



Agenda No: 7.1

Mtg. Date: Dec. 9/13

## Regional Board Report

**TO:** Regional Board

**FROM:** Mary Jane Drouin  
Manager – Corporate Services

**DATE:** December 3, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Bylaw Amendments to Approve an Increased Fine for Unlicensed Dogs effective January 1, 2014 – Zero Tolerance

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**Purpose:** To approve bylaws for increased fines for unlicensed dog owners--a penalty of \$300.

**Executive Summary:**

Unlicensed dog owners were provided the opportunity in October to get on board and get a free license for 2013—over 3,600 took advantage of this program. It is believed that approximately only one-third of dogs in the Central Okanagan are licensed.

In discussion with the Dog Service Resource Group, there was agreement for the concept of zero tolerance for dog owners who do not license their dog(s), albeit a higher fine of \$500 was recommended. Going forward, the new model will no longer provide dog control officers the discretion to issue warnings; as well as, fines will not be waived in cases where the owner purchases a license within a two week period of the infraction. The current fine for an unlicensed dog is \$100. Considerable advertisement has been done throughout 2013 advertising the zero tolerance policy and its date of implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:**

THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan Ticket Information and Utilization Amendment Bylaw No. 1340, 2013 be given first, second and third readings and adopted.

**RECOMMENDATION #2:**

THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1341, 2013 be given first, second and third readings and adopted.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Jane Drouin  
Manager – Corporate Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

  
Brian Reardon, CAO

## Background

The final report on the Dog Control Service Review completed by Allan Neilson's was presented to the Regional Board in late 2012. The new service model is based on the concept of responsible dog ownership—the first condition is ensuring dogs are licensed. Allan Neilson provided an update on the implementation plan to the Board earlier this evening.

Staff is in the process of drafting a responsible dog ownership bylaw which will be presented to the Board in January 2014. New services (including one 'free ride home' for licensed at-large dogs) and further increased fine structures for off-leash dogs and impoundment fees for at large dogs will be recommended. An open house will also be scheduled in January to provide the public an opportunity to give feedback on the new bylaw before the Board adopts it.

Throughout 2013, a variety of new services have been provided to dog owners in the Central Okanagan—the 'New Dog Matters' Rewards Program, October Amnesty Month, on-line renewal of dog licenses. In the RDCO's advertising campaign, the public has been informed that beginning in January 2014 there would be zero tolerance for unlicensed dogs. As Allan Neilson states in his update "dog licensing represents the most important source of revenue, and that without this revenue the local government cannot provide the services that serve the interests of dogs, responsible owners and the community as a whole. Zero tolerance is considered Best Practice for dog control services."

It is recommended the Regional District begin enforcing a zero tolerance for unlicensed dogs. Approving the Ticketing and Bylaw Notice bylaws will put that into action effective January 1, 2014.