

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2019-07-23

From: Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services

File No: 3920-1534, 2019

Subject: Amending the Electoral Area Animal Control Service Area to include Electoral Area F

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving first, second, and third readings to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Animal Control Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1534, 2019* so as to provide animal control services related to dangerous and aggressive dogs within Electoral Area F.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) regulates and controls dangerous and aggressive dogs in participating electoral areas for the safety and protection of the general public. Currently, Electoral Areas D, E, G, and H are members of this service area. Residents within FVRD electoral areas where this service is not provided have limited options when faced with dangerous or aggressive dog scenarios: the RCMP has the authority under the *Local Government Act* to seize a dog that has killed or seriously injured a person, but they are unlikely to do so as the level of service they are able to offer residents is limited in many situations. In participating electoral areas though, this bylaw enables the FVRD to investigate aggressive dog incidents and, if needed, apply conditions for the care and control of these animals so as to prevent reoccurrence and provide greater public safety.

DISCUSSION

Dangerous and aggressive dog animal control services are currently provided to Electoral Areas D, E, G, and H. The adoption of Bylaw No. 1534, 2019 will allow for this service to also be provided within Electoral Area F.

Unlike the FVRD's municipal animal control bylaw, which includes regulations for dog licensing, dogs at large, number of pets permitted, etc., the electoral areas animal control bylaw only pertains to aggressive or dangerous dogs. The FVRD dangerous and aggressive dog regulatory bylaw (Bylaw No. 1247, 2013) provides a definition of an "aggressive dog", establishes the ability for trained animal

control officers to seize or impound an aggressive dog, and places requirements on the owners of an aggressive dog to reduce the chance of another incident from occurring. These requirements include ensuring the dog is kept in a secured enclosure where it cannot escape, is muzzled and leashed anytime it is not within this enclosure, and get microchipped and photographed for identification purposes by the FVRD. For particularly serious incidents where these conditions are considered insufficient to protect public safety, the dog could get designated "dangerous" as per Section 49 of the Community Charter where further action may be pursued through the Provincial Court.

Following receipt of three readings and consent, the proposed bylaw will be sent to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. Upon approval, the bylaw will be presented again to the FVRD Board for further consideration and adoption.

COST

Adding Electoral Area F to this service area will raise the maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the entire service from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

CONCLUSION

The FVRD currently provides aggressive dog animal control services for Electoral Areas D, E, G, and H. Approval of Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Animal Control Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1534, 2019 would allow for the expansion of this service area to include Electoral Area F.

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.