

## REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

**SUBJECT**      **Bylaw No. 4686, “Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986, Amendment Bylaw No. 12, 2025”**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to amend Bylaw No. 1465 by increasing dog licence, breeding kennel and animal shelter impound and maintenance fees to align with current costs.

### **BACKGROUND**

Capital Regional District (CRD) Bylaw and Animal Care Services operate the CRD dog licence program, which includes dogs from the CRD electoral areas, Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Sooke, Metchosin and the Highlands. This was the first permanent licencing program across the CRD where dog owners renew their pet’s licence tag rather than replacing it annually, aligning with the CRD’s Sustainability Strategy. The permanent tags allow for real-time up-to-date information to be available to provide Bylaw Officers and staff the ability to reunite lost pets with their owners 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Dog licence and animal shelter fees help supplement Animal Services, including proactive education, outreach programs and the CRD Animal Shelter, which houses lost and abandoned animals from within the CRD. There are an average of 500 animals that are impounded at the CRD Animal Shelter annually: these include dogs, cats, small domestic animals, livestock and reptiles. Impounded animals are reunited with their owners, where possible, and if not claimed, they are adopted to a new home or transferred to other rescue agencies for medical assistance or rehabilitation. The CRD Animal Shelter actively avoids euthanizing animals, unless they are too ill/injured or aggressive to be rehomed, and has been recognized as having some of the highest rehoming rates nationally compared to other shelters. The number of unclaimed animals is rising – more than half of the animals that come into the CRD Animal Shelter are not claimed and require assessment, medical treatment, socialization and training before being adopted out to new homes. Due to the rising costs of staff, sheltering, training, food, supplies and veterinary fees, it can be difficult to maintain programs and the shelter or to promote them further without an increase.

The original dog licence fees were set when Bylaw No. 1465 was adopted in 1986. The last comprehensive increase in dog licence fees was in 2013, where fees were increased by \$5. Licence fees have remained static for 12 years.

Currently, there are approximately 12,450 licenced dogs throughout the CRD-managed areas. In order to narrow the gap with the rising costs for animal control and animal shelter services, a fee increase of \$15 for unaltered and altered dogs and a \$10 increase to the late fee is proposed.

<b>Dog Licence Type</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1986</b>
Male/Female (unaltered)	\$60	\$45	\$45	\$40	\$30	\$25	\$20
Spayed/Neutered (altered)	\$40	\$25	\$25	\$20	\$20	\$15	\$10
Late Fee	\$20	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$5

The CRD would continue to offer the \$5 discount per dog if current tags are renewed early (December 1-31) and a free licence for the year a dog was spayed or neutered. In addition, all CRD-licensed dog owners have access to a rewards program called “Petiquette Perks”, which provides discounts on local merchants and services.

The table shown in Appendix A, and summarized below, compares the proposed CRD dog licence fees to regional districts and municipalities across the province, showing the average, minimum and maximum fees in the comparison. The suggested increase is slightly above the average province-wide but well below the maximum for each fee.

	<b>Unaltered (M/F)</b>	<b>Altered (N/S)</b>	<b>Late Fee</b>
<b>Average</b>	\$59.63	\$31.89	\$12.11
<b>Minimum</b>	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$5.00
<b>Maximum</b>	\$82.00	\$65.00	\$33.00
<b>Proposed CRD Fees</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

Breeding and Boarding Kennel licence fees are for those dog owners who have more than four dogs on their property and it is appropriately zoned for the use, and they have an approved kennel in operation. These fees require updating to better align with other local bylaws and to simplify the process by having one fee for each type of kennel.

<b>Kennel Licences</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>
Breeding Kennel having four dogs or less	N/A	\$75
Breeding Kennel having five dogs or more	N/A	\$150
Breeding Kennel	\$200	N/A
Boarding Kennel	\$200	\$200

See Appendix B for the proposed dog licence and kennel licence fees changes to Schedule A in the bylaw.

An additional increase to the impound and maintenance fee for animals listed as Ass, Cattle, Goat, Horse, Monkey, Mule, Sheep, Swine, and any animal of the Bovine species is proposed to align with the dog impound and maintenance fees, as they are similar in care and needs.

See Appendix C for the proposed impound and maintenance fees changes to Schedule B in the bylaw.

<b>Impound and Maintenance Fees (Schedule B)</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>
Dog (per day)	1.5	\$25	\$15
Cat (per day)	2.2	\$15	\$10
Ass, Cattle, Goat, Horse, Monkey, Mule, Sheep, Swine, any animal of the Bovine species (Impound Fee)	3.1	\$75	\$50
Ass, Cattle, Goat, Horse, Monkey, Mule, Sheep, Swine, any animal of the Bovine species (per day)	3.2	\$25	\$20

See Appendix D for the proposed Bylaw No. 4686, “Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986, Amendment Bylaw No. 12, 2025”, and Appendix E for the consolidated bylaw showing the proposed changes.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4686, “Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986, Amendment Bylaw No. 12, 2025” be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4686 be adopted.

### *Alternative 2*

That Bylaw No. 4686 not proceed.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Financial Implications*

Animal Care Services is experiencing a significant increase in dogs and dog owners in the region. This has led to significantly increased call volumes, number of uncontrolled dogs, dog bites or attacks, lost and found animals, animal nuisance complaints and service expectations from the public. The proposed increase of fees is designed to ensure the costs of service are offset by pet owners, where appropriate, versus requisition increases.

While licence fee increases would be effective immediately upon bylaw adoption, most dog owners will have renewed their CRD dog licence(s) and, if not, the current late penalty of \$10 has already been applied as of March 1. Therefore, the new fees will not be experienced by dog owners who are late renewing their dog licences for 2025; only those dog owners who have not yet or never licenced their dog will be paying the proposed new fees. All current dog licence accounts will have the new fees applied when renewal invoices are sent December 1, 2025 for the 2026 licence year.

The proposed increases are anticipated to generate an additional \$200,000 in revenue from Dog Licence fees, which will be applied to supporting animal care and to future shelter capital requirements.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

The CRD provides Animal Care services to the three electoral areas as well as Sidney, Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, Highlands, View Royal, Colwood, Langford, Sooke, Metchosin, and the Pauquachin, Songhees and Tsawout First Nations. Sooke, Metchosin and Highlands are charged through requisition as if they were part of the service provided to the Electoral Areas, while all other participants are levied by contract.

The municipalities of Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Sooke, Metchosin and the Highlands are participants in the CRD dog licencing program and will be aligning with these new rates. The municipalities of Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney manage their own dog licencing program and will not be impacted by the proposed rate changes in dog licencing fees. Impound and maintenance fees will apply to all animals cared for at the CRD shelter.

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff have conducted a thorough comparison across the province and are confident that the proposed fees are consistent with those of regional districts and municipalities of similar size and are necessary to ensure the continued sustainability of animal care service delivery for service participants without increasing requisition.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4686, “Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986, Amendment Bylaw No. 12, 2025” be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4686 be adopted.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, C.D., BHSc., MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Housing, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Dog Licence Fee Comparison (Current 2025 Rates)
- Appendix B: Schedule A – Dog Licence Fees (Proposed)
- Appendix C: Schedule B – Animal Shelter Fees (Proposed)
- Appendix D: Bylaw No. 4686 – A Bylaw to Amend Bylaw No. 1465, Being "Animal Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 1, 1986"
- Appendix E: Consolidated Bylaw No. 1465 (Redlined)