



## **Report to Council**

To: Mayor and Council Members  
From: Matt Aldom, Chief Building Official / By-law Enforcement Officer  
Date: February 6, 2025  
Subject: Draft Animal Control By-law

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### **Recommendation:**

That Council pass the proposed revised animal control by-law and repeal by-law 2022-0028.

### **Background:**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council passed the following motion related to animal control:

24 - 319

Moved by – Deputy Mayor Whelan

Seconded – Councillor O'Shea

That Debra Haigh's presentation be received and further that staff be directed to bring forward the animal control by-law for updates. Carried.

### **Analysis:**

As directed at the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council meeting, staff have prepared a draft animal control by-law with updates including lifetime dog licensing and some minor administrative changes. It is proposed that the lifetime dog licensing would include a one-time licensing fee of \$40.00. A lost tag could be replaced with a fee of \$10.00. The new lifetime licensing would result in a decrease in annual revenue. The annual revenue for the last 2 years is 2024 = \$520.00; 2023 = \$810.00.

The revenue above accounts for 75 different dogs being licensed over the 2 years. If the owners of all 75 dogs purchase a lifetime license this year, the licensing revenue will be \$3,000 for the year. However, those licenses will last for the lifetime of the dog and will not need to be renewed in future years. I do anticipate that some dog owners that have not purchased annual licenses previously may purchase a lifetime license since it is a one-time purchase.



## Township of North Kawartha

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By moving to a lifetime dog licensing there will be reduced administrative time spent on the issuance of dog licenses and reduce the waste at the end of each calendar year when unissued tags have previously been disposed. Over the last 2 years 99 unissued dog tags were disposed of at a cost of \$137.95. The intent of a dog licensing program which is to identify who the owner of a dog is if a dog is found so that it can be returned to the owner, or found in contravention of the by-law, will still be maintained through the lifetime dog licensing.

In the Council meeting there was also discussion regarding provisions for issuing orders to muzzle dogs under certain situation. The proposed Animal Control By-law has added more provisions for leashing and muzzling dogs including an Animal Control Order to Leash and Muzzle form and "Methods of Restraining Dog" in Schedule "B" of the proposed by-law. These provisions can be used by the Animal Control Officer for dogs that have bitten or attacked a person or another dog or domestic animal, or for a dog that has been deemed to be vicious.

In addition to the above changes to the by-law, a housekeeping appointment by-law has also been prepared to appoint Debra Haigh as the Animal Control Officer for the Township. This will separate Ms. Haigh's appointment out of the Animal Control By-law.

### **Financial Implications:**

Reduction in license fees collected annually.

Reduction in annually tag purchases expenses due to purchased tags being able to be issued over more than one calendar year (Previously unissued tags were disposed at the end of the calendar year).

Reduction of administration time spent on dog licensing.

### **Strategic and/or Other Plans:**

3.1 Governance

#### **In Consultation With:**

Alana Solman, Chief Administrative Officer

Connie Parent, Clerk

Debra Haigh, Animal Control Officer

#### **Attachments:**

Draft Animal Control By-Law and Schedules

Animal Control Officer Appointment By-law