



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Mary Jane Drouin
Manager – Corporate Services

DATE: September 26, 2016

SUBJECT: RDCO Responsible Dog Ownership Amendment Bylaw

Voting Entitlement: *(All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – 2/3rd Majority – LGA 208.1 & 228)*

Purpose: To propose amendments to the Regional District’s Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw No. 1343.

Executive Summary:

The Regional Board adopted a new responsible dog ownership bylaw in February 2014. The bylaw is a ‘living document’ and as such is subject to amendments that refine the program as it evolves with input from the Dog Control Technical Advisory Committee. The bylaw has been seen by many jurisdictions as a leading enforcement tool for dog control. Since being adopted, staff continues to review what changes would further enhance the bylaw.

At this time, the following amendments to licensing fees are being recommended:

- Addressing the perception of a ‘penalty’ if renewing a license after February 28th. Dog owners will receive a **discounted** license fee if paid prior to the end of February;
- As of March 1st the license fee remains the same for the remainder of the year (\$40 or \$80). No longer will there be a \$20 discount for new dog licenses after March 1st or a 50% discount for new dog licenses when purchased after July 31st;
- New dogs licensed after September 30th will receive a license for the current year, as well as the next calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT RDCO Responsible Dog Ownership Amendment Bylaw be given first, second and third readings and adopted.

Respectfully Submitted:

M. Drouin
Manager – Corporate Services

<p>Approved for Board’s Consideration</p> <p>Brian Reardon, CAO</p>

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Provide a cost effective dog control service that encourages responsible dog ownership and protects public safety.
Organizational:	Focus staff resources on the development of a Dog Control Service based on responsible dog ownership.
Legal/Statutory Authority:	RDCO Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw No. 1343

Background:

The Central Okanagan Dog Control Service works with, supports and encourages responsible dog owners across the entire Regional District. It is recognized that most dog owners follow the principles of responsible dog ownership by licensing, leashing, being in the care and control of their pet and in doing so, act as a responsible owner in handling their dog on and off their property. Any dog owner exhibiting responsible behavior should have no problem complying with the requirements of the bylaw.

The following amendments are being recommended:

- License Fees:
 - Each unspayed or unneutered dog \$80
 - Each spayed or neutered dog \$40
 - Dog owners will receive a **discounted** license fee if paid prior to the end of February of each calendar year.
 - Each unspayed or unneutered dog \$60
 - Each spayed or neutered dog \$20
 - As of March 1st the license fee remains the same for the remainder of the year (\$40 or \$80).
 - No 50% discount when purchased after July 31st.
 - New dogs licensed after October 1st at the full rate (\$80 or \$40) will receive a license for the current year, as well as the next licensing year.

These amendments are proposed due to:

- Our municipal and SPCA partners frequently charge the wrong amount when dog owners come in later in the year (in 2016 354 wrong fees were charged). Now there will be one amount as of March 1st – either \$80 or \$40. This eliminates the questioning of dog owners to determine what rate to charge them. It will save staff time and arguments with dog owners who do not believe they should pay a penalty for a late payment, or license their dog as new instead of renew the license.
- There will no longer be issues with dog owners trying to purchase a new license at a discounted rate, when it is actually a renewal because the fee will be the same.
- This change will avoid dog owners waiting until August 1st to get the 'half-price' rate even though they have had their dog for a longer period of time.
- Eliminate half-priced licenses – dog owners don't get half the service, nor half the benefits, whether that's the 'My Dog Matters' program or enforcement.

- More work is involved with new dog owners, ie: setting up the account, mailing educational material and license. New dog licensing is increasing on-line (in 2016 alone 4,310 new dogs were licensed online; in 2015, 3,655).

These changes will reduce the amount of staff resources required to administer over 24,000 accounts (and increasing).

At this time, any increase to license fees for unaltered or altered dogs is not recommended. The Dog Control Technical Advisory Committee supported this recommendation and staff continues to believe it is too early to consider increasing license fees. Emphasis needs to continue to get all dogs licensed in the Central Okanagan. This will increase the revenues required for the service to be more 'self-supporting'.

Number of dogs licensed: At year-end 2014 (19,815), 2015 (21,707), at the end of September 2016 (approximately 23,900) licenses were sold. The numbers continue to increase but we still have a way to go—it is believed there are over 30,000 dogs in the Central Okanagan.

Financial Considerations:

- Depending upon when owners license and the number of dogs licensed, there will be minor increases to license revenue ie: the 50% discount after July 31st is eliminated; discounted rate only applies during the months of January-February; new dog owners purchasing their license in the 4th quarter receive up to a 15-month license.

Organizational Issues:

- There will be less arguments/investigation with dog owners as there is one rate after the end of February. If an owner misses the discount period the license fee remains the same for the remainder of the year.

External Implications:

- Staff time will be saved at the municipal and SPCA offices.

Alternative Recommendation:

None recommended. The Board could choose not to accept staff recommendations.

Attachment(s):

- RDCO Responsible Dog Ownership Amendment Bylaw

SCHEDULE TO BE AMENDED

Regional District of Central Okanagan

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP BYLAW NO. 1343

LICENSE FEES

SCHEDULE 'B'

- | (a) | For each spayed female or neutered male dog, where proof is provided that the dog has been spayed or neutered | \$20.00 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|--|------------|
| (b) | For each unspayed female or unneutered male dog | \$60.00 | | | | | | | | | |
| (c) | Licensing for Nuisance, Aggressive, and Dangerous Dogs | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding-right: 20px;"><u>Altered</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Unaltered</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nuisance Dog</td> <td>\$ 40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aggressive Dog</td> <td>\$100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dangerous Dog</td> <td>\$500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | <u>Altered</u> | <u>Unaltered</u> | Nuisance Dog | \$ 40 | Aggressive Dog | \$100 | Dangerous Dog | \$500 | | Bylaw 1385 |
| <u>Altered</u> | <u>Unaltered</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nuisance Dog | \$ 40 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggressive Dog | \$100 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dangerous Dog | \$500 | | | | | | | | | | |
| (d) | A Kennel Operation Permit for a Hobby or Service Kennel | \$125.00 | | | | | | | | | |
| (e) | For each lost dog tag, a replacement fee will be charged of | \$5.00 | Bylaw 1385 | | | | | | | | |
| (f) | Should such license not be paid by the last day of February of the licensing year, the owner of any dog not so licensed shall paying a further fee of | \$20.00 | | | | | | | | | |
| (g) | If a NEW dog is acquired or reaches the age of 3 months after March 1 st in any license year, the owner thereof shall not be subject to paying the prescribed \$20.00 penalty. | | | | | | | | | | |
| (h) | Registered Guide/Service Dogs | No Charge | | | | | | | | | |
| (i) | If an Owner has a dog spayed or neutered within six (6) months from time of purchase of a license in any license year, a refund for the difference in the license fee shall be made providing a valid veterinarian certificate is presented by the Owner. | Refund | | | | | | | | | |
| (j) | RCMP service dogs | No Charge | | | | | | | | | |
| (k) | For license fees paid by new Owners after July 31 st in each calendar year a fifty percent (50%) discount shall apply. | Discount | | | | | | | | | |

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

BYLAW NO. 13XX

A bylaw to amend the Regional District of Central Okanagan Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw No. 1343

WHEREAS the Regional District of Central Okanagan has enacted the Regional District of Central Okanagan Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw No. 1343;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary and desirable to amend said bylaw;

NOW THEREFORE, the Regional Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. Schedule 'B' – LICENSE FEES

- Delete (a) in its entirety:

“(a) For each spayed female or neutered male dog, where proof is provided that the dog has been spayed or neutered \$20.00”

and replace with:

(a) For each spayed or neutered dog \$40.00

- Delete (b) in its entirety:

“(b) For each unspayed female or unneutered male dog \$60.00”

and replace with:

(b) For each unspayed or unneutered dog \$80.00

- Add the words '(no early discounted rate applies)' to:
(c) Licensing for Nuisance, Aggressive, and Dangerous Dogs

- Delete (f) in its entirety:

“(f) Should such license not be paid by the last day of February of the licensing year, the owner of the any dog not so licensed shall pay a further fee of \$20.00

and add the following, and renumber all sections:

(c) License fees for (a) and (b) are **discounted** by \$20 if paid by the last day of February of the licensing year

- Delete (g) in its entirety:

“(g) If a NEW dog is acquired or reaches the age of 3 months after March 1st in any license year, the owner thereof shall not be subject to paying the prescribed \$20.00 penalty”

- Delete (k) in its entirety:

“(k) For license fees paid by new Owners after July 31st in each calendar year a fifty percent (50%) discount shall apply.”

and replace with:

For each license fee for NEW dog(s) paid after September 30th the license will be valid for that year, in addition to the next calendar year.

2. This Bylaw may be cited as the “Regional District of Central Okanagan Responsible Dog Ownership Amendment Bylaw No. 13XX, 2016”.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	13 th	DAY OF	October	2016
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	13 th	DAY OF	October	2016
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	13 th	DAY OF	October	2016
ADOPTED THIS	13 th	DAY OF	October	2016

CHAIR

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 13XX cites as the “Regional District of Central Okanagan Responsible Dog Ownership Amendment Bylaw No. 13XX, as read a third time and adopted by the Regional Board on the 13th day of October 2016.

Dated at Kelowna, B.C.
this 14th day of October 2016

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES