



COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: MAY 20, 2025

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

DOG CONTROL – FINAL

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River proceed with implementing a three-year agreement with Border Paws, as presented, with minor amendments to the Public Safety Bylaw.

DETAILS

Background: The County of Vermilion has been considering options for dog control within our municipality.

Previously, the County had an agreement with the old Lloydminster SPCA to provide services. That organization no longer exists, having been replaced by Border Paws.

After extensive research, negotiations and review, the following options are before us.

The County explored five options regarding dog control;

1) Reimbursement & Community Education

The County can initiate a program where vetted residents can drop off stray dogs to the Border Paws facility or Pets Purpose, pay the appropriate fees, and submit those fees back to the County for approval and reimbursement. This will allow Public Safety Officers a chance to investigate the complaint to determine if the stray falls within the mandate of the program and initiate a reimbursement to that resident consistent with the fees applied by the appropriate agency. This would run parallel to an education component that would stress the importance of chipping/tagging dogs, spay/neutering them and being responsible pet owners.

This is estimated to cost approximately: \$40,000.00 annually including staff time for investigations and follow-up.



2) Border Paws - Lloydminster

Has submitted an updated contract agreement to the County of Vermilion River [attached] which includes the following three-year agreement;

Year One: For the annual fee of \$63,000.00, we will provide comprehensive care for 42 animals. This fee covers all aspects of intake and support for the first 42 animals. Once the initial limit is reached, additional animals will be accepted at a rate of \$150.00 per cat and \$350.00 per dog.

Year Two: For the annual fee of \$70,560.00, we will provide comprehensive care for 42 animals. This fee covers all aspects of intake and support for the first 42 animals. Once the initial limit is reached, additional animals will be accepted at a rate of \$168.00 per cat and \$392.00 per dog.

Year Three: For the annual fee of \$79,732.00, we will provide comprehensive care for 42 animals. This fee covers all aspects of intake and support for the first 42 animals. Once the initial limit is reached, additional animals will be accepted at a rate of \$193.00 per cat and \$451.00 per dog.

Guaranteed Space: Throughout the duration of this agreement, we will offer guaranteed space.

3) Pets' Purpose

Pets Purpose is a volunteer association of animal fosters that are currently operating in and around the City of Lloydminster. They are like the now disbanded group known as "Fur Babies". These volunteers take in strays and keep them for re-homing and adoption. This society has been working to come to an agreement for a permanent structure to keep stray dogs while awaiting adoption and re-homing. Prior work with a three-way partnership with a local kennel has fallen through, as Pets Purpose volunteers believe the travel distance is too far for its needs. Pets Purpose would like the County of Vermilion River to secure a lease/rental agreement for a potential shelter in, or immediately around, the Lloydminster area, including utility cost. Additionally, they'd like the County to provide cost funding for the start-up of the shelter (including furniture and associated animal kit – beds, dishes, blankets) and look at funding a staff position. Rates for intakes would be minimal; however, the full cost of veterinary care, food, and care would be 100 per cent on the County.

It is estimated that this option would cost approximately: \$60,000.00 without the inclusion of a staff member. With a staff member, compensated through Pets Purpose, we'd be looking at upwards of \$75,550.00 or more annually.

4) Local Kennels

This option was explored, including partnerships between kennels and other foster/rescue agencies. Most kennels we spoke with were concerned about the presence of disease in stray animals, including parvo, which could contaminate their paid “boarders”.

Some kennels run parallel “doggy daycares” which require strict adherence to vaccination protocols. Adding a stray dog, with unknown disease and vaccination status, would impact their businesses. Another factor in this consideration was that most kennels do not have the capacity to co-ordinate adoptions, fostering or euthanasia. This option is not recommended.

5) “Hands Off” Approach

There is no requirement to handle dogs, and some neighbouring municipalities have adopted a hands-off approach to legislation and enforcement due to rising cost and overwhelming numbers of strays. Examples include the Town of Vermilion, who recently removed animal control from its level of service.

Whatever option chosen by Council, amendments will need to be made to the existing *Public Safety Bylaw*, to define “stray” and outline the procedure for dealing with intakes and investigations. This can be amended and brought back for Council approval.

Discussion:

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

- *Animal Protection Act (Alberta)*
- *Public Safety Bylaw*

Desired Outcome (s): County of Vermilion River proceed with implementing the first option, reimbursement and community education, along with an amendment to the Public Safety Bylaw, to deal with Dog Control.

Response Options: THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River proceed with implementing a three-year agreement with Border Paws, as presented, with minor amendments to the Public Safety Bylaw.