



Staff Report

Report Title: Kennel Standards Inquiry

Prepared By: Heather Falconer, Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer

Department: Municipal By-law Enforcement

Date: Oct. 2, 2023

Report Number: BLE-2023-10-22

File Number: C11

Attachments: Kennel Inquiry Letter from Kennel Operators

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole receive for information Report BLE-2023-10-22 prepared by Heather Falconer, Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer.

Background:

The Township of Huron-Kinloss updated the Animal Control By-law in 2010 to incorporate a Dog Kennel Licencing Program. During this process, existing known dog kennels within the Township were notified of the requirement to apply for a kennel licence annually.

The current Township of Huron-Kinloss Animal Control/Kennel Licencing By-law No. 2017-116, as amended states:

“Every Person who owns or operates a Kennel shall comply with the requirements set out in “A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations” published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and dated May 2007, or any successor document thereto (the “Code”)”

The document “the Code” and other essential information have been provided to all kennel operators and those who seek to have a kennel.

The attached letter addressed to Council lays out concerns from seven kennel operators who conduct their operations without electrical power.

Discussion:

"Since the release of the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations second edition in 2007, both our society and science have advanced with respect to the humane treatment of dogs. Over the past 10 years, new scientific information has become available on dog behaviour, housing, end of life issues, transport, nutrition, euthanasia, and general dog welfare. This third edition of the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations ("the Kennel Code") reflects both the new science and our evolving relationship with dogs." *Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Preface*

First Concern

The first concern was the additional time required to be spent with the dogs and puppies within the kennels. The new edition requires:

- Starting at birth, caregivers handle puppies gently on a daily basis.
- Puppies between three and eight weeks of age receive a minimum of 20 minutes twice a day of socialization with humans. Some of this time is spent with each puppy individually.
- Dogs and puppies older than eight weeks of age receive a minimum of 30 minutes per day of contact with other compatible dogs, and at least 30 minutes per day of direct contact with humans.

The previous edition (Second Edition) required:

- Unsocialized dogs are fearful of people and may become fearbiters and are more difficult to handle and control. Early exposure of puppies to people (socialization) greatly influences the future acceptability of the animal in a home setting.
- Puppies which are not sold at 8 weeks of age should receive a minimum of 20 minutes per day individual (i.e. away from both visual and physical contact with littermates and other dogs) socialization with humans (or a human) in order to prevent the puppy from imprinting on other dogs resulting in an inability to adapt to human owners when eventually sold.

"Socialization of the puppies is a primary goal for all kennel operators and caregivers. A socialization process of controlled, positive exposure of an animal to their own species, other animals, humans, and novel stimuli is essential for normal behavioural development. Puppies are in the critical socialization period from as early as three weeks up to and including 12 weeks of age. During this period, brain chemistry is developing emotional intelligence and the dog is learning to become a functioning member of both human and dog societies." - *A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Third Edition*

The Canadian Purina company states "Just like children, puppies go through key developmental periods. Puppy's brains are busy learning about the big world around them, so it is best to socialize them at a young age. The optimal puppy socialization period begins at about three weeks of age and lasts until about 12 weeks of age".

Second Concern

The second concern from the kennel operators was that it is very difficult to meet the temperature and humidity requirements using fans and/or air conditioning when living without electrical power. The new edition requires:

- Ventilation and heating systems are constructed to supply fresh air and enable adequate exchange of air and maintenance of optimal environmental conditions for all seasons.
- Provide additional ventilation by using exhaust fans and/or air conditioning when ambient temperatures reach more than 26°C.

The previous edition (Second Edition) required:

- Proper air circulation is essential in the prevention of respiratory disease. The number of air changes per hour is extremely important and is dependent on the number of dogs being housed and the size of the facility.
- When ambient temperature reaches over 27°C (80°F), additional ventilation, such as exhaust fans and/or air conditioning should be available.

“Proper air circulation is essential to the prevention of respiratory disease, maintaining suitable humidity levels, controlling odour, and maintaining a comfortable temperature. The number of air changes per hour is extremely important and is dependent on the number of dogs being housed relative to the size of the facility. A source of fresh air is critical. Recirculation of inside air spreads contaminants, viruses, bacteria, and moulds. Drafts, chilling, and excessively high humidity are detrimental to dogs of all ages and promote respiratory disease.”-*A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Third Edition*

The goal of kennel regulations is to provide both puppies and dogs that reside within the kennel with adequate living conditions. This assists with the health and well being of the dogs, while increasing socialization for the adoption of puppies and the dogs that retire from the kennel’s breeding program.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts related to this report.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

Heather Falconer, Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer