

**Mayor and Councillors**

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

**ON TABLE ITEM**

Date: February 19, 2019  
Meeting: OPEN OBP  
Item: ITEM A

**From:** Sorelle . <sorelle@rabbitats.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 February 2019 13:57  
**To:** Wolfe, Michael; Carol Day; kelly@kellygreene.ca; Brar, Paul; Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** Rabbitats Rabbit Control, Grant Request  
**Attachments:** City of Richmond Synopsis Draft 1.docx

**Categories:** - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Hi Michael,

We had applied for a City grant of around \$45,000 for operating costs to get started on humane rabbit control for the ever-burgeoning population. We weren't expecting the full amount however they have only allocated \$1000, which although we're grateful for, really won't get us started on this important project.

I know in past years there have been some funds leftover in the kitty (bunny?) so to speak and we're hoping that a case can be made to at least try and get those funds sent our way as well.

I will be at the General Purposes meeting today, I hope to finally meet you there.

I'm attaching a VERY rough two-page summary of some key points in our still in-progress action plan.

Thanks!

Sorelle

Sorelle Saidman  
604-608-1300  
Rabbitats Rescue Society  
[info@rabbitats.org](mailto:info@rabbitats.org)  
[www.rabbitats.org](http://www.rabbitats.org)



# City of Richmond

## FERAL RABBIT ACTION PLAN: INTRODUCTION

### SUMMARY DRAFT

February 18, 2019

#### Proposed Actions (Summary)

##### Project One: Feral Rabbit Control (2019 – 2029)

Rabbitats is given a five-year contract to trap, neuter and contain the rabbits already loose in Richmond, with a five year renewal.

- Rabbitats' volunteers initially trap the rabbits with subsequent rabbits picked up by animal control.
- City pays \$100 per rabbit for sterilization and vaccination.
- Rabbitats approaches neighbourhood stratas, home owners and businesses with rabbits on their properties for additional funding and other assistance.
- The rabbits are housed in large secure enclosures on farms and sanctuaries.

##### Project Two – Abandoned Rabbit Control (perpetual)

*NOTE: Rabbitats has been positioning itself to undertake feral rabbit control, however with most BC shelters shutting down to rabbit intake over most of 2018 and the Richmond shelter opting for a drastically reduced capacity from 2019 on, a new crisis now has to be resolved.*

- Rabbitats opens a shelter/indoor sanctuary to take unwanted rabbits and traps and houses Richmond strays at a rate to be determined.
- A warehouse or a suitable indoor/outdoor rural location will be required raising operating costs thus additional support needs to be explored.

Rabbitats is not looking for rescue handouts from the taxpayer, we are looking to re-allocate escalating funds spent on repairs and lost product (along with some other fiscally responsible proposals).

Richmond's rabbit damage should be substantial. This is in addition to the losses suffered by property owners and gardeners. This can escalate to farmers as it did in 2006.

## **Case Studies Synopsis:**

### **Corporation of Delta**

The Corporation of Delta said in 2012 that *"To date, Delta has incurred approximately \$350,000 in costs to repair damages caused by the rabbits to the buildings and grounds in the civic precinct. Similarly, in 2011, the Delta Hospice spent approximately \$70,000 to repair landscape damage caused by rabbits."*

They budgeted \$60,000 to spay/neuter their rabbits and released 400 to 500 in Harbour Park, which is mostly surrounded by water. They passed a rabbit spay/neuter bylaw, animal control picked up all ensuing stray rabbits and they remained rabbit free until the shelter closed for intake in 2018.

### **Richmond Auto Mall**

In 2012, the Richmond Auto Mall's landscaping contractors estimated the rabbits on their property had caused \$32650 in current damages and estimated pending damage that could be over \$60,000 as the rabbits had begun compromising the trees.

The Auto Mall awarded a contract worth \$60,000 to Rabbitats for rabbit control which saw 400 rabbits taken in by the society.

The Auto Mall continues to sponsor the society with a vehicle and other perks, and the society continues to pick up strays with RAM covering the sterilization costs.

### **Kelowna**

Kelowna paid \$54,000 to EBB Environmental Consulting initially to kill 1000 rabbits. After several hundred were exterminated and a public outcry ensued, a rescue group stepped in to rehome the remaining 800 with additional funding from the City of Kelowna.

Kelowna also passed a bylaw allowing for the sale of sterilized rabbits only.