

Comments on Proposed Animal Welfare By-law Amendments

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Overall Concern

- City Council has adopted a policy of
 - Animal welfare, not just control
 - No-kill of healthy, adoptable animals
 - Promoting responsible cat ownership
- Some sections of this proposed by-law fail to follow that policy

Problems in the proposed by-law

- Reduces the number of cats allowed in multi-unit buildings.
- Makes it difficult or impossible for anyone living in a multi-unit building to foster a cat.
- Places a high tax burden on everyone who adopts multiple cats.

Cat limit under current by-law

- Interpreted to allow 2 cats per adult, so 2 people can have 4 cats
- Rough correlation of number people and animals with size of home
- Limit is same for single house and unit in multi-unit building

New proposed cat limit

- Maximum of 3 cats or dogs in ANY multi-unit building
 - 1 bedroom rental in highrise
 - Large townhouse with separate deed
 - Limits fosters
- Good for CONTROL
 - Easy to understand
 - Easy to enforce
- Good for Animal Welfare?

What can 2 people with 4 cats do?

- Kill , abandon or surrender one of their cats to comply with the by-law
- Ignore the by-law
- Move to Toronto (6 cats allowed) or Calgary (no limits)
- These options do not
 - Promote responsible cat ownership
 - Encourage people to buy a cat license

Recommendations

- Focus on welfare, not control
- It can be a violation to have just 1 animal if owner irresponsible or nuisance to neighbours
 - In no event shall any person keep at his or her premises more pet animals than can be properly maintained in a healthy condition without presenting a health or safety hazard to the owner, keeper or others and without constituting a nuisance to the occupants of neighbouring properties.

Use incentives to promote fostering, spay/neuter, and licensing

- Add benefits to the “foster card”
 - No cost
 - Should at least be the same benefits as cat license since not all fosterers have their own animals
- Put license fee toward spay/neuter in hardship cases
- Lower license fee for multiple cats to increase voluntary compliance
 - \$20 for 1 cat
 - \$30 for 2 or 3 cats
 - \$40 for 4 or more cats

But licensing fees are needed to pay for the city's animal welfare programs!

- Then don't use the money for enforcement
 - More people will pay voluntarily if
 - the cost for multiple cats is not excessive
 - licensing is a good thing for animals, not a tax on pet owners
 - Programs may need to come first
 - Calgary shows people what their cat license fee pays for
 - No single stakeholder is responsible for animal welfare

I'm the 4th cat in this townhouse ...
what will happen to me?!

