



TO: Mayor and Council
FR: Jennifer Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: November 4, 2019
RE: **Animal Control Annual Report**

ISSUE:

As the Animal Control Program including the Trap/Neuter/Release Program has reached it's one-year anniversary, Animal Control Officer Andy Labdon has prepared an annual report (attached).

BACKGROUND:

At the October 16, 2018 meeting, Council awarded the animal control tender to Andy Labdon for a six-month trial period effective October 22, 2018. At the April 1, 2019 meeting, Council extended the contract to May 1, 2021.

At the September 4, 2018 meeting, Council authorized the Trap/Neuter/Release Program and to review the success of the program after one year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Town of Wadena Animal Control budgets and actuals for the past three year are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Year End</u>
2017	\$3,000	\$3,100	
2018	\$10,000	\$7,947	
2019	\$10,000	\$7,615 YTD	\$8,725

<u>2019 Revenues</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Year End</u>
Fines	\$80	\$80
Pound fees	\$332	<u>\$332</u>
TOTAL		\$412

<u>2019 Expenditures</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Year End</u>
Contract Services	\$5,550	\$6,650
Training & Supplies	\$375	\$375
TNR	\$1,000	\$1,200
Kennelling	\$340	<u>\$500</u>
TOTAL		\$8,725

ANALYSIS:

The Animal Control 2019 Annual Report is thorough and informative. From Administration's view, the Town is receiving excellent service from the contracted Animal Control Officer. Based on the information provided in the report, the rate paid to the contractor should be reviewed for the 2020 budget.

The Trap/Neuter/Release Program has been well utilized; however, it is difficult after only one year to see results of a decrease in the cat population. Administration recommends continuing with this program.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S):

"THAT the Animal Control 2019 Annual Report be received and accepted as information and FUTUREMORE, THAT the Animal Control contract be reviewed as part of 2020 budget preparations."

"THAT the Trap/Neuter/Release Program continue and be reviewed annually."

Wadena Animal Control 2019 Annual Report

Oct 2019

Introduction

The implementation of Animal Control to Wadena I gather was a new venture with some experience from past endeavours.

The tender applied for was based on the amount of work the previous animal control officer's accomplished. Because this was a relatively new venture specific procedures and aspects of the 'job' were not apparent until an incident arose, with time, most of those procedures are now in place and working well.

Spay and Neuter

The project has been a success from many viewpoints. Public perception toward the project is positive.

However, this has proved to be the costliest for operating costs. For every cat spayed or neutered, there is the added cost of gas for four journeys to Wynyard, drop off and pick up. Food for five days (avg) along with cat litter has also increased costs as it is not always possible to have a cat spayed on the same day it is caught. In fact, out of the 23 cats neutered over the year, only one cat was trapped and spayed on the same day. Circumstances have led to the need to construct accommodation.

In Wadena, I have one dog/cat pen, and two cats' cages and out at the farm constructed a long-term facility for feral cats because most people in Wadena do not want feral cats returned to the area. The only place in Town where feral cats have been placed is in the business block around the Red Apple.

There is now a problem trying to rehome feral cats. To combat this, I am working with Waggin Wheelz to promote cats on their social media sites. It seemed a better idea to work with them rather than reinvent the wheel in building a social media site of my own. I also have built up a network of people who are willing to 'lookout ' for homes. So far, 37 cats have been caught of those 37 twenty-two were feral cats that have been neutered or spayed. Seven of those went back to the Red Apple with another eight feral cats going to farms or out of the area, and I have taken five tamed two and fostered out. The last two were released in another part of the Town. In total, 32 feral cats have been caught. The remaining five were either unwanted strays or domestic cats caught in traps; all of those have been returned to their owners or found a home. I roughly estimate there are another 20 – 30 feral cats, most of which are south of the tracks.

A number of residents have and continue to donate food for cats and dogs and goes some way to lower costs.

Lastly, the positive support from the community is encouraging with one or two people becoming involved in attracting taming and rehoming feral cats. So far, four cats have been rehomed by those individuals; these are not included in the 37 cats mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Dogs

No significant problem here, just a couple of persistent escapee dogs. Only one serious incident of a child bitten by a dog. In that incidence, I am confident it was the fault of the child. The training course I attended in May helped with bringing that incident to a quite close.

Skunks

People need to clean up after themselves! Everywhere I find skunks; I see human garbage or food cans for feral cats. All skunks are taken miles out of Town and released.

Coyote and Foxes

Coyotes are attracted to Town by the number of feral cats, and since August 2019, five domestic cats have been reported missing, more than likely killed by coyotes. I expect the number of calls for coyotes will increase in the winter and, like last year, will spend some nights and early mornings tracking and shooting coyotes. The number of foxes have also seen an increase but with no real complaints no action is needed as yet.

Birds/ Squirrels

Apart from cats, the nuisance caused by crows and magpies was the next largest group of complaints. Please, for next spring, it would be good to have some bylaw in place to deal with this matter.

Snakes

I received one complaint about snakes, and as I have no equipment whatsoever for them, I could not deal with that particular call.

Conclusion

I have very much enjoyed the role as Animal Control Officer. I have a good working relationship with Anna and Lovely, and we have smoothed out some procedures that neither of us was sure of. There have only been a handful of fines handed out for persistent offenders, as in most cases, it was a case of the dog/cat got out.

The Town of Wadena's spay, and neuter program has also attracted interest from out of town as I have received one call from Melville Town administration and two interested parties that wanted to do something in their town/village.

I have also received calls for assistance from residents in Foam Lake, Wynyard, Yorkton, Humboldt, Rose Valley, and Kelvington! So, word has got out!

The amount of work and hours put in has exceeded my initial expectations, which will increase the initial tender of 2018. Considering operating costs, equipment, supplies, and man hours, I have worked for \$3.12 per hour therefore the tender will have to be increased to \$1,100 per month in part to recoup losses from the last year and also to invest in more equipment and future vehicle.

This increase will be inclusive of kennelling fees for strays, long-term kennelling and animal handling equipment so as to prevent extra billing for unforeseen circumstances.

The highest cost at the moment is gas, pet food, and cat litter.

Andy Labdon.

**ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACTOR
2019 OPERATING COSTS AND REVENUES**

REVENUE

Contract	Town of Wadena	\$ 7,200.00	
	TOTAL		\$ 7,200.00

EXPENSES

Vehicle	Gas	\$497.81	
Maintenance	Service	\$180.00	
	Tires	\$1,000.00	
	Repairs	\$720.00	
Other	Topper	\$390.00	
Equipment	Pet Carriers	\$180.00	
	Handling	\$77.00	
	Cat trays `	\$32.00	
Housing	Farm	\$362.00	
	Office	\$281.00	
Food	Based on one cat for five days	\$667.00	
Other	Cat Litter	\$733.00	
	Cleaning supplies	\$201.00	
	Advertising	\$480.00	
	Truck decals	\$100.00	
	TOTAL		\$5,900.81

TOTAL \$ 1,299.19

Average 8 hrs/wk x 52	416.00
Net revenue/hrs = \$/hr	\$3.12