

Kelly Lush

From: Kelly Lush
Sent: March 2, 2023 8:40 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: FW: Stray Cats/ By-Law Officer Response

From: Jennifer White
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 5:33 PM
To: Dave and Kate Gillespie [REDACTED] >
Cc: Larry Allison <lallison@huronkinloss.com>; Shari Flett <sflett@huronkinloss.com>; Don Murray <dmurray@huronkinloss.com>; Scott Gibson <sgibson@huronkinloss.com>; Ed McGugan <emcgugan@huronkinloss.com>; James Hanna <jhanna@huronkinloss.com>; Carl Sloetjes <csloetjes@huronkinloss.com>; Mary Rose Walden <mrwalden@huronkinloss.com>
Subject: RE: Stray Cats/ By-Law Officer Response

Hello Dave and Kate,

Thank you for reporting the issues regarding unwanted cats on and around your property. This helps Staff to identify patterns of concerns and possibly pinpoint areas that should be focused on for specific types of concerns.

Your concern with wandering cats is one which both Staff and Council are aware of. The By-law Enforcement Officer can act on specific complaints from identified residents with respect to By-law infractions. Some concerns received do not meet those criteria. I appreciate that this can lead to frustration from residents, who are looking for a resolution to their concerns.

As you are aware, there is a By-law prohibiting the feeding of feral cats and other wildlife. I understand that based on information that has been provided to By-law Enforcement, there have been several investigations and enforcement of that by-law within your area. Follow-up will continue with respect to these investigations.

Additionally, during budget consultations, Council has requested a report with respect to the costs of a licensing program for cats, and the costs associated with the trapping and transporting cats to a humane society. This report is expected to be heard at the April 3 Committee of the Whole Meeting. This is an open meeting that you are welcome to attend and observe the discussion. The agenda for the April 3 meeting will be available in the Council Calendar online at www.huronkinloss.com on March 31st.

As per the Township's Communications Policy, individuals who submit communications to Council and its Committees or Boards should be aware that personal information contained within the communications may become part of the public record and may be available through the agenda process which includes publication on the Township's website.

Your correspondence and this response will be included on the next Council agenda.
Regards,

Jennifer White
Manager of Legislative Services, Clerk
Township of Huron-Kinloss

21 Queen Street, PO Box 130
Ripley, ON N0G 2R0

(519) 395-3735 ext 123
jwhite@huronkinloss.com

www.huronkinloss.com

From: Dave and Kate Gillespie [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, [REDACTED]
To: Jennifer White <jwhite@huronkinloss.com>
Cc: Larry Allison <llalison@huronkinloss.com>; Shari Flett <sflett@huronkinloss.com>; Don Murray <dmurray@huronkinloss.com>; Scott Gibson <sgibson@huronkinloss.com>; Ed McGugan <emcgugan@huronkinloss.com>; James Hanna <jhanna@huronkinloss.com>; Carl Sloetjes <csloetjes@huronkinloss.com>
Subject: Stray Cats/ By-Law Officer Response

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you today, as a homeowner that has also been dealing with this same issue of stray cats, suggested that we reach out , as she had been advised to do . We first sent an email to all of council on January 11, 2023, with only Shari Flett bothering to respond (Thank you Shari for acknowledging our email!), where we expressed our distress over the huge abundance of stray, roaming cats in our neighbourhood. They are using our property as their spraying grounds, which is both damaging to our property, as well as our health. In our January email, we had just discovered that these cats had been continuously spraying on our porches, which resulted in our brand new outdoor Christmas lights corroded and snapped off IN the extension cord. Not only is this disgusting and costly, as we had to throw out both the lights and extension cord, it also would be a fire hazard which puts my FAMILY and home in danger.

The list of the costs we have had to endure due to these cats that are not ours is extensive over the years (Paving our driveways so they do not use it as a litter box- which did not work out as we hoped , as they spray our tires of our vehicles and then damp weather, such as today, when we start our vehicle, the whole inside is a strong cat spray smell, which makes us physically ill. We have to clean our porches with acetic acid multiple times a year and re-stain them every fall , as the cats spray on them so much that everything smells horrid. We invested in a central air unit, as we could not leave our windows open due to the awful smell. Then we installed blinds in our windows so that our cat can not see them as she was becoming distressed from all the roaming strays. We have ONE CAT that is strictly indoors. Just yesterday, inside our house, we had such a horrid and strong cat urine scent that upon further discovery, it was from a cat that had sprayed our door and and it had pooled under the door on the sill. Have you ever had to smell Cat urine ? It is nasty and can be damaging to a person's health. as it has a high ammonia concentration. Our daughter is already currently undergoing various treatments for her health, and this situation could be adding to her health problems. We have spent the last 14 years here trying to deter and keep the cats away but we are fighting a losing battle. We have tried using sprays , planting lavender in the summer , sprinkling hot pepper flakes around the steps but they still keep coming. The problem is only getting worse and the stray cat population has gotten out of control. Our security cameras detect motion all day and night and most of the motion is caused from the cats roaming the neighbourhood. Recently we were told to report the issues using HK Connect and we have reported some of the more recent incidents. We got the same response for the latest two

reports stating that Huron-Kinloss has no by-law for cats. It recommends that we reach out to a private animal control company for more assistance. WHAT?????? So I went on-line to research animal control companies and the closest company I could find was in Toronto that "may" deal with feral cats. They provide a live trap service which would cost a fortune with all the stray cats around. In fact when I googled stray cat removal in Ontario it stated that I should contact the local animal control officer. We are at a loss as to what to do and again have to deal with the issue with no support or proper guidance from the respected authorities.

We have attached the notices we received from our by-law on the HK connects for you to see the response we received.

In our minds, this is not an effective response to the huge problem that is happening in the communities YOU govern. We put our trust in this council, when we were voting on who to elect, and it would be nice to see support on this issue from the council.

Looking forward to hearing from council memberS regarding this issue, Again.

Dave and Kate Gillespie