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**To:** Council  
**From:** Gilles Crepeau  
**Date of Meeting:** August 12, 2020  
**Subject:** Responsible Pet Ownership

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**Background:**

The main purpose of the current Dog Control and Licensing By-law No. 52-2004 passed July 14, 2004 is to regulate the keeping and the registration of dogs. It outlines registration requirements, wearing of tags, limits the number of dogs, regulates dogs running at large, seize and impound, stop and scoop, dangerous dogs and related enforcement.

More recently, the Township has passed the Cat Limit By-law No. 2019-097 passed October 23, 2019 which limits the number of cats per dwelling unit in urban settlement areas.

The Township of South Stormont does not currently regulate or prohibit exotic animals, but the Township's Zoning By-law No. 2011-100 does prohibit the keeping of some animals.

*Section 3.26 Prohibited Uses states: "Prohibited Uses Except as specifically permitted in this By-law, the following uses are prohibited: the keeping or raising of livestock including any horse, bull, ox, sheep, goat, pig or other cattle, or any poultry, or any reptile, or any wild animal including any tamed or domesticated wild animal, in any residential zone or in any building or structure in any zone unless otherwise stated."*

Provincial Legislation

- *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (1997, S.O. 1997, c. 41):* regulates hunting, trapping, and fishing practices and aims to preserve at-risk wildlife. The Act also regulates the conservation of wildlife and outlines the limited instances in which wildlife may be kept in captivity.
- *Animals for Research Act (R.S.O. 1990, c. A.22)* which includes the *Pounds Act (R.S.O. 1990, c.P.17):* regulates the licensing and standards of pounds, keeping and adoption of animals, euthanasia procedures, responsibilities and authorities of the pound operator.
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (2019, S.O. 2019, c. 13):* regulates complaints of cruelty and mistreatment of animals.
- *Dog Owners' Liability Act, (R.S.O. 1990, c. D.16):* regulates dog owners' liability, pit bulls and search and seizure of dogs.
- *Municipal Act (2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25):* regulates the impounding of animals and muzzling of dogs.

In the last few years, the Township has received several animal control complaints pertaining to animals other than dogs which include cats, bunnies, chicken, horses and other livestock. The Township’s Municipal Law Enforcement Officer is currently the only person who investigates animal control complaints. The Township currently has an agreement with a private pound who keeps dogs when they are found at large. The services of a private contractor to trap nuisance wildlife such as skunks, foxes and racoons is also used. To date in 2020, there have been 28 dog complaints most are concerning barking dogs and dogs running at large. The Township has also received 2 cat complaints and 2 complaints concerning other animal such as livestock and wildlife.

<b>Complaints</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 to date</b>
Dog Complaints	73	28
Cat Complaints	4	2
Other Animal Complaints	6	2

**Discussion:**

Based on best practices, feedback from residents, complaints and time passed, it is appropriate to review the Animal Services Program at this time. Based on research undertaken, the following considerations are necessary:

- updates to strengthen existing by-law provisions;
- include a list of exotic animals;
- clarify enforcement measures; and
- introduction of additional regulations for pet owners.

Staff will also review wording for section 4 of the Cat By-law which states: *“No person shall place food designed for or attractive to cats outside of any dwelling unit or in front, rear or side yards.”*

Domestic Animals (Pets)

The Township currently has a Dog Control and Licensing By-law and a Cat Limit By-law. Creating one by-law including all pets may include but is not limited to:

- licensing of pets;
- pets at large;
- minimum area required for pets;
- minimum standard of sanitary conditions,
- spay and neuter program;
- owner’s responsibility (clean up after your pet, nuisance of barking dogs)
- pet limit per household; and
- animal control (dangerous dogs).

Kennel and Cattery

The Township’s Dog Control and Licensing By-law currently includes dog kennels. All dog kennels regardless of their type (breeding kennel, boarding kennel, recreational kennel) have the same requirements. Catteries are not currently

regulated in the Township of South Stormont. Kennel and cattery requirements may include:

- minimum lot size and setbacks;
- minimum area required for each pet;
- care and maintenance of property and animals;
- mandatory annual inspections; and
- requirements specific to kennel types (recreational, boarding, breeding).

### Exotic Animals

The Township of South Stormont does not currently regulate or monitor exotic animals beyond the provisions in the Zoning By-law.

### Pounds

The Township currently contracts pound services, similarly municipalities in the United Counties contract pound services individually. Animals are impounded upon receipt of a call and the pound owner then attends to catch the animal or has asked the caller to contain the animal so it can be collected to be impounded. In the last couple of years the animals impounded have included pigs and goats. Municipal staff across the United Counties are discussing options related to the impounding of animals and how it may better be managed.

## **Public Engagement**

The Township of South Stormont will ensure residents have an opportunity to voice their concerns during this process.

The Township will provide public engagement in two phases:

Goals for phase one engagement are:

- Provide feedback on various options presented.
- Seek input on what else should be included in the By-law.

Goal for phase two engagement is:

- Seek input on potential Responsible Pet Ownership By-law amendments.

## **Next Steps:**

- August 2020: Staff research and review current procedures.
- September 2020: Initial public engagement, a survey on the Township website.
- October/November 2020: Collect data from the survey and draft Responsible Pet Ownership By-law with second public engagement opportunity.
- November/December 2020: Present final draft By-law to Council.

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