



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** November 17, 2023
From: Cecilia Achiam **File:** 12-8375-01/2023-Vol
 General Manager, Community Safety 01
Re: **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – October 2023**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – October 2023”, dated November 17, 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>EB</i>
APPROVED BY CAO <i>[Signature]</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

In October 2023, a total of 34 new dog licences applications were received and tags issued with zero renewal applications. Staff followed up and closed 19 dog licence accounts. The cumulative count of licenced dogs for the current year now stands at 7,590. This is an increase of 26 licences when contrasted with the same period last year.

During the same period, BC SPCA Officers responded to 247 service calls pertaining to a range of animal control and dog licencing violations. The officers also engaged in proactive patrols covering a total of 24 parks, dikes and schools. The most patrolled park(s) were Garry Point, Garden City and Tait Waterfront Park. BC SPCA officers also conducted "hot spot" patrols of sections of the West Dyke Trail as well as Cook and Tamley Neighbourhood park.

Throughout the month of October, a total of 30 bylaw violation notices were issued by BC SPCA Officers. These violations span a variety of offences, primarily for permitting a dog to be at large, failure by owner to leash a dog and failure to obtain a licence. 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.

The decrease in violations issued in October can be credited to proactive efforts undertaken, in the preceding months of 2023, to resolve outstanding dog licence accounts. Accounts found in arrears are verified by staff, and when possible, dog licences are renewed or accounts are closed.

As of October 2023, there are 140 accounts outstanding which represents a 64% (390) decrease compared to the same period last year.

It should be noted, for reference, that the annual canvassing of outstanding dog licences is conducted by staff during the months of April through October. With the culmination of the canvassing period, staff are preparing for the annual dog licenses renewal reminders. As dog licences are valid for a calendar year, not date of purchase, staff will issue renewal reminder letters to be sent out in December.

The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 2. While ticket issuance is in line with the winding down of the canvassing period, the overall year-to-date revenue exceeds the total revenue collection of the prior year.

Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison

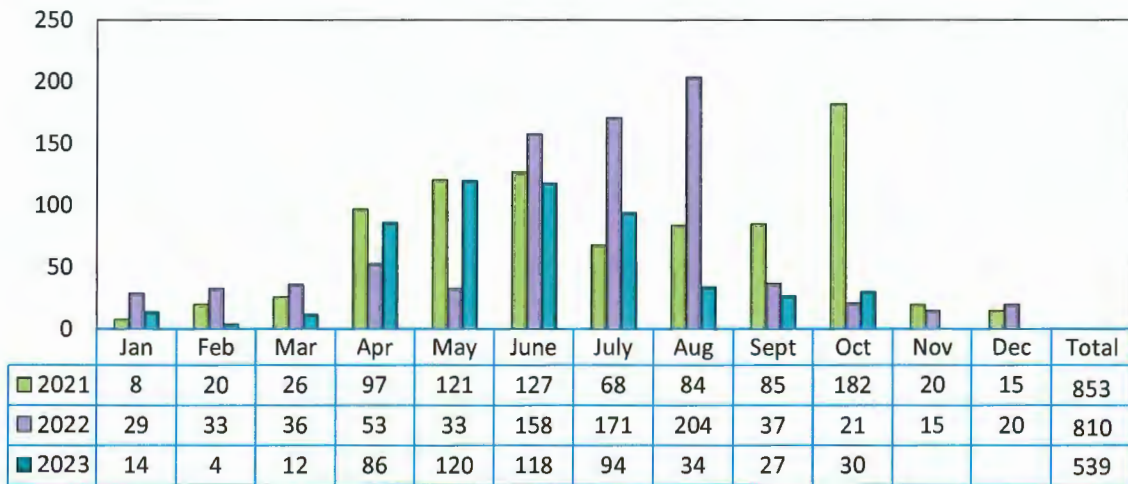
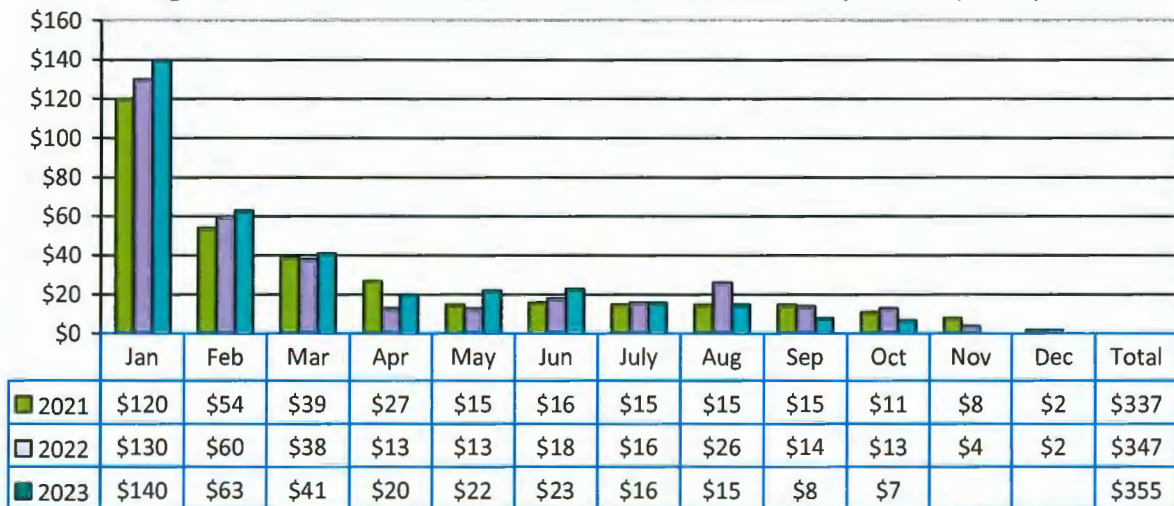


Figure 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue Comparison (000's)



Richmond Animal Shelter Activity

In October, a total of 95 domestic animals left the Richmond Animal Shelter. Of the 95 animals, 67 were adopted and 25 were redeemed by their owners; two animals were transferred out of the shelter, and one was deceased upon arrival. Among the 67 adopted domestic animals, 17 were dogs and 38 were cats. Out of the 25 redemptions, 24 were dogs and one was a cat.

Administrative Staff Activity

In October, staff received 79 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. For October year-to-date, there were 2,969 administrative inquiries and requests.

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

An adjunction session was held on November 6, 2023. The outcome of this session will be reflected in November's monthly report.

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 October YTD.

Table 1: Animal Protection Services Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Oct 2023	Actual Oct 2023	YTD Budget Oct 2023	YTD Actual Oct 2023
Dog Licences	4,808	2,820	255,100	297,419
Fines	1,320	4,475	8,662	57,890
Total Revenue	6,128	7,295	263,762	355,309

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

	YTD Budget Oct 2023	YTD Actual Oct 2023
Revenue	263,762	355,309
Expenses	1,347,500	1,404,642
Net Revenue (Expense)	(1,083,738)	(1,049,333)

November 17, 2023

- 5 -

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

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



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