



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Director of Legislative Services/ Clerk**
Date: February 4 2019
Report: 9-2019
Subject: Cat Voucher Pilot Project

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receive the report from R. Msuya-Collison, Director of Legislative Services re Cat Voucher Pilot Project; and

That South Huron Council extend the pilot project for 2019 year.

Purpose: To provide information regarding the 2018 pilot project which provided assistance to residents in sterilizing cats.

Background and Analysis:

The Municipality received calls throughout 2017 from residents with concerns over stray cats in South Huron. After considering a variety of approaches, Council passed resolution #484-2017 which directed staff to investigate the idea of a pilot project to assist residents in sterilizing cats. The program was open to low income family cat owners and for everyone that trapped a feral cat for sterilization.

The municipality allocated funding for a pilot project to provide spay/neuter vouchers to qualifying individuals. Council decided \$75.00 would be paid directly to the participating veterinarian towards the surgery but that any costs that related to the procedure over and above this amount are payable to the veterinarian by the applicant.

The actual number of feral cats within the Municipality of South Huron cannot be accurately estimated for budget estimates so Council determined the pilot project would be established at \$5,000.00.

The first voucher was issued in July of which there was a total of 18 vouchers issued in 2018 (16 feral cat and 2 low income cat vouchers). Thames Road Veterinary Clinic and East Village Animal Hospital (EVAH) participated in this program. The total cost for the program in 2018 was \$600.00 as follows:

- a. \$150.00 – East Village Animal Hospital
- b. \$450.00 – Thames Road Veterinary Clinic

There are a few outstanding vouchers at this time as a voucher is valid for three months after issue. Residents that contacted the municipality with regards to stray and feral cats were advised of the pilot program. We have received some inquiries on whether the program will run again and received good feedback from residents that took part in the program.

The South Huron spay and Neuter Voucher Program policy is attached to this report for Council's review.

Operational Considerations:

1. Proceed another year with the program as outlined in the Spay and Neuter Voucher Program Policy as the program has not yet ran a full year. This is the preferred option as the program is already in existence and it will allow us to assess demand and need to move beyond the pilot project.
2. Change the qualifications, scope or funding for the pilot project.
3. Do nothing and finish the pilot project.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key objectives that are reflective of the collective perspectives of the strategic planning process. The recommendations and actions outlined in this report are reflective of the following strategic objectives:

- ✓ Improved recreation and community well-being
- ✓ Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership
- ✓ Transparent, Accountable and Collaborative Governance

Financial Impact:

The financial impact would vary depending on the number of vouchers issued and the popularity of the program. As this would be the second year of the program, there may be more applications.

Legal Impact:

There are no legal implications as a result of the actions outlined in this Report.

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report

Policies/Legislation:

Spay and Neuter Voucher Program Policy

Consultation:

D. Best, Chief Administrative Officer

Related Documents:

Spay and Neuter Voucher Program Policy

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Municipal Clerk
Director of Legislative Services