



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Legislative & Clerk Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Robert Auger, Director Legislative Services & Clerk

Date to Council: October 24, 2023

Report Number: LCS-2023-30

Subject: Cat Intake and Voucher Program
Renewal Agreement

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report LCS-2023-30 entitled “Cat Intake and Voucher Program Renewal Agreement” **be received**;

And that The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh **renew** the Agreement with the Windsor Essex County Humane Society for the provision of cat intake and spay/neuter services, at an annual cost to the Town of \$7,500, in advance of the 2024 budget deliberations due to the timing of service renewal;

And further that the Clerk **be authorized** to execute the renewal Agreement between the Town and Windsor Essex County Humane Society, for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2024 and concluding December 31, 2025.

Background

Cat Intake Program

An Agreement with the Windsor Essex County Humane Society (WECHS) for the provision of cat intakes has been in place since 2010 and was originally entered into following concerns expressed by Town residents regarding cats entering onto property

other than that of their owners. The Agreement with the WECHS has been renewed each year since and is set to expire on December 31, 2023.

The Cat Intake Program allows residents to drop off stray cats to the WECHS. Upon drop off, the WECHS examines the stray cats for their disposition, and treats if medically necessary. Healthy and friendly stray cats are adoptable; stray cats that appear to be community cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped and returned to the field where trapped to live out their lives without producing any more kittens.

Cat Spay & Neuter Voucher Program

In 2014, the Town launched the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program as an additional opportunity to alleviate cat overpopulation in Tecumseh.

Ninety-five (95) vouchers with a value of \$50 each, were allocated annually for the spay or neuter of feral cats to a maximum of five (5) vouchers per caregiver of feral cats, and owned cats to a maximum of three (3) vouchers available for low-income families.

Vouchers were made available to Tecumseh residents on a first come, first served basis. Caregivers and families of feral cats and owned cats completed an electronic application form and provided proof that they are at least 18 years of age and their primary residence, for at least one year, is in the Town. Application forms and eligibility for low-income vouchers required proof that a family household's before-tax income cannot exceed the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Offs.

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) requires that vouchers not be restricted for use at veterinarians within a particular boundary and as such, the vouchers can be used anywhere in Essex County. Correspondence is sent annually to all veterinary hospitals in Windsor and Essex County, as required by the CVO, to inquire of their interest to participate in the current year's Program.

All costs and fees for surgeries over and above the \$50 voucher value are the responsibility of the individual seeking service. The Town provides reimbursement of the \$50 (inclusive of HST) per surgery to participating veterinary hospitals, upon receipt of an invoice and the signed voucher.

Comments

The Clerk's Service Delivery Review (Review), conducted by WSCS Consulting in 2022, recommended the Legislative and Clerks Services Department focus on core functions of legal and clerk services. The Review examined the Town's animal licensing programs and found a significant amount of staff time was spent managing and issuing the Cat Spay & Neuter Voucher and Cat Intake Programs. Many municipalities are now

outsourcing their licensing programs very successfully and are seeing increased uptake and revenues.

Both Cat Programs offered by the Town have proven to be very successful and received positive participation from residents. However, as the Review highlighted, the programs were time consuming and impacting staff's time to focus on core department services.

In line with the Review's recommendations, Administration engaged with WECHS to explore a partnership to offer both Cat Programs on the Town's behalf. WECHS was desirous and entered into an agreement with the Town to offer both services to Tecumseh residents, at an annual cost to the Town of \$7,500 for a one-year term starting January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

As at the end of August 2023, the WECHS has had 97 stray cat intakes and 34 cats altered through the voucher program.

Administration has monitored the inaugural partnership with WECHS to provide both Cat Programs and WECHS has been able to provide the same level of service to Tecumseh residents while alleviating the level of staff time for administrative support of both programs. WECHS also has a greater community outreach which further helps in assisting a greater number of low-income households. WECHS works with several social service agencies to further promote the programs, including a heavy social media presence.

Accordingly, it is recommended the Town renew the Agreement with the Windsor Essex County Humane Society for the provision of cat intake and spay/neuter services, at an annual cost to the Town of \$7,500, for a two-year period commencing January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

Consultations

Windsor Essex County Humane Society

Financial Implications

Historically, the Animal Control Budget has allocated funds for both the Cat Intake Program and Cat Spay & Neuter Voucher Program. Funding in the amount of \$7,500 for the WECHS's cat program partnership was provided in the 2023 Budget and has been allocated in the draft 2024 Animal Control budget.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

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.
Deputy Clerk – Clerks Services & Policy Advisor

Reviewed by:

Robert Auger, LL.B.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None