



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 11, 2023
From: Cecilia Achiam **File:** 12-8375-01/2023-Vol
General Manager, Community Safety 01
Re: **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – November 2023**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – November 2023”, dated December 11, 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: <i>JA</i> |
| APPROVED BY CAO <i>Screen</i> | |

Staff Report

Origin

This report for the Animal Protection Services department provides information and statistics for enforcing bylaws related to Animal Protection Services.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

Analysis

Animal Protection Services

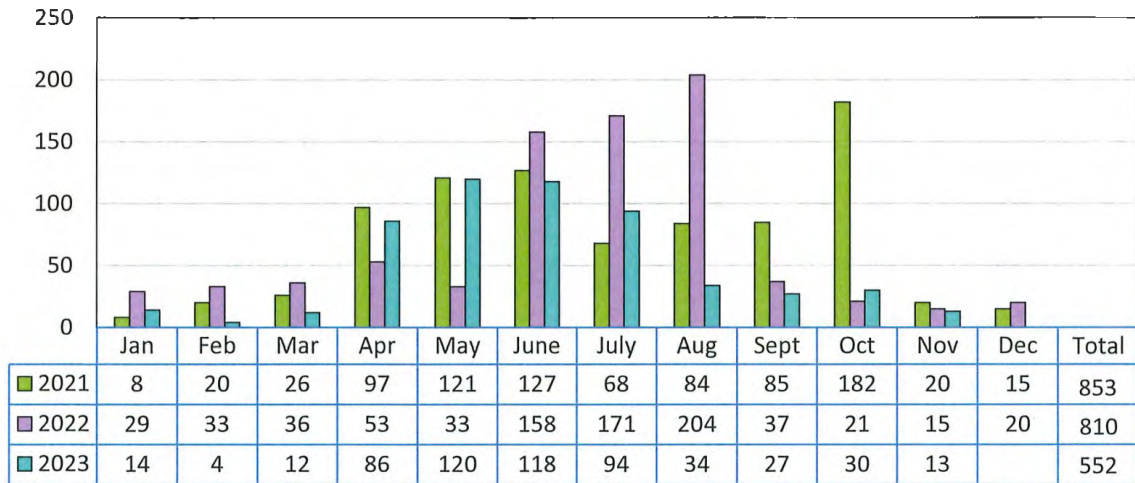
On November 21, 2023, approximately 7,500 renewal notices were mailed out for the 2024 dog license renewal cycle. Dog licenses are valid for a calendar year and not based on the purchase date. Owners have until February 29, 2024, to renew their licenses for a discounted fee. Following this deadline, staff will begin canvassing efforts to follow up with accounts that have not renewed or updated their status. A total of 1,400 dog licenses have been issued within two weeks after the sending the renewal notices.

In November, BC SPCA Officers responded to 143 calls for service pertaining to a range of animal control and dog licencing violations. The officers also engaged in complaint based patrols covering numerous parks, dikes and school grounds. In addition to the standard patrol locations of Garry Point, Garden City and South Arm Park, staff also visited the "hot spot" locations of MacNeill Secondary, Homma Elementary and the Steveston off Leash Park.

Throughout the month of November, a total of 13 bylaw violation notices were issued by BC SPCA Officers. These violations span a variety of offences, primarily for permitting a dog to be at large and failure by owner to leash a dog. In addition to enforcement actions, these patrols also serve an educational purpose by contributing to increased compliance awareness.

Figure 1 below reflects the monthly and year-to-date animal control and dog licencing enforcement activity measured by ticket issuance.

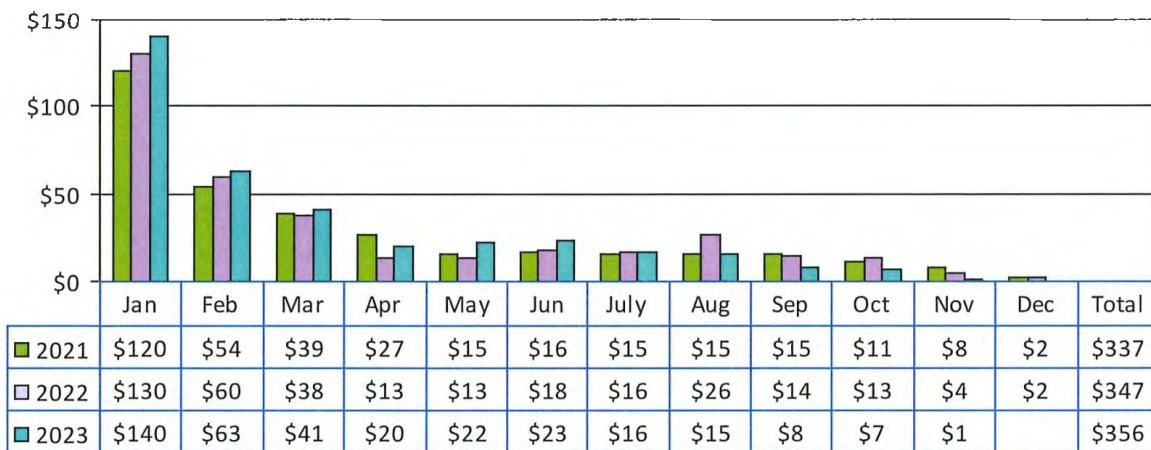
Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison



With the beginning of the 2024 dog licence application/renewal cycle, violation notices issued for failure to obtain a valid dog license decrease until the canvassing period begins in April. Between the months of December to March, the Animal Control Officers' focus has been to educate the public on compliance with the Dog Licencing Bylaw.

The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 2. While ticket issuance is within cyclical norms in the post-canvassing period, the overall year-to-date revenue has exceeded that of prior years.

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



Richmond Animal Shelter Activity

In November, a total of 84 domestic animals left the care of the Richmond Animal Shelter. Of the 84 animals, 67 were adopted and 13 were redeemed by their owners; one animal was transferred out of the shelter, and three were deceased upon arrival. Among the 67 adopted domestic animals, seven were dogs and 55 were cats. The remaining five adopted animals in November were domestic birds or rabbits.

Administrative Staff Activity

In November, staff received 240 calls from the public related to animal services. These calls consisted of a variety of subject matters related to dog licences, bylaw infractions, off leash dogs in parks, adjudication process and general inquiries. There was an increase in calls to the administrative team due to the 2024 dog licenses renewal program. Year-to-date (YTD), from January to November, there were 3,209 administrative inquiries and requests.

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

An adjudication session was held on November 6, 2023. Six violations were reviewed by the adjudicator, four notices were upheld and two were dismissed. The next adjudication session will take place in 2024.

Revenue and Expenses

The Animal Protection Services department derives revenue from dog licences and fines as shown in Table 1. Table 2 highlights Animal Protection Services revenue and expenses for November YTD. The zero figures in the Budget and Actual columns in Table 1 below were due to advance 2024 dog licencing payments. These deferred payments will be accounted for in the 2024 Animal Protection Services Activity reports.

Table 1: Animal Protection Services Revenue by Source

| Program Revenue | Budget Nov 2023 | Actual Nov 2023 | YTD Budget Nov 2023 | YTD Actual Nov 2023 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Dog Licences | 0 | 0 | 255,100 | 297,419 |
| Fines | 1,133 | 1,125 | 9,795 | 59,015 |
| Total Revenue | 1,133 | 1,125 | 264,895 | 356,434 |

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

| | YTD Budget Nov 2023 | YTD Actual Nov 2023 |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Revenue | 264,895 | 356,434 |
| Expenses | 1,482,250 | 1,542,978 |
| Net Revenue (Expense) | (1,217,355) | (1,186,544) |

Financial Impact

Nonc.

Conclusion

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



Geoffrey Bramhill
 Acting Manager, Animal Protection Services and Contract Administration
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