



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Animal Care and Control in Public Spaces

**Meeting Date:** September 17, 2019

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### **Executive Summary:**

Accountability and regulations around responsible pet owners and the placement of dog waste bag dispensers located throughout the City has prompted discussions with Council and administration respecting the approach the City should take when considering regulations on dog owners.

The purpose of the report is to engage Council in discussion on the approach to improving the health risk and personal experience in the City's public parks.

### **Background:**

Council has raised concerns in regards to a noticeable increase in pet waste in parks and raised questions of options in helping the increasing concern.

Bylaw #535-PL-14 currently articulates the following:

6.2. No person, including an owner, shall:

6.2.1. Allow an animal under their control to defecate on public or private property, other than the property of its owner, and fail to immediately remove and clear such defecation.

The enforcement to the bylaw can be difficult for various reasons. That being said, Accountability around responsible pet owners and/or the placement of dog waste bag dispensers located throughout the municipality has prompted municipalities enact fines such as:

1. Failure to produce a plastic bag or in the opinion of a peace officer suitable means of removing dog defecation; and
2. Failure to remove any defecation left by the animal on public or private property, other than the owner's property.

A second option has been the placement of various dispensers throughout the parks in the community. The estimated cost for each dispenser is \$150 plus installation throughout the City's 35 parkettes, neighborhood parks and community parks. Restocking costs associated with the supply of pet waste bags is estimated at \$80.00



per unit. Administration would attempt coordinate this activity with the waste disposal services that is occurring for the refuse bins in the parks.

A \$15,000 budget would be reasonable to purchase and have a contractor install the dispensers at throughout the community.

Municipalities such as the MD of Bonnyville offer dispensers in some areas of the municipality. In 2012 St. Albert initiated a program where their dispensers accepted plastic shopping bags to save on the cost of stocking dispensers.

A third option use by some municipalities is offering bags to dog owners at the time of issuing annual pet licenses. Additionally, the City can inform pet owners of City issues i.e. proper depositing methods for dog owners.

At the centre on the conversation is

- ✓ what is the City's expectation on dog owners? and
- ✓ how does the City manage dog owner expectations?

Administration feels that homeowner could be more to look at their own pet waste rather than implementing municipal programs. That being said, infrastructure can help with convenience.

**Alternatives:**

Council may consider the following options:

1. Direct administration to prepare an amendment the Animal Care and Control By-law to include fines for failure to produce a suitable means of removing dog defecation.
2. That Council pass a motion to consider the purchase of animal waste dispensers and animal waste bags in the 2020 Budget Deliberations.
3. That Council direct administration to purchase the animal waste dispensers for the community parks throughout the community. (Administration will review current capital budget opportunities prior to Council's next meeting).
4. Receive this report titled Animal Care and Control in Public Spaces as information.

**Recommended Action:**

That Council's Corporate Priorities Committee make recommendation to the City Council.

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

Yes



*City of* **Cold Lake**

**Submitted by:**  
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