

April 3, 2013

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### **What's happening with animal control in Campbell River?**

The new animal control and pound services will operate differently from the SPCA's animal shelter. The following are answers to frequently asked questions about the changes.

#### **What happens to impounded dogs not picked up by their owners?**

- Dogs will stay at the Campbell River pound for a minimum of five days.
- Coastal Animal Control anticipates that 90 per cent of all dogs will only be at the pound facility for one or two days before being claimed by their owners.
- After five days, Coastal Animal Control has the option of transporting dogs to an adoption facility in Duncan or Nanaimo, where they have a very successful adoption rate.
- Coastal Animal Control has never euthanized an animal or had to turn away a stray for lack of space.
- Every animal that they adopt out is spayed or neutered, vaccinated and treated for parasites.
- They will not adopt out an animal that they know has caused serious injury to a human or has killed another domestic animal.

#### **How does Coastal Animal Control care for dogs at the pound?**

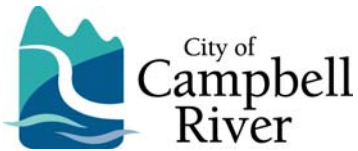
- Fresh water, feeding, outdoor exercise and kennel cleaning every morning.
- Dogs come back to dry kennels after exercise. Raised bedding and blankets are provided for each dog.
- Between carrying out duties in the community, the animal control officer returns regularly to the pound building and monitors dogs, filling water buckets and spot cleaning as necessary.
- Regular outdoor afternoon exercise for dogs also occurs.
- All dogs are fed a quality lamb and rice dog food and given ample attention and exercise. Any abnormality in feces, consumption of water, presence of tapeworm etc. is noted to be relayed to the dog's owner.
- Coastal Animal Control Services has excellent references from other Vancouver Island communities. For more information about Coastal Animal Control's animal care and adoption rates, go to their website: <http://coastalanimalservices.com> or check out their Facebook page.

#### **What about caring for other animals?**

- Coastal will take in all pets that need shelter in the event of a fire, accident or other emergency situation – 24 hours a day.
- Like the SPCA before them, Coastal is not under contract to trap feral cats.
- People wanting to surrender animals will need to contact an animal welfare organization.

#### **How will animal control be provided now?**

- Starting April 1, call **1-888-754-1397** to report animal control concerns.
- Impounded animals are housed at the 490 Merecroft Rd. facility.
- Hours the pound is open for reclaiming animals: 4 to 5 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The pound is closed to the public Sunday and statutory holidays.
- People should call to make an appointment to pick up their animals if they can't attend during the regular public hours.
- Expect to see increased evening and weekend patrols in public areas that are the focus of the majority of complaints.



- Coastal Animal Control will focus on educating rather than writing tickets. They do not have a quota to write tickets, nor do they make money from writing tickets. Tickets are used as an absolute last resort in gaining compliance with the animal control bylaw.

**How do I buy a dog license?** Renewal dog licenses can be purchased online at [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca) or in person at City Hall. New dog licenses must be purchased in person.

**What's the difference between animal control and animal welfare?**

Animal control is focused on public safety, and the City of Campbell River's animal control bylaw stipulates that dogs must be licensed and that no dogs are to be at large (off leash) anywhere in the 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.

Animal welfare services address animal abuse and neglect. This is not part of the City of Campbell River's animal control bylaw. Certainly, responsible pet ownership includes spaying and neutering pets. Nor does the bylaw address pet breeding. People should request animal welfare information and services through an animal welfare organization.

**How can animal welfare services be provided in Campbell River?**

Volunteers currently work to take care of feral cat colonies throughout the community. And some people have already been in touch with the City to offer to be involved in coordinating additional animal welfare services in Campbell River. The City encourages other animal welfare organizations and people wanting to support animal welfare services to contact us.

**How do other communities look after animal control and animal welfare?**

Council's decision to have a new contractor for animal control and pound services follows the model established in most other communities, where animal control services are separate from the local SPCA branch.

A survey of 11 BC municipalities found that 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. In some communities the SPCA branch runs animal welfare services independently from local government; in others, the SPCA is provided with land or the use of municipal buildings. In Campbell River, the City provided and offered to continue to provide the SPCA with property, building and maintenance free of charge. The City also offered the SPCA a grant worth \$34,000 to continue its animal welfare work. The SPCA advised the City it would leave Campbell River.

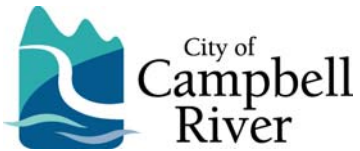
**How much does animal control cost in Campbell River?** In 2012, the SPCA was paid \$167,000 to administer the animal control contract and house impounded animals. In addition, the SPCA received free use of the City-owned shelter building. The SPCA also received City support valued at almost \$30,000 that included a van and other operations assistance.

For 2013, the SPCA quoted a cost of more than \$246,000 for these services.

In 2013, Coastal Animal Services will provide both animal control and pound services out of the building at 490 Merecroft Rd. for \$130,000.

**How much do animal control and pound services contracts cost in other communities?**

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In the Comox Valley Regional District, the total budget for animal control is \$68,200 per year, for the next three years, with \$48,000 for animal control and up to \$20,200 paid to the SPCA for pound services.

As of 2012, the SPCA has an agreement with the Town of Comox at \$6,096/year, the Village of Cumberland at \$1,200/year and the City Courtenay at \$11,220/year – all for pound facilities only. Nanaimo Regional District pays the BC SPCA \$20/dog/day to accept animals at its Qualicum SPCA facility (maximum three days).

**Did the City offer to support the SPCA’s animal welfare efforts?**

When the SPCA turned down a \$58,000 contract offer for pound services, the City encouraged the SPCA to continue operating their animal welfare services from the same location. The SPCA was asked to reserve five dog runs for impounded animals and share onsite office space with Coastal Animal Control. In recognition of community support for SPCA services, Council also offered a \$34,000 grant-in-aid to assist with their animal welfare services. Unfortunately, the SPCA notified the City March 27 that they would re-locate the animals in their care and vacate the facility at the end of March.

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Contact: Peter Wipper, City Clerk

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