

Subject Area:	BYLAW	Policy #	3.19
Policy Title:	Animal Control Bylaw: Aggressive/Dangerous Dogs		
Authority:	Legislative (Council) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective date:	2010-01-11
	Administrative <input type="checkbox"/>	Review Date:	2015-01
Issued by:	Dan Scoones	Manager Bylaw & Licencing Services	Issue Date: 2010-01-11 Manner Issued: E-Mail to Bylaw Dept.

Policy Statement:

The Animal Control Officer shall, under the general direction of the Manager of Bylaw & Licencing Services or his designate, administer and enforce the provisions of the Animal Control Bylaw with respect to aggressive dogs as defined therein, and the provisions of the *Community Charter* with respect to dangerous dogs as defined therein.

All decisions regarding the disposition of aggressive or dangerous dogs shall be made in accordance with the following priority system:

1. The safety of the public
2. The City's liability position
3. The welfare of the animal involved
4. All other considerations

This policy statement shall be read and applied in conjunction with other City policies regarding animal control, and where applicable with other City policies involving bylaw enforcement.

Animals owned by the City that are deemed to be adoptable shall not be humanely euthanized except in cases of disease or infirmity where, in the judgement of the Animal Control Officer or the Manager of Bylaw & Licensing Services or his designate, there is no reasonable expectation of the animal's recovery.

Policy Procedure:

The Animal Control Officer shall respond to a dog-related incident, conduct an investigation, and determine whether a dog qualifies as an aggressive dog as defined in the Animal Control Bylaw. If the dog qualifies as an aggressive dog, the Animal Control Officer shall, having regard to the seriousness of the incident, designate the dog to be an aggressive dog.

When a dog is designated as an aggressive dog, the Animal Control Officer shall as soon as practicable issue a corresponding notice of designation to the person owning the dog or having custody or control of the dog.

If there are mitigating circumstances the Animal Control Officer may determine that the designation is not warranted. In this context, mitigating circumstances shall without limitation include the following:

- The level of seriousness of the incident
- The due diligence of the dog owner
- The existence of provocation factors

If upon investigation the Animal Control Officer determines that a dog qualifies as a dangerous dog as defined in the *Community Charter*, the Animal Control Officer shall take the legal steps prescribed therein, up to and including seeking a court-ordered destruction of the dog.

If a dog is owned by the City and the Animal Control Officer determines that the dog is adoptable, the Poundkeeper shall take appropriate actions to advertise the availability of the dog for adoption as prescribed by the Animal Control Bylaw and by the Poundkeeper's service contract with the City.

If no person comes forward to adopt the dog within a reasonable time, the Poundkeeper may release the dog to an outside agency for adoption, the suitability of such agencies to be determined in consultation with the Animal Control Officer and the Manager of Bylaw & Licencing Services.

If a dog is owned by the City and the Animal Control Officer determines that the dog is not adoptable on account of its having bitten a person, the dog shall be humanely euthanized.

If a dog is owned by the City and the Animal Control Officer determines that the dog is not adoptable on account of its aggressive behaviour, the dog shall be humanely euthanized, unless it appears that, in the opinion of the Animal Control Officer and having regard to all the circumstances, the dog can be successfully rehabilitated and thereby qualify as an adoptable dog.

In making the decision to attempt rehabilitation of the dog, the Animal Control Officer may seek the advice of a qualified animal assessor who has also been certified as an expert witness by a court of competent jurisdiction. The Manager of Bylaw Services shall develop and maintain a list of such qualified animal assessors and they shall be employed by the City on a rotation basis.

END OF POLICY

Record of Amendments: