



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Corporate Services & Clerk

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Christina Hebert, Manager Committee & Community Services

**Date to Council:** August 14, 2018

**Report Number:** CS-2018-22

**Subject:** Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program  
Cat Intake Program  
Bi-Annual Update for 2018

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program and Cat Intake Program Bi-Annual Update for 2018 Report CS-2018-22, **be received**.

### Background

#### Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program

At the November 28, 2017, Regular Council Meeting, Council approved the renewal of the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program for 2018 and passed Resolution RCM-415/17 as recommended in the Corporate Services & Clerk Report No. 36/17.

#### Cat Intake Program

At the October 24, 2017, Regular Council Meeting, Council passed Resolution RCM-376/17 authorizing the execution of the Cat Intake Agreement (Agreement) with the Windsor-Essex County Humane Society (WECHS) for 2018 to permit stray cats to be dropped off at a cost of \$25 to the Town of Tecumseh for each cat.

During the Budget deliberation on November 21, 2017, Council approved the Corporate Services & Clerks Department budget for Animal Control, which included funding in the amount of \$4,750 for a Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program and \$2,500 for a Cat Intake Program.

## **Comments**

### **Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program 2018**

The Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program for 2018 (Program), was approved for 95 vouchers being offered with a value of \$50 each.

The Vouchers for the Program were made available to the public on Friday, February 9, 2018. The Program allows for caregivers of feral cats to receive up to a maximum of five (5) vouchers, issued on a first come, first serve basis, with a 120-day expiry period.

From the initial allotment of 92 Feral Cat Vouchers, 70 were issued, leaving 22 vouchers remaining. Three (3) vouchers were made available for Low Income Owned Cats, however, none were issued.

As of, June 30, 2018, 55 out of the 70 Feral Cat Vouchers issued have been redeemed and have had invoices submitted to the Town for payment by the authorized participating Veterinary Hospitals in Essex County. Of those issued, five (5) of the Feral Cat Vouchers were not utilized prior to the voucher expiration and the remaining 10 vouchers will expire on or about October 25, 2018. Accordingly, the remaining 27 Feral Cat Vouchers will be reissued and made available to the public, along with any vouchers not redeemed following the October 25, 2018, expiration date. The intent of the Program is to have as many feral cats as possible spayed or neutered to help reduce the population of feral cats in the Town.

The remaining three (3) Low Income Vouchers for the spay or neuter of Owned Cats will be re-allocated to the Feral Cat Vouchers, due to higher interest in vouchers for Feral Cats by September 1, 2018, in the event no applications are received.

### **Cat Intake Program 2018**

The Cat Intake Program with the WECHS allows residents to drop off stray cats to the WECHS at a cost of \$25 to the Town for each cat. Prior to 2018, residents were permitted to drop off stray cats at a cost of \$10 and \$20 was charged to the Town of Tecumseh.

The Agreement with the WECHS for the Cat Intake Program has been in place since 2010. In that time, the Cat Intake Program has proven to be very successful for the Town and has received positive participation from residents.

As of June 30, 2018, the current cost to the Cat Intake Program is \$575.00 based on invoices submitted by the WECHS to the Town for payment.

A summary comparing the number of cats dropped off at the WECHS, as of June 30 in each of the years 2014 to 2018 is provided in the following Table.

<b>Month</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
January	2	2	1	2	1
February	4	1	1	0	1
March	3	6	2	3	2
April	4	4	12	0	6
May	14	4	7	3	10
June	30	15	10	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$1140.00</b>	<b>\$640.00</b>	<b>\$660.00</b>	<b>\$280.00</b>	<b>\$575.00</b>

Based on the historical trend in previous years, the months of July, August, September and October tend to have a higher rate of cat intakes.

The steady decline in the use of the Cat Intake Program since 2014 and the reduced interest in the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program may be an indicator of the reduction of the feral cat population in the Town, which these programs were intended to accomplish.

It is recommended that the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program and Cat Intake Program Bi-Annual Update for 2018 Report CS-2018-22, be received.

## **Consultations**

Area Veterinary Hospitals  
Windsor Essex County Humane Society

## **Financial Implications**

The 2018 P&I Animal Control Budget includes funding in the amount of \$4,750 for the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program and \$2,500 for the Cat Intake Program.

It is anticipated that both Programs will be under-utilized by the end of 2018, resulting in a surplus to this budget line item. A review of these Programs will be conducted as part of the 2019 Budget process.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2017-18 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that the Town of Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of the Town of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐ Social Media ☐ News Release ☐ Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Christina Hebert, BA (Hons), MA, Dipl. M.A.  
Manager Committee & Community Services

Reviewed by:

Laura Moy, Dipl. M.M., CMMIII HR Professional  
Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Tony Haddad, MSA, CMO, CPFA  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
None	None