

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, January 7, 2011				Report Date	Wednesday, January 5, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Animal By-law Report #07/01/11/1202									

Subject: A by-law to control dogs running at large within the municipality.

RECOMMENDATION: That council consider passing a by-law to control dogs running at large throughout the municipality providing direction to the Clerk as to the extent of that by-law.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: At least four times over the past 9 months we have received complaints about dogs running loose and threatening residents. The OPP have been involved a number of times and have given the dog owner warnings however; they do not have the legislation under which to take any further action. During this last incident I was told by an OPP officer that if we were to enact a by-law, the OPP could lay charges under that by-law. Upon a second complaint a Part 3 summons could be laid which would result in the individual being before a Justice of the Peace who might then make any number of recommendations including losing the dogs and/or monetary fines.

Upon investigation I have determined that technically, under the Police Services Act, the OPP does not have an obligation to enforce municipal by-laws. Even so, I have found instances where they do get involved, in cases such as ours where the incidents are infrequent and where there is no other viable alternative.

It is my recommendation that we enact a by-law, and further, reassess our by-law enforcement abilities and processes.

Discussion: By-laws reviewed cover many areas of animal control including: dogs and cats; other animals; kennels; tags and licensing; seizure and impounding (I don't believe we have that option); disposal after seizure; endangered animals; dangerous dogs; # of dogs per household; prohibited animals (snakes, lizards etc.); and penalties.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: There are currently no additional costs involved.

Policy Impact: None – this would be the creation of a new by-law/policy.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

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