



Staff Report

Report Title: Request for Regulation of Cats

Prepared By: Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Department: By-Law Enforcement

Date: Aug. 16, 2021

Report Number: BLE-2021-08-14

File Number: C-11 BLE21

Attachments: E-mail from Shelley Meldrum and Hugh Mason

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby approves Report Number BLE-2021-08-14 prepared by Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer AND directs

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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 as a result from received nuisance complaints about a resident making food available for stray cats in the Point Clark area.

On August 4, 2021, Staff Report BLE-2021-08-13 was presented to the Committee of the Whole proposing a Feeding of Wildlife and Feral Animals By-Law. The proposed By-law would prohibit citizens from feeding multiple cats outdoors. The Committee approved the report and authorized the appropriate draft by-law be brought forward for approval.

On Monday August 9, 2021, a letter from the public was submitted via e-mail (attached) indicating that the nuisance cats in the Point Clark area are not wildlife nor feral. They suggested that a By-Law be drafted that will control the cats from running freely off the property and requested a solution similar to the Town of Hanover Animal Control By-law which includes a cat registration system.

Discussion:

The topic of implementing a cat registration to assist in the problem of cats running at large has been brought to Council on a few occasions. It is staff's understanding

that in previous Council discussions that the registering of cats was not an avenue that they wanted to pursue.

Staff investigated different routes to prohibit citizens from feeding multiple cats outdoors. From the research the most effective and widely used method by other municipalities is a By-law that regulates the feeding of nuisance animals including cats. These By-laws also prohibit any food being left outdoors that may attract wildlife or potentially dangerous animals.

The Town of Hanover Animal Control By-law was reviewed by staff in the process. The By-law does not mention prohibiting citizens from feeding multiple cats outdoors but does include a cat registration. The purpose of the cat registration is to return cats to their owners when found running at large.

Council could consider regulating cats in a similar manner to the running at large aspect in our own Animal Control By-law in the way that if a cat is found running at large and no owner is found, the cat would be impounded. The Township does not have its own facility to house impound cats therefore, the cat(s) may be impounded at our registered pound upon their agreeance. If Council wishes to peruse this avenue further, staff could bring back an additional report.

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 open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Heather Falconer, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer