March 27, 2013

City awards pound services contract to Coastal Animal Control – SPCA notifies City it will vacate building at end of March

City Council has awarded Campbell River's pound services contract to Coastal Animal Control Services of BC after the BCSPCA turned down an offer to provide services for impounded animals at the Campbell River SPCA facility. Coastal Animal Control will house impounded animals in the building at 490 Merecroft Rd. beginning April 1.

"When the SPCA turned down a $58,000 contract offer for pound services, we emphasized that they were still welcome to continue operating their animal welfare services from the same location. We asked them to reserve five dog runs for impounded animals and share onsite office space with Coastal Animal Control," says City Clerk Peter Wipper. *"In recognition of community support for SPCA services, Council also offered a $34,000 grant-in-aid to assist with their animal welfare services, but the SPCA notified the City this afternoon that they will vacate the facility on Merecroft Rd. at the end of the current contract, March 31."*

The SPCA offered to provide pound services to the City at a cost of $95,000, while Coastal Animal Control will offer the service for $25,000.

Council set their budget for both animal control and pound services, and the SPCA quote was beyond that budget. In recognition of public support for animals and the animal welfare services the SPCA provides, the City offered the SPCA a $34,000 grant-in-aid, the difference in the budget after Coastal Animal Control is paid for animal control and pound services.

"We are disappointed the SPCA has made this decision, and it is unfortunate that this has happened on such short notice, but we respect their decision and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the community," says City Manager Andy Laidlaw. *"Council had hoped the combination of continued access to the building and the grant-in-aid offer would have allowed the SPCA to continue to operate in Campbell River, especially because the grant funding appears to be more generous than what is typically offered to local SPCA branches by other communities."*

The SPCA has confirmed that animals in its care will be re-located to other branches this weekend, and impounded animals will be turned over to Coastal Animal Control on Sunday. People looking for animal welfare services are advised to contact the Comox Valley & District SPCA.

The Comox Valley & District SPCA phone number is 250-339-7722.

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Contact: Peter Wipper, City Clerk   250-286-5707

Frequently Asked Questions re: City of Campbell River Animal Control contract

What is animal control? The City of Campbell River's animal control bylaw is focused on public safety and stipulates that dogs must be licensed and that no dogs are to be at large (off leash) anywhere in city other than on private property or at the off-leash dog park adjacent to Penfield West Linear Park. The bylaw also addresses biting and barking and the pick-up and seizure of unlicensed, injured, surrendered, stray, dangerous, vicious or dead animals.

What facilities exist to support animal control and pound services? The City owns a building and property at 490 Merecroft to house impounded animals.

How is animal control being managed in Campbell River? As of April 1, Coastal Animal Control will take over the role of education, ticketing and impoundment related to the City's animal control bylaw.

How is enforcement changing? People can contact Coastal Animal Control with animal control complaints at 1-888-754-1397. We can also expect to see increased evening and weekend patrols in public areas that are the focus of the majority of complaints.

How will people retrieve impounded animals? Impounded animals will be housed at 490 Merecroft Rd. The pound will be open to the public between 4 and 5 p.m. weekdays, and from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturdays or by appointment only. The pound will be closed Sundays and for statutory holidays. People should call Coastal Animal Control at 1-888-754-1397 to make arrangements to pick up their pets.

What will happen to dogs not picked up from the Campbell River pound facility? Coastal Animal Services will transfer unclaimed animals to a larger facility in Duncan for adoption.

How has the SPCA been involved with animal control? Animal control services in Campbell River had been contracted to the Campbell River SPCA for approximately 30 years. Before that, a dog catcher operated a dog pound in Campbell River.
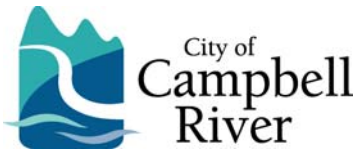
How much does animal control cost? In 2012, the SPCA was paid $167,000 to administer the animal control contract and house impounded animals. In addition, the SPCA received free use of the City-owned shelter building. The SPCA also received City support valued at almost $30,000 that included a van and other operations assistance.
In 2013, Coastal Animal Services will operate out of the building at 490 Merecroft Rd. and provide all animal control and pound services for $130,000.

Why is there a new animal control contractor? Last fall, the City of Campbell River requested proposals for animal control services. The SPCA and Coastal Animal Control submitted proposals to deliver animal control and pound services. Proposals were evaluated on experience, qualifications, training, references and cost. The SPCA submitted a price of $231,350 per year, plus 50 per cent of all dog licensing revenue ($15,000) for a total of $246,350. Coastal Animal Control submitted a price of $130,000.
In January, the SPCA quote for caring for impounded animals was almost $58,000. In March, the SPCA increased their quote for care of impounded animals to $95,000.
Council had set a maximum of $164,000 for both animal control and pound services, and awarded both contracts to Coastal Animal Services to meet budget limits. Council offered a grant-in-aid valued at $34,000 (the budget difference) to the SPCA in acknowledgment of community support for the animal welfare services the SPCA provides in our community.

How is animal control managed in other Vancouver Island communities? In most cities on Vancouver Island, animal control services are separate from the local SPCA branch. A survey of 11 BC municipalities found that Campbell River was the only local government that contracted with the SPCA for animal control services. All other local governments use "in-house" or private contractors. Coastal Animal Control currently provides this service to the City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Regional District, Municipality of North Cowichan, Town of Ladysmith, City of Duncan, Town of Lake Cowichan, Alberni Clayquot Regional District and the Snuneymuxw and Stz'uminus First Nations.

What is the difference between animal control and animal welfare? Animal control is enforced for public safety. Animal welfare programs aim to protect animals from abuse and neglect and offer animal adoption services. Animal welfare is not part of the City of Campbell River's animal control bylaw, and Council's decision to separate animal control and animal welfare follows the model established in most other communities.

Who takes care of animal welfare? In Campbell River, the BCSPCA has offered animal welfare programs. In some communities the SPCA branch runs independently from local government; in others, the SPCA is provided with land or the use of municipal buildings. In Campbell River, the SPCA animal shelter was operating out of a City-owned facility located adjacent to the City's Dogwood Operations Centre at 490 Merecroft Rd. The City provided and offered to continue to provide the SPCA with property, building and maintenance free of charge.

Where do the animals at the Campbell River SPCA come from? The local SPCA offered animal welfare services and cared for animals from Campbell River and northern Vancouver Island as well as Quadra, Cortes and Malcolm islands and Alert Bay.
According to the BCSPCA's 2011 Annual report, the number of animals cared for at Vancouver Island SPCA branches was: Campbell River Region – **1,193,** Nanaimo Region – **1,352,** Comox Valley Region – **763,** Cowichan Region – **741,** Parksville Region – **481,** Port Alberni Region – **1,005,** Victoria Region – **2,223**