

January 23, 2013

Council awards new animal control contract – SPCA to continue operating animal shelter

Campbell River will have a new dog catcher on patrol when the City's latest animal control contract takes effect this spring.

Coastal Animal Control Services of BC will take over the enforcement of the City's animal control bylaw to bring to heel nuisance and public safety concerns. The company will begin random evening and weekend patrols, with an option to expand services to the Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai and Homalco First Nations reserves. The value of the animal control contract is \$105,000 per year.

"With this new contract awarded to Coastal Animal Control Services, Council intends for the SPCA to continue to operate the animal shelter from their current location and pursue their mandate to provide animal welfare and adoption services for Campbell River and the surrounding region," explains City Clerk Peter Wipper. *"Under this new arrangement, the SPCA would continue to take care of dogs, cats and all the other animals that come into their shelter."*

The SPCA would also house animals impounded by Coastal Animal Control Services at the SPCA shelter.

Last fall, the City requested proposals for animal control services. The SPCA and Coastal Animal Control submitted proposals to deliver animal control and impoundment 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, while Coastal Animal Control submitted a price of \$130,000.

Coastal Animal Control currently provides animal control services 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.

A survey of 11 BC municipalities and regional districts 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. In some communities the SPCA runs independently from local government; and in other communities the SPCA is provided with land or the use of municipal buildings. There are seven SPCA animal shelters on Vancouver Island, located in Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Parksville-Qualicum, Comox Valley and Campbell River.

In Campbell River, the SPCA animal shelter is a City-owned facility located adjacent to the City's Dogwood Operations Centre at 490 Merecroft Road. The City has provided and will continue to provide the SPCA with property, buildings and maintenance free of charge.

Once the new animal control contract comes into effect, which could be as early as Apr. 1, residents will have a new phone number to call to request animal control services.

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Contact: Peter Wipper, City Clerk

250-286-5707