



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** August 21, 2023
From: Cecilia Achiam **File:** 12-8375-01/2023-Vol
 General Manager, Community Safety 01
Re: **Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2023**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2023”, dated August 21, 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>CB</i>
APPROVED BY CAO <i>Green</i>	

Staff Report

Origin

This 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 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

Collectively in June and July 2023, a total of 292 dog licenses were issued. Among these, there were 180 new dog license applications and 14 renewals for existing licenses. The cumulative count of licensed dogs for the current year now stands at 7,428.

During this same period, BC SPCA Officers responded to 427 service calls pertaining to a range of animal control and dog licensing violations. These officers also engaged in proactive patrols, covering a total of 64 parks, dikes, and schools.

Both in June and July, City Staff utilized the City's social media channels to share valuable information with pet owners. In June, the focus was on creating Pet First Aid Kits, emphasizing the inclusion of household items for building emergency kits to ensure animal care both at home and while on the go. In July, the emphasis shifted to educating pet owners about identifying signs of pet heat exhaustion and dehydration. The shared content highlighted various symptoms to watch for and provided guidance on how to care for pets during such situations.

Throughout the months of June and July, a total of 212 bylaw violation notices were issued by BC SPCA Officers. These violations were primarily identified through foot patrols carried out by these officers in non-permitted off-leash parks, City dikes, and school grounds. In addition to enforcement actions, these patrols also serve an educational purpose, contributing to increased compliance awareness.

Figure 1 below, reflects the monthly and year-to-date animal control and dog licencing enforcement activity measured by violation issuance. 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. The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 2.

Violation issuance dropped slightly in July, however this is not indicative of trend. Rather the prior month's larger issuance numbers can be attributed to the proactive efforts of staff in conducting audits of the existing dog license accounts with the City. Accounts that were discovered to be outdated or in arrears for their license fee were issued violation notices, paid their outstanding fee, or closed. This housekeeping endeavor led to a significant reduction in the number of outstanding dog accounts, bringing the count as for July to fewer than 100.

Figure 1: Animal Protection Services Violation Issuance Comparison

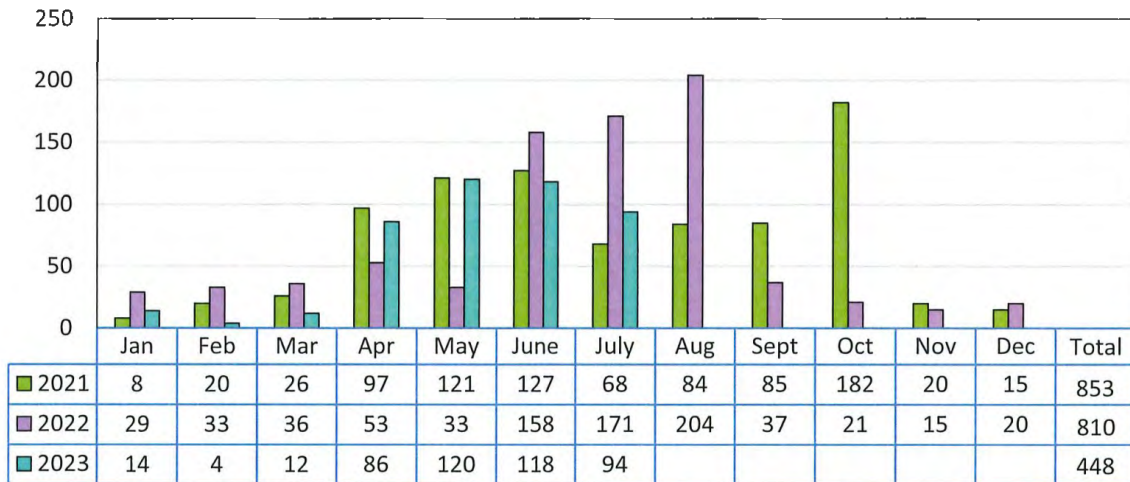
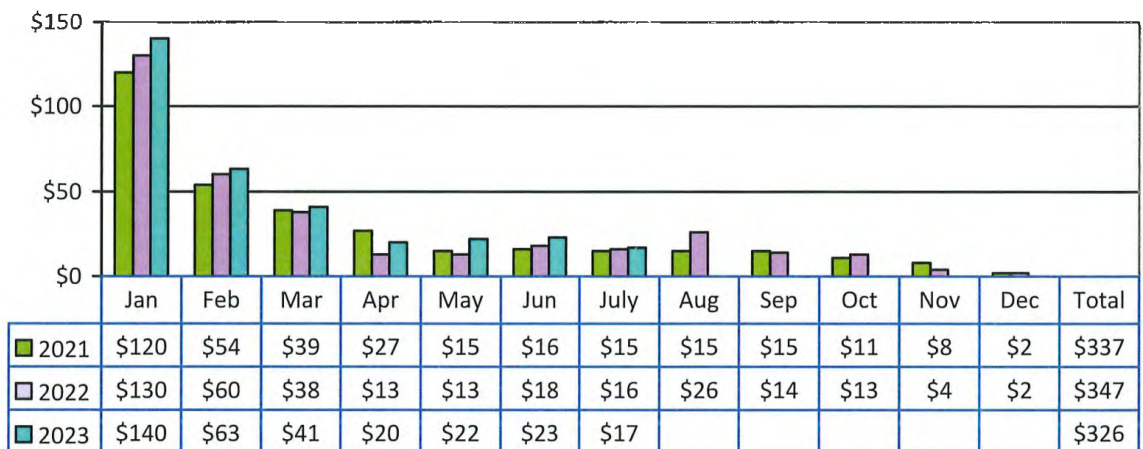


Figure 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue Comparison (000's)



Administrative Staff Activity

In June and July, staff received 586 calls from the public related to animal services. The calls consist of a variety of subject matters related to dog licences, bylaw infractions, off-leash dog parks, adjudication process and general inquiries. The total number of calls to-date for 2023 is 2,677.

Animal Protection Services Bylaw Adjudication

The next adjudication session is scheduled early Q4, 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 July 2023	Actual July 2023	YTD Budget July 2023	YTD Actual July 2023
Dog Licences	9,816	8,174	233,620	285,572
Fines	1,170	8,550	4,015	40,065
Total Revenue	10,986	16,724	237,635	325,637

Table 2: Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

	YTD Budget July 2023	YTD Actual July 2023
Revenue	237,635	325,637
Expenses	943,250	980,991
Net Revenue (Expense)	(705,615)	(655,354)

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Bramhill', written in a cursive style.

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