

May 18, 2016

To: Members,
Community and Protective Services Committee

Re: Amendments to The Regina Animal Bylaw, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

1. That amendments to *The Regina Animal Bylaw, 2009*, Bylaw No. 2009-44 as identified in this report be approved.
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the required amending bylaw for consideration by City Council.
3. That the amendments to *The Regina Animal Bylaw, 2009*, Bylaw No. 2009-44 come into effect June 1, 2016.

CONCLUSION

City Council (Council) recently approved a recommended approach to the planning of off-leash dog parks. This approach includes the development of three additional fenced off-leash dog parks in the long term, as well as the opening of an off-leash dog park located in the East Industrial Area this summer. In addition, the Administration is also considering a new programming opportunity for dog owners. The opportunity is a dog swim, which would occur at a designated outdoor pool, at the end of the outdoor pool season before the pool is drained. Popular in other municipalities, this type of event has been requested by many Regina residents.

This report recommends amendments to *The Regina Animal Bylaw, 2009*, Bylaw No. 2009-44 (*The Regina Animal Bylaw*) to allow for pets to be off leash at the new off-leash dog park and on designated days at select locations, with the approval of the Director of Community Services. The report also proposes minor amendments to the bylaw, to provide clarity in its interpretation.

BACKGROUND

Off-leash dog parks and areas play an important role in providing spaces for pet owners to exercise their dogs. They often serve as a space for community interaction among pet owners. Council recently approved an approach to the future of off-leash dog parks for the city (report CR16-24). This approved approach included the opening of an off-leash dog park in the East Industrial Area, which was considered as part of a past zoning report (RPC12-21).

Along with development of the off-leash dog parks the Administration has also received requests from the community regarding the potential for a dog swim to occur at an outdoor pool after the end outdoor pool season, before the pool is drained. This type of event, popular among dog owners, is a popular event in several municipalities across Canada.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to amend *The Regina Animal Bylaw* to allow for dogs to be off leash within the East Industrial dog park and on designated days at outdoor pools as well as to allow the Director to provide exemptions from the on-leash requirement for other events on public property, such as dog agility contests. The report also proposes minor amendments to the Bylaw for consistency and clarity related to enforcement.

DISCUSSION

East Industrial Dog Park

On March 29, 2016, Council approved a long term plan for the development of off-leash dog parks in the City. This plan included the long term development of three fenced off-leash dog parks in new development areas in the south, east and north/west ends of the city. As an interim measure Council has also approved the opening of an off-leash dog park in the East Industrial Area in spring/summer 2016.

The East Industrial site was approved as a location for a potential off-leash dog park as part of zoning report RPC12-2. The report noted a storm detention area, required to manage run-off in the area, as a location that could be used as an off-leash dog park. Work to create the fenced storm detention area was completed in 2015. However, there is some work remaining in order to open the space for public use. This work includes the establishment of a maintenance road to facilitate ease of access to the bottom of the detention area and regrading of low spots to ensure the site is functioning correctly as a storm management area. Work will be completed as soon as the weather allows, in order to facilitate the opening of the park this summer. As a result, this site needs to be added to the *The Regina Animal Bylaw* as a site where dogs are permitted to be off leash.

Dog Swims at Outdoor Pools

In response to many community requests and the popular nature of these events in other municipalities, the Administration is planning to organize a dog swim at one outdoor pool at the end of the season, prior to draining the pool. Upon confirmation of details for the event, a promotional plan will be developed. As this event is being planned for summer, 2016, *The Regina Animal Bylaw* requires amendment to allow for dogs to be off leash at designated outdoor pools on designated days.

Additional Amendments

As part of the work to develop the dog park plan and dog swim the Administration conducted a review of *The Regina Animal Bylaw*. In order to ensure clarity and consistency in *The Regina Animal Bylaw* with respect to having dogs' off-leash the Administration is suggesting the following minor changes:

- Adding the word "handler" to the definition of Owner;
- Including consistent wording in the bylaw with respect to all users of off-leash parks and areas complying with the posted signage at the locations;
- Delegating authority to the Director of Community Services for approval of events that may take place in City parks or facilities with dogs off-leash; and
- Updating references to position titles that no longer exist.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this bylaw revisions requested in this report.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with the bylaw revisions requested in this report.

Policy and/or Strategic Implications

The development of off-leash areas supports the community priority to develop complete neighbourhoods, as identified in the City's Official Community Plan, *Design Regina* (2013). They serve as a place not only for dogs to socialize, but also for people with common interests to meet and enjoy the amenities that the City has to offer. The development of off-leash areas is also supported by the Council approved *Recreation Facility Plan* (2010).

Other Implications

There are no other implications associated with the bylaw revisions requested in this report.

Accessibility Implications

There are no accessibility implications associated with the bylaw revisions requested in this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Regina Humane Society, the neighbouring Dewdney East Community Association, the East Zone Board and Regina Off-leash Association have all been informed of the anticipated opening of the Ross Industrial Off-Leash Dog Park. A communications strategy will also be developed to notify the public of the opening of the new off-leash dog park, as well as to encourage people to abide by the bylaws, rules and regulations.

Upon confirmation of plans for a dog swim, the Community Services Department will work with Communications to promote the event to the public via the Leisure Guide, a Public Service Announcement and social media.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The recommendations contained in this report require City Council approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Shalley, Director
Community Services

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Onrait, Executive Director
City Services

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