



Staff Report

Report Title: Feral Cat Populations

Prepared By: Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Department: By-Law Enforcement

Date: Feb. 6, 2023

Report Number: BLE-2023-02-4

File Number:

C-11 BLE21

Attachments: none

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report Number BLE-2023-02-04 prepared by Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer.

Background:

At the June 21, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting, Staff was directed to bring forward a report on potential mechanisms to control the feeding and gathering of stray cats on an individual's property. This was a result from received nuisance and safety complaints regarding a resident making food available for stray cats in the Point Clark area.

On August 16, 2021, the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-Law No. 2021-93 was passed prohibiting citizens from feeding wildlife and feral cats and leaving food accessible to these animals or in a way that attracts them.

On September 8, 2021, at the Committee of the Whole meeting, a report was received on a proposed trap, neuter, and release program to control the population of cats. To administer a new program would come with additional costs and would increase staff workload. Council did not support a new program as the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-Law No. 2021-93 had recently been implemented and was showing promise of working.

Discussion:

Members of Council received an email from a citizen, which was referred to Staff at the January 16 meeting of Council. In the email, the resident expressed concerns for property damage, health, and indicated that the stray roaming cats have taken the

enjoyment out of living in their own home. Staff contacted the resident who was able to provide more information. A letter has been sent to a property owner to inform them of the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-Law No. 2021-93. This property will continue to be monitored for compliance.

Staff has previously reviewed options to reduce feral cat populations, including a trap, neuter, vaccinate and release program and the licensing cats. Administering a new program would come with additional costs and increase staff workload.

In 2022 there were three complaints received pertaining to feral cats. Two of the complaints were collected on the same day and in the same area in Point Clark. No complaints were received from Lucknow.

The low number of complaints registered for 2022, indicates that implementing the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-Law No. 2021-93, has been successful in decreasing the number of feral cats in residential areas.

Given this decrease, Staff recommendation is to continue monitoring and enforcing the Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-law as the control measure for feral cat populations.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial implications at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer