAW NO. 7932

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f.	Domestic Farm Animal	
	Per Domestic Farm Animal	\$60 plus transportation costs
2.	MAINTENANCE FEES	
	For each day or portion of the day, per animal	
a.	Dogs	\$12
b.	Cats	\$12
c.	Birds	\$ 2
d.	Other Animals	\$10
e.	Domestic Farm Animal	\$30
3.	Cat Breeding Permit Fee	
	Permit for three years	\$35

Attachment No. 4

2007 Dog Licences (Issued)

