



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	January 2, 2019	Report No:	CL-01-2019
Directed To:	Mayor and Members of Council	Attachments:	Draft Agreement with the Humane Society
Department:	Department of Council Services	Policy References:	
Prepared By:	Linda Jean – Deputy Clerk		
Subject:	Spay & Neuter Voucher Program & Cat Intake Program		

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report of the Deputy Clerk dated January 2, 2019 (CL-01-2019) providing an update on the Town of LaSalle Spay & Neuter Voucher Program BE RECEIVED; that Administration BE AUTHORIZED to include ear tipping in the Spay and Neuter voucher program process; that the continued partnership with the Windsor Essex County Humane Society include a cat intake program; that the intake program be capped at \$500.00 for 2019 as a test year as this item has not been included in the 2019 budget and that a corresponding By-Law BE ADOPTED during the By-Law stage of the agenda.

REPORT:

In an effort to reduce the number of feral cats in the Town of LaSalle, a Spay/Neuter Voucher Program was established where a maximum of five (5) vouchers are issued on a general request for feral cat caregivers or for a low income family to have their own cat(s) spay/neutered.

A maximum of 40 vouchers valued at \$50.00 each are available on a first come first served basis and can be used at participating veterinary hospitals and clinics.

The program began in 2015 and although it has been well received by residents, there has been a steady decline of vouchers used since the start of the program.

LaSalle Cat Spay & Neuter Program					
Year	# of Vouchers Issued	# of Feral Vouchers Used	# of Low Income Spay Vouchers Used	Budget	Actual Used
2015	40	37	0	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,850
2016	40	33	0	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,650
2017	40	27	0	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,350
2018	40	15	0	\$ 2,000	\$ 750

Upon contacting feral cat caregivers who were issued vouchers in 2018, it is the understanding that the drop in response to the use of the voucher once issued is due to the reduction of feral cats in our community or that the particular caregiver neglected to take the opportunity to use the voucher. Unfortunately, the actual number of feral cats within the Town of LaSalle cannot be accurately estimated and the reduction of feral cats in our community cannot be confirmed.

Beginning in 2019, a revised method of offering the Cat Spay and Neuter Voucher Program will be implemented by offering vouchers over two phases. Phase 1 will run from January 1st until July 31st. 40 vouchers will be available on a first come first served basis and will expire on July 31st. In the event that all 40 vouchers are issued before July 31st, any residents thereafter will be put on a waiting list for Phase 2. Phase 2 will begin August 1st until the end of the year. Any expired and unused vouchers will first be offered to those on the waiting list and any remaining vouchers will be offered to the public.

Social Media, the Town of LaSalle website and placing ads in the LaSalle Post will be used to communicate this information to the public.

The Town of Kingsville, Town of Amherstburg, Town of Tecumseh, Town of Leamington and the City of Windsor have also implemented a program such as this and have all had much success.

Several of our neighboring municipalities include a procedure on the spay and neuter voucher called "ear tipping" which is a procedure where the right ear of the cat is cauterized. This is the universal symbol indicating the cat has been spayed or neutered.

The Windsor Essex County Humane Society has agreed to offer ear tipping, a vaccine and a microchip at no extra cost when a cat is brought into their establishment with a Town of LaSalle voucher. It is recommended this procedure be added to our voucher program which will eliminate the duplication of feral cats being trapped and brought into the veterinary clinic.

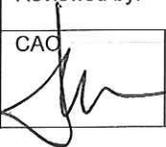
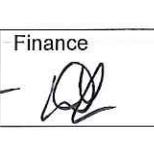
When a feral cat is brought to the Windsor Essex County Humane Society for disposition, a fee of \$30.00 is charged. The Town of LaSalle has one animal control contract which is for the provision of dogs. The current animal control program does not include services for the control of cats. At this time, it is not recommended that a cat control program be implemented through our animal control officer as the Windsor Essex Humane Society would need to be continually contacted to confirm capacity levels of the current shelter where a determination is made as to whether or not the shelter could manage an increase of relinquished cats.

As a solution, it is suggested we follow the example of neighboring Municipalities which have entered into an agreement with the Humane Society for cat intake services. It is recommended that the sum of \$25.00 be paid to the Human Society for the intake of stray cats from LaSalle residents. It is also recommended that the intake program be capped at \$500.00 for the first test year as this item has not been included in the 2019 budget. The intake program will be re-evaluated in the 2020 budget as further data is collected.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Jean
Deputy Clerk

Reviewed by:							
CAC	Finance	Council Services	Public Works	DSI	Culture & Rec	Fire	
							

THIS AGREEMENT made in duplicate this day of 2019

BETWEEN:

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LASALLE
(Hereinafter referred to as “the Town”)

-and-

WINDSOR/ESSEX COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
(Hereinafter referred to as “the Society”)

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle (the “Town”) recognizes that its citizens deliver stray cats to the Windsor/Essex County Humane Society (the “Society”) for the purpose of disposition;

AND WHEREAS the Society acknowledges receipt of said cats;

AND WHEREAS the Society has agreed to provide the Town with cat intake services from and after the 1st day of January, 2019, up to and including the 31st day of December, 2019 for a fee as is hereinafter provided for;

THEREFORE in consideration of the promises and other good and valuable consideration, the parties hereto mutually covenant, promise and agree as follows:

1. That the sum of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00) is the applicable fee to be paid to the Society (Intake Fee) for taking in stray cats from the residents of the Town of LaSalle. The Society understands that no additional fees will be invoiced to the Town from the intake of cats from Town residents; except in the circumstances outlined below in paragraph 6.
2. That the Society shall receive cats from Town residents upon their providing:
 - a. evidence of residing in the Town of LaSalle;
 - b. owner surrendered cats will be accepted from residents of LaSalle for the usual surrender fee, with the entire surrender fee paid by the owner;
 - c. feral cats that the finder has been caring for over a long period of time may be entered as owner surrendered cats, however, the fees charged to the Town will be the same as for stray cats. The Town recognizes that the Society discourages residents from bringing in feral or ear tipped cats, and that community cats may be returned to the area they were found after being altered and vaccinated.
3. That the Society shall maintain a record of all stray cats taken in from LaSalle residents; including the name, address and telephone number of the resident delivering the cat(s). The Society shall provide a monthly report to the Clerk for the Town, containing the foregoing information.
4. That the Town, upon receipt of the monthly report, shall submit to the Society the amount of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$25.00) per stray cat, as recorded on the monthly report, and subject to evidence and verification of Town residency.
5. That all cats received from Town residents shall be evaluated in the same manner as is the established practice of the Society. The disposition of cats is to be at the sole and absolute discretion and expense of the Society.
6. In the event that a stray cat received from a Town resident requires quarantining by the Windsor/Essex County Health Unit the cat will be quarantined for a period of ten (10) days at the rate of \$25.00 per day. The quarantine period fee shall be at the expense of the Town. After the quarantine period has passed, the disposition of a quarantined cat shall be at the sole and absolute discretion and expense of the Society.

This agreement shall expire on December 31st, 2019

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LASALLE

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Per:_____

Per:_____

Town of LaSalle

Melanie Coulter
Executive Director
Windsor-Essex County Humane Society