



CITY OF ST. ALBERT  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER**

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**TITLE: TRIAL PERIOD - REDUCED DOG LICENCE FEE FOR SENIORS**

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

On December 10, 2019 Councillor Watkins provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 of his intention to make the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, it must be formally moved.

**PROPOSED MOTION(S):**

That a one-year pilot project be conducted whereby the dog licencing fee for spayed or neutered dogs be reduced by 50% for residents over the age of 65 and that the estimated cost of \$32,000 be funded from stabilization reserve fund. After one year the pilot shall be assessed including among other things, the total cost to the municipality and usage.

**ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

N/A

**ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

N/A

**ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION**

N/A

## **BACKGROUND:**

Dog licence fees and processes are regulated through [Animal Bylaw 11/2013](#) .

The dog licence fees are established each year in accordance with [Council Policy C-FS-16 Municipal Fees and Charges](#).

2020 Dog Licence renewal invoices/reminders have been mailed out and as per the Animal Bylaw, are due by January 31, 2020.

If Council desires to implement a pilot project for a discounted dog licence fee for dog owners aged 65 and older, Administration would bring forward to Council an amendment to the Animal Bylaw 11/2013 in 2020 that would reduce the fees as indicated for the 2021 dog licence year.

Administration does not currently record the age of dog licence holders, and as such, is unable to advise Council on an accurate financial impact. Having said this, if Administration applies the current senior population of St Albert (18% according to the latest census information) to the 2019 number of dog licences (9,450), this equates to approximately 1,700 dog licences that are potentially held by seniors. The current spayed/neutered dog licence fee rate is \$38 (including the \$10 dog park surcharge). The estimated loss in revenue for a 1-year pilot project as proposed is approximately \$32,300 (based on the 50% proposed charge).

Other Administrative work related to the proposed pilot project would include:

- changes to dog licence software configuration for new fee categories,
- changes to the dog licence application form (i.e. age classifications), and
- adjustments to website/page content

Should Council pass the proposed motion, Administration would recommend that the discounted fee not be applied to the Dangerous Dog licence fee.

The dog licence fees established for 2020 have been provided as an attachment to this backgrounder.

Report Date: January 13, 2020  
Author(s): Bernd Gretzinger  
Department: Emergency Services  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer: Kerry Hilts  
Chief Administrative Officer: Kevin Scoble

Attachment 1 – 2020 Dog Licence Fees

<b>Fee Description</b>			
<b>New Dog Licence Fees</b>	<b>Base Fee</b>	<b>Dog Park Surcharge</b>	<b>Total</b>
New Dog Licence – Obtained January 1 to September 29	61.00	10.00	71.00
New Spay/Neutered Dog Licence – Obtained January 1 to September 29	28.00	10.00	38.00
New Dog Licence – Obtained September 30 to December 31	30.50	5.00	35.50
New Spay/Neutered Dog Licence – Obtained September 30 to December 31	14.00	5.00	19.00
<b>Renewal Dog Licence Fees</b>			
Renewal of Dog Licence on or before January 31	61.00	10.00	71.00
Renewal of Spay/Neutered Dog Licence on or before January 31	28.00	10.00	38.00
Renewal of Dog Licence on or after February 1 (50% increase – late fee)	91.50	10.00	101.50
Renewal of Spay/Neutered Dog Licence on or after February 1 (50% increase – late fee)	42.00	10.00	52.00
<b>Dangerous Dog Fees</b>			
Dangerous Dog Licence – payable upon determination date	250.00	10.00	260.00
Renewal of Dangerous Dog Licence on or before January 31	250.00	10.00	260.00
Renewal of Dangerous Dog Licence on or after February 1 (50% increase – late fee)	375.00	10.00	385.00
<b>Special Dog Licence Fees</b>			
Dog Licence – for proven rescue foster home	No Charge	No Charge	Nil
Dog Licence – for proven service, guide dog or service or guide dog in training	No Charge	No Charge	Nil

