



Cat Control Voucher Program

Committee of the Whole March 20
2018

What the Experts Say – Why You Need A Program

Conflict & Health Risks

- Conflicts between neighbours, complaints by residents about cats running at large and howling at night.
- Public health risks to humans from **zoonotic diseases** and parasites.

Unwanted cats

- High pregnancy rates lead to many unwanted kittens
- Unwanted cats and kittens surrendered to shelters
- High rates of euthanized animals

Feral cat problem

- Unwanted cats and kittens abandoned in the wild
- Growth of feral cat colonies

Cost of animal control

- Municipal animal control budgets
- Humane shelter budgets
- Feral cat *societies* Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate costs

Environmental costs

- 2---7% of bird population killed by cats annually
- Small mammals, amphibians and reptiles killed by cats.
- Cats roam in sensitive habitats and impact species at risk.

What the Experts Say- Options

Bylaw	Added administrative costs	Added enforcement cost	Potential to reduce bird mortality	Potential to reduce cat over population
No Free Roam	Nil	Medium	Very high	Very high
Cats limited to owner's property	Nil	High	Medium	Medium
Spay/neuter requirement for cats sales/adoptions	Nil	Low	Low	High
Low--cost spay neuter fund	Low	Nil	Low	Medium
Licensing	Medium	High	Nil	Nil
Identification	Nil	High	Nil	Nil
No public feeding	Nil	High	Nil	Nil
Trap--Neuter & Rehome	High	Low	High	High
Trap--Neuter--Release	High	Low	Low	High
Live--trapping allowed	Low	Low	Medium	Low

Spay and Neuter Program

At the COW of March 20th, following directional elements for a program were passed.

- The program would be universal
- Pilot project would be until December 31, 2018
- Budget would be established at \$5,000

Key Terms – For this program only

- "Applicant" means a person who submits an application for a Spay or Neuter Voucher and/or an application for a Spay or Neuter Voucher for Feral Cats.
- "Application" means the form of Application for Spay or Neuter Vouchers established by the Municipality of South Huron from time to time.
- "Clerk" means the Clerk or delegate.
- "Funds" means the amount which may be allocated to the Spay or Neuter Vouchers in the Municipality of South Huron's annual budget.
- "Family" means the Applicant alone or with one or more persons who reside together and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

Key Terms – for this program only

- "Feral Cat" means a cat that is not accustomed to contact with people and is too fearful or wild to be handled and which may never adapt to living in close contact with people or is not an Owned Cat.
- "Owned Cat" means a cat that resides with and receives food, shelter and care from a Family.
- "Spay or Neuter Voucher for Feral Cats" means a voucher issued to an Applicant who is eligible in accordance with this Policy and who wishes to spay or neuter a Feral Cat.
- "Spay or Neuter Voucher" means a voucher issued to an Applicant who is eligible in accordance with this Policy and who wishes to spay or neuter an Owned Cat.



Voucher Criteria – Two Streams


Feral and Owned

An Applicant is eligible to receive Spay or Neuter Voucher if:

- he or she submits a completed and signed Application;
- he or she is 18 years of age or older; and
- he or she has resided in the Municipality of South Huron for one year or more

Voucher Criteria - Issuance

- to only one Applicant per Family;
- to an Applicant who is also in receipt of Spay or Neuter Vouchers for Feral Cats.



Voucher Criteria – Issuance

Low Income Families Only - *Optional*

- to only one Applicant per Family;
- to a maximum of 3 per Applicant; and/or
- to an Applicant who is also in receipt of Spay or Neuter Vouchers for Feral Cats.

Voucher Criteria – Issuance

Low Income Families Only - *Optional*

- Low Income Cut-Offs Before Tax ("LICO") means the income level as established by Statistics Canada from time to time at which a Family may be in strained circumstances because it has to spend a greater proportion of its income on necessities than the average family of similar size.



Voucher Criteria – Issuance

Low Income Families Only - *Optional*

- the annual before-tax income of the Family is no greater than the LICO will be the determining factor staff will use
- Should Council wish to proceed, a procedure will be established

Questions

