



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

MISSION STATEMENT:

"The City of Windsor, with the involvement of its citizens, will deliver effective and responsive municipal services, and will mobilize innovative community partnerships"

DATE: October 1, 2001
TO: Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Commissioner of Council Services and City Clerk
RE: **Licensing/Registration of Cats** **ACL/3361**

AIM:

To advise Council of a proposal for cat registration.

BACKGROUND:

City Council adopted the following resolution at its meeting held April 17, 2000:

CR381/2000

That the following actions BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE for regulation of cats in Windsor:

- i. Registration/licensing of all cats in the city including the following:**
 - one time registration fee
 - mandatory identification of cats
 - mandatory neutering;
- ii. Licensing of breeders with a regulation that no cat is permitted to be sold without identification and neutering;**
- iii. Requirement for licensed pet stores to identify and neuter cats before sale;**
- iv. All cats sold in the city shall be identified and neutered;**
- v. Consideration of an increase in the permitted number of cats per household as presently regulated by the Animal Control By-law;**

and further, a report BE SUBMITTED to Council on the following related issues in consultation with representatives of the Windsor-Essex County Humane Society and Jazzpurr Cat Care Society:

- a) Establishment of appropriate registration/licensing fees to be used for advertising, education and enforcement programs;**
- b) Proper fine structure to facilitate enforcement of the regulations; and**
- c) Consideration of the long term goal of a "No Kill" solution to control of the feral cat problem.**

A more comprehensive consultation process took place beyond the scope of what was suggested in the aforementioned resolution. Administration sought the opinions of breeders, pet shop owners and veterinarians, as well as Jazzpurr and the Windsor Essex County Humane Society.

The following are issues brought forward by each of the groups:

Breeders

The above resolution prohibits the sale of any unneutered animal. However, opposition has come forward from accredited breeders, who normally sell purebred cats when the cats are approximately three months old. They contract with the new owner whereby neutering before the first year of life is over is a requirement. Failure to do so results in the breeder revoking the contract with the purchaser and retrieving the animal. Further, breeders by nature of their business, require certain animals remain unneutered in order for them to continue breeding. If the above resolution goes forward without an exception for breeders, it will prohibit the business of breeding cats within the City of Windsor.

Pet Shop Owners

Pet shop owners feel the above resolution is discriminatory towards their industry. Attached as **Appendix "A"** is a copy of a letter from Louis McCann, Executive Director, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, objecting on behalf of his local members to the proposed regulation to require all cats to be neutered before sale.

Jazzpurr Cat Care Society

Recommended that serious efforts be made to support a long term solution of “no-kill”. Jazzpurr has indicated that they will be making a full presentation of their views to City Council.

Windsor-Essex County Humane Society

- Supports a registration that will allow them to return animals to owners in a quick and efficient manner.
- Supports the ideal of a long term “no-kill” solution.
- Supports mandatory identification and neutering.

Veterinarians

- Supports registration of cats
- Supports spay/neutering for medical purposes not for animal control
- Opposes non-profit spay/neuter clinics
- Supports the development of “no-kill” solution to include vasectomies of feral males
- Opposes mandatory spay/neutering – there are responsible breeders and pet owners.

Other issues that were brought forward include:

Forms of Identification

There appears to be no clear consensus on what form of identification should be used to identify a registered cat. The options are as follows, as well as their pros and cons:

	Pros	Cons
Tag – requires the cat to wear a collar	Easily seen and makes enforcement easier	Since most cats roam, collars can be caught whereby the animal could be put in harm’s way
Tattooing – inking the inner ear of a cat	Not harmful to the cat	Ink fades over time, making it more difficult to identify the animal
Microchipping – placing a small computer chip between the shoulder blades of the cat, readable by a scanning device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a universal reader available throughout Essex County at the Humane Society • Humane Society can microchip for \$20.00 • Unobtrusive to the animal 	

No-Kill Solution

Animal advocates are still concerned about what will happen to cats that are not identifiable (i.e. if the animal is picked up and brought to the Humane Society, will it be euthanized?). Advocates would like to see a long-term plan developed that would include the following standards:

1. That feral cats would be caught, neutered and released back into the managed feral community.
2. That there be an avenue for free spay-and-neuter clinics to be available for guardians/owners
3. That there be no effort to round up any cats for the purposes of identifying and euthanizing.
4. That an educational campaign be adopted advising pet owners of their responsibilities to spay and neuter.
5. That pet guardians/owners be allowed to have more than two cats within their home.

Number of Cats within One Household

In consultation with the various parties, it was suggested that current animal controls that restrict individuals to having no more than two of any one species should be amended to allow for cat owners to have no restriction on the number of cats. A survey of the following municipalities was done regarding the number of animals permitted per household:

Municipality	Limit
Calgary	No limit. By-law restrains cats from running at large.
Edmonton	No more than six of any small mammals.
London	No more than two.
Samia	No limit. Property owners have the right to trap cats and bring them to the Humane Society.
Toronto	Six animals in total, no more than three being dogs
Vanier	No more than three dogs or cats or both. By-law prohibits cats running at large.

If Council chooses to allow cat owners more than two cats per household, it may want to consider prohibiting pet owners from allowing cats to roam free.

Keepers of Feral Colonies

There appears to be a significant number of Windsorites who support feral colonies by feeding and/or providing some type of shelter. Although such action can be considered ownership, the aforementioned resolution would not require these individuals to microchip all feral cats.

COMMENTS:

The following options with respect to the issue of registering cats is provided for Council's consideration:

i. That every person who possesses or harbours a (non-feral) cat in the City of Windsor:

- be required to register their animal with the City of Windsor.
- be required to have their cat microchipped and pay a separate fee of \$30.00 per animal to the City to facilitate the development of a registration list.
- that a discount of \$15.00 per animal be applied to neutered/spayed animals
- that the registration fee be paid at the time the cat is microchipped and the registration fee will be collected by the veterinarian as they do with collecting dog licence fees at this time

This, in effect, will meet in principle Council Resolution CR381/2000, but will allow breeders and pet shop owners to continue to sell their animals. The registration fee will have "built-in" incentive for pet owners to neuter or spay their animals.

ii. That Council consider adopting the PIJAC sample municipal by-law.

The sample by-law is more comprehensive and takes into account the "well-being" of the animals. It would also allow administration and the public a simplified version of laws rather than the numerous by-laws that pertain to companion animals. The sample by-law would also have to incorporate recommendation (i) above, and remove references to "pound" which are governed by an agreement with the City and Humane Society.

iii. That Council consider increasing the number of companion animals to allow for four animals total, regardless of species.

This would foster an environment which allows individuals to keep more companion animals in hopes of deterring people from abandoning cats throughout the city.

iv. The Council commit a percentage of cat registration and dog licensing fees to a campaign directed at educating the public on the health benefits of spaying/neutering their animals and responsible pet ownership.

The City of Windsor generates \$265,000 per year in dog licensing revenue. It is expected that cat registration will initially bring in the same amount. In total, the administrative expenses to implement cat licensing will require both the hiring of a junior clerk at approximately \$35,000 per annum to develop the cat registry. An enforcement officer will also be needed at the cost of \$45,000 per annum. Therefore, cat licensing will net only \$110,000. Annually, the City pays the Windsor Essex County Humane Society \$685,00 to operate the municipal pound. It is expected that an effective media campaign will cost between \$60,000 to \$80,000.

v. That Council consider the development of a Committee to investigate the long-term commitment to a "no-kill" solution.

It is proposed that the Committee be composed of the following members:

- 1 representative of an animal advocate group
- 1 representative of the Windsor Essex County Humane Society
- 1 representative of local pet stores
- 1 representative of local veterinarians

The Committee would take up to one year to examine models of no-kill solutions, analyse those models and how they would fit within the City of Windsor and at what cost. Items that would also be considered by the Committee include:

- spay/neuter clinics for animals owned by disadvantaged citizens
- managing feral cat colonies (neutering vs. vasectomy)
- private/public partnership to be explored in developing a no-kill solution.

It is hoped that various avenues can be explored in finding initiatives that would be included in a no-kill solution.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following recommendations **BE CONSIDERED** at Council's meeting to be held October 29, 2001, to allow for public consultation:

- i. That every person who possesses or harbours a (non-feral) cat in the City of Windsor:
 - be required to register their animal with the City of Windsor.
 - be required to have their cat microchipped and pay a separate fee of \$30.00 per animal to the City to facilitate the development of a registration list.
 - that a discount of \$15.00 per animal be applied to neutered/spayed animals
 - that the registration fee be paid at the time the cat is microchipped and the registration fee will be collected by the veterinarian as they do with collecting dog licence fees at this time
- ii. That Council consider adopting the PIJAC sample municipal by-law.
- iii. That Council consider increasing the number of companion animals to allow for four animals total, regardless of species.
- iv. The Council commit a percentage of cat registration and dog licensing fees to a campaign directed at educating the public on the health benefits of spaying/neutering their animals and responsible pet ownership.
- v. That Council consider the development of a Committee to investigate the long-term commitment to a "no-kill" solution.

John Skorobohacz
Commissioner of Council Services and City Clerk

C. W. (Chuck) Wills, CGA
Chief Administrative Officer

DSIBLEY/II
Att.

NOTIFY:

Name	Address	City/Prov/Pstcd	Telephone	FAX
Dorit M. Girash, President Jazzpurr Society	Herb Gray Centre for Non- Profit Excellence Suite 205, 647 Ouellette	Windsor, Ontario N9A 4J4	258-9299	258-3562
Bernie Butts, Secretary Practical Cats	1187 Wyandotte Street East	Windsor, Ontario N9A 3K4		
Linda Seguin	seguin@windsor.igs.net			
Leona MacIntyre Pound Keeper Windsor-Essex County Humane Society	1375 Provincial Road	Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J3	966-5751	966-1848
Susan Weldon	2677 Meadowbrook	Windsor, Ontario N8T 2Y3		
Sandra's The Pet Place	1285 Grand Marais West	Windsor, Ontario N9E 1E1		
3003300 Nova Scotia Co. o/a Petsmart	1950 Provincial Road	WinDSor, Ontario N9A 6J3		
Medd Holdings of Windsor o/a Discount Pet Food	1680 Tecumseh Road East	Windsor, Ontario N8W 1C5		
Mike Drouillard Corbret's Tropical Fish and Pets	6415 Tecumseh Road East	Windsor, Ontario N8T 1E7		
Wayne Lessard, Solicitor	52 Chatham Street West	Windsor, Ontario N9A 5M6	971-9565	
Louis McCann Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council	2442 St. Joseph, Suite 102	Orleans, Ontario K1C 1G1	(613) 834-2111	(613) 834-4854