



City of Richmond



Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Cecilia Achiam
General Manager, Community Safety
Date: January 10, 2023
File: 09-5375-09/2023-Vol-01
Re: **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – December 2022 and Year in Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – December 2022 and Year in Review”, dated January 10, 2023, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.


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

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

Staff Report

Origin

This annual report for the Animal Protection Services department provides information and statistics for enforcing bylaws related to Animal Protection Services as well as education and public awareness initiatives.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

1.1 Enhance safety services and strategies to meet community needs.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.

8.2 Ensure citizens are well-informed with timely, accurate and easily accessible communication using a variety of methods and tools.

Analysis

Animal Protection Services 2022 Highlights

Animal Protection Services department transitioned from the Community Bylaw Parking and Animal Control portfolio, to focus solely on animal protection services under the Community Safety Division. Staff are responsible for the dog licencing program and modernizing animal-related bylaws. Additionally, staff manage the BC SPCA contract for sheltering and enforcement services together with other related bylaws and animal services. Staff continue to work with the BC SPCA to streamline processes for the public to report animal concerns within Richmond.

The City's animal shelter officially re-opened on July 22, 2022, with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Mayor and Council, BC SPCA officials and invited guests. A public open house was held on July 23, 2022, which attracted over 400 visitors to tour the new facility and learn about responsible pet ownership.

Throughout 2022, staff continued to work with the BC SPCA to streamline administrative process and to engage the local community by:

- Conducting a review of all off-leash parks within the City to recommend improvements such as the conversion of existing single faucet water fountains to multi-purpose fountains to accommodate park visitors and their dogs.
- Conducting seasonal campaigns and ongoing social media posts to provide information on responsible pet ownership (e.g. rabbits don't make good Easter gifts" campaign, information on the dangers of leaving dogs in a hot car, impact of snow and ice on paws, dangerous dogs education, etc.)

- Working with the BC SPCA to enhance patrol and enforcement at various off-leash parks and schools. Staff have seen a significant reduction of reported incidents at Garry Point Park and MacDonald Beach where enhanced and sustained enforcement have been occurring.
- Partnering with the RCMP and Vancouver Coastal Health to perform wellness checks on vulnerable citizens and provide free emergency boarding for their pets, as needed. Staff also provided pet food and supplies for distribution to citizens experiencing homelessness and established a strong relationship with those individuals and their pets.
- Collaborating with the BC SPCA to assist the province on wildlife management within the City such as amplifying education on their social media channels regarding fledgling season, which dramatically decreased calls for service.

The start of the annual 2022 dog licencing program began in December 2021, with a total of 2,877 dogs being licenced. This figure represents 116 new dog licence applications and 2,761 dog licence renewal applications. The total number of dogs licenced in the 2022 dog licencing season was 7,590 compared to 7,595, which was the total number of dogs licenced in the 2021 annual dog licencing season.

As a result of the annual dog licence canvassing campaign, which began in late April through to October, an increase of violations is displayed in each of the months shown in Figure 1 where violations were issued as a result of bylaw canvassing. Although violations increased during these periods, not all violations resulted in fines (revenue) as the tickets were cancelled if the individual purchased a dog licence within seven days of receiving the ticket.

Figure 1 below, reflects the monthly and year-to-date animal control and dog licencing enforcement activity measured by violation issuance. The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 2. For the month of December 2022, BC SPCA Officers issued 20 bylaw violation notices, bringing the year-to-date total to 810. In comparison, December 2021 had 853 bylaw violation notices issued for animal regulation and dog licencing offences. Issuance of bylaw violation notices by BC SPCA Officers has decreased by 43 for 2022.

Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison

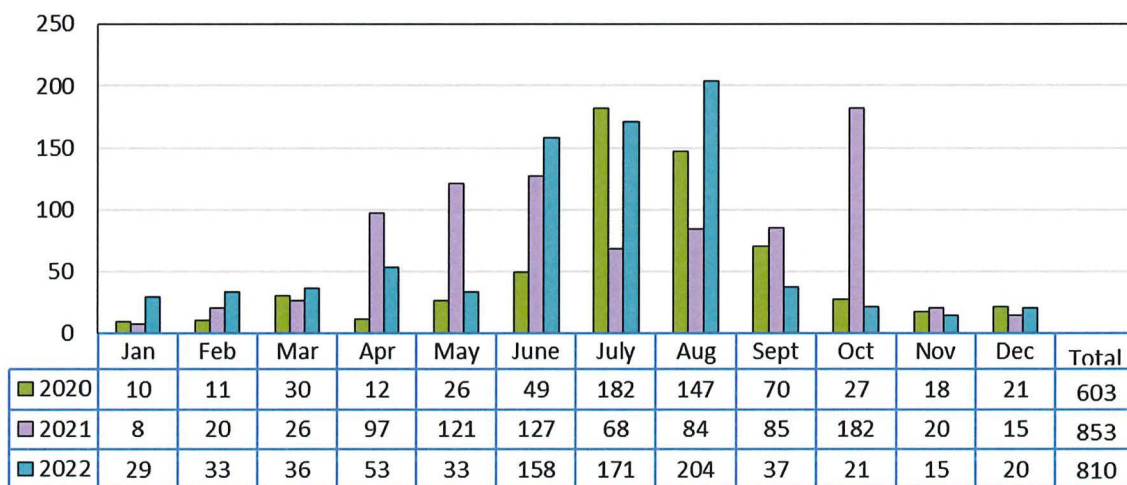
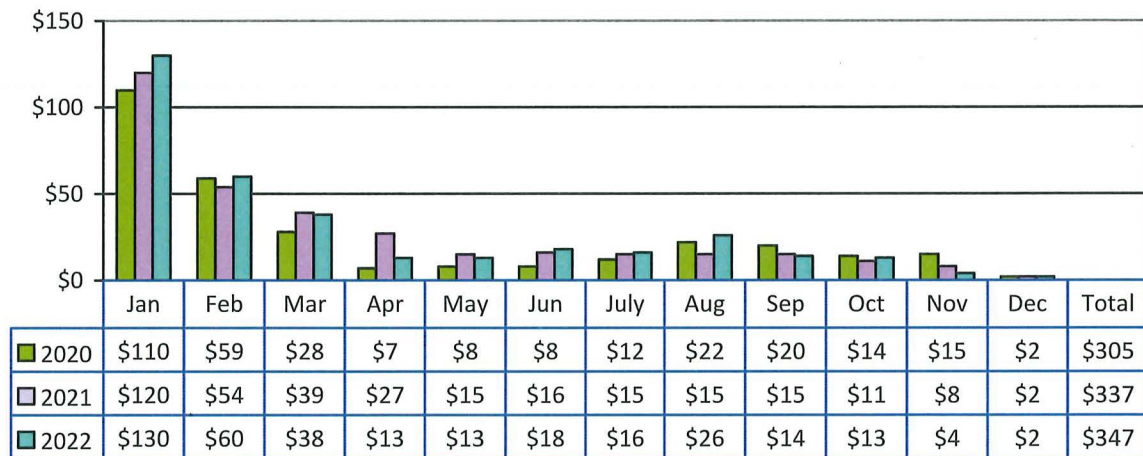


Figure 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue Comparison (000's)



BC SPCA Officers conduct both education outreach and enforcement including licence checks, muzzling requirements, general animal services and dog licencing violations, while continuing to foster a strong relationship within the community.

Figure 3 below, highlights the top five patrolled parks for 2022 based on complaints received. BC SPCA Officers patrolled 34 parks for the month of December, which brings the year-to-date total of parks patrolled by BC SPCA Officers to 484.

Figure 4 below, highlights the top five animal control complaints for 2022. BC SPCA Officers attended 191 calls for service for the month of December, which brings the year-to-date of calls for service attended by BC SPCA Officers to 2,249. In comparison, December 2021 had 1,803 calls for service attended by BC SPCA Officers, thereby resulting in an increase of calls for service by 446 for 2022. Factors in the increase of calls for service can be attributed to the creation of the report a problem email animalservicesrequest@richmond.ca to address after hours animal services complaints and concerns. It can also be attributed to the onset of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in February 2022. BC SPCA Officers assisted in transporting HPAI infected or deceased birds to the Wildlife Rescue in Burnaby. As of May 2022, there are no active cases of HPAI in the City of Richmond.

Figure 3: Patrolled Parks

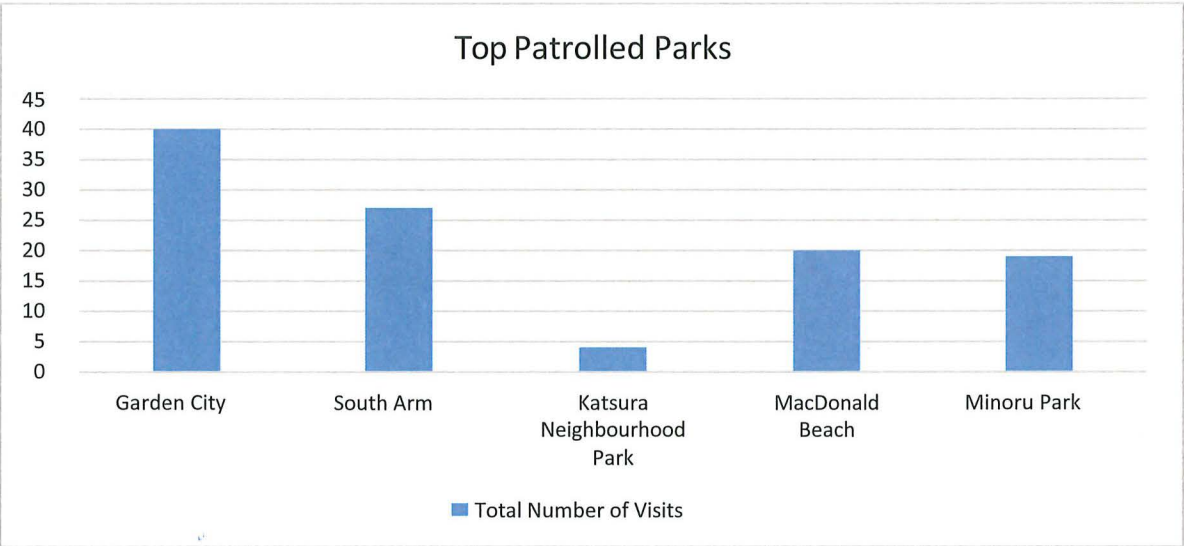
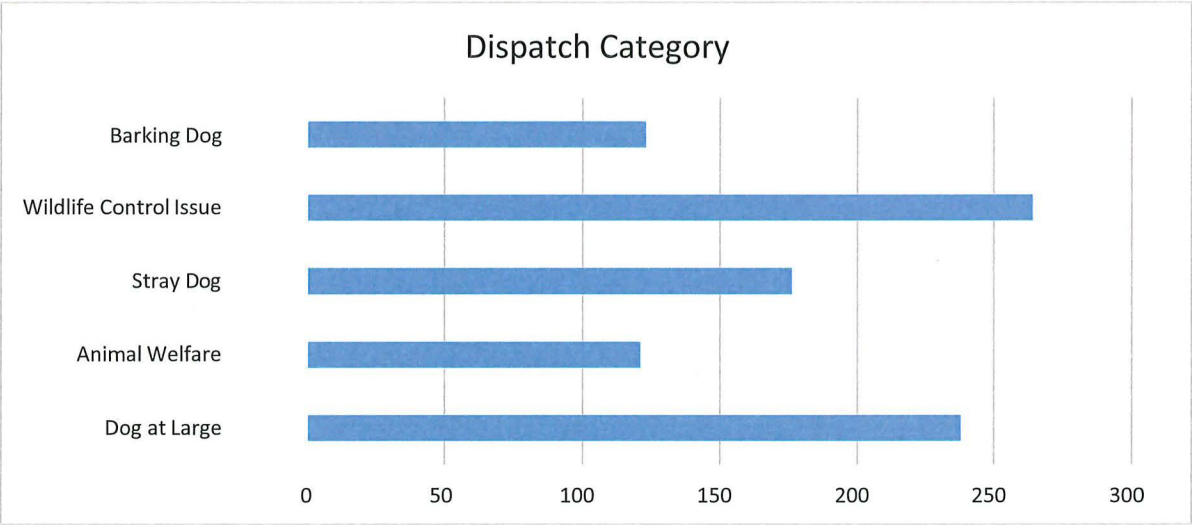


Figure 4: Calls for Service



*Wildlife: fledgling; injured or sick birds or rabbits

*Welfare: dogs in hot car; dogs not provided with potable water or outdoor shelter

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

The next adjudication session is scheduled for February 22, 2023.

Revenue and Expenses

The Animal Protection Services department derives its revenue from dog licences and fines. Table 1 outlines their individual revenue, while 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 Dec 2022	Actual Dec 2022	YTD Budget Dec 2022	YTD Actual Dec 2022
Dog Licences ¹	0	(23,792)	249,100	286,048
Fines	2,251	2,200	10,200	60,760
Total Revenue	2,251	(21,592)	259,300	346,808

Note: Preliminary financial information. Information may change subject to year-end adjustments and audit.

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

	YTD Budget Dec 2022	YTD Actual Dec 2022
Revenue	259,300	346,808
Expenses	1,394,620	1,430,261
Net Revenue (Expense)	(1,135,320)	(1,083,453)

Note: Preliminary financial information. Information may change subject to year-end adjustments and audit.

¹ 2023 dog licence renewals begin in mid November 2022. Licensing fees received during this period to the end of December 2022 are deferred to the following year.

January 10, 2023

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Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

This report provides a summary of annual enforcement and educational activity for 2022, including revenue and expenses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Lloyd', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Lloyd
Manager, Animal Protection Services and Contract Administration
(604-247-4467)