



## TOWN OF COMOX

1809 Beaufort Avenue Ph: (250) 339-2202  
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### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2016

*We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'ómoks First Nation ... Gila'kasla ... Hay ch q' a'*

Meeting Location: Council Chambers, 1801B Beaufort Avenue, Comox

Call to Order: 4:15 p.m.

Adoption of the Agenda

**1. DELEGATIONS: NIL**

**2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS: NIL**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS: NIL**

**4. STAFF REPORTS:**

- (3) a. [2016 Completed Assessment Roll](#)

*That the Committee receive the staff report titled "2016 Completed Assessment Roll".*

- (7) b. [Status Update on Strategic Plan 2015-2018](#)

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (13) a. [Liz Naish - Situation at St. Joe's Hospital](#)

- (15) b. [Carrie Lumsden \(K9 Kind Dog Training and Behavior Consulting\) Animal control](#)

**6. EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC: NIL**

Adjournment

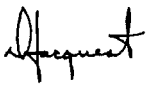
Deputy Corporate Administrator






## TOWN OF COMOX REPORT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

<b>FROM:</b>	Donald Jacquest, Director of Finance
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	2016 Completed Assessment Roll
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	January 13, 2016
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	January 6, 2016

  
Submitted by

  
Concurrence

  
Approval

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee receive the staff report titled “2016 Completed Assessment Roll”.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Town receives two full Assessment Rolls annually – the Completed Roll at the end of December and the Revised Roll (after initial assessment appeals), at the end of March. Assessment values are based upon a valuation date of the previous July 1<sup>st</sup>, and a property condition date of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, comparing the 2016 Completed Assessment Roll to the 2015 Rolls is generally a comparison of property values at July 1, 2015 with those at July 1, 2014.

Changes in assessment have two main drivers: the market value (price) changes of property, and non-market value changes to the real condition of property (real growth including subdivisions, new construction, changes in exemptions and zoning etc). We offset the market value changes by inverse adjustments in our general tax rates, class by class. By this I mean that if a property class (residential, commercial, etc) increased in market value on average, we would drop our general tax rate by that same average percentage – before adding a general tax increase. Likewise, if a class moves down in market value, our general tax rate would have to shift up to offset this – plus a general tax increase. The result is that the class of properties as a whole would pay the same amount of tax as before, plus a general tax increase.

Within each property class however, the differences in individual properties mean that most will have assessment changes somewhat different than the average, resulting in a small shift in the tax burden off of some properties and onto others. It is therefore very important that taxpayers understand what the typical change in assessment is for their class of property. If their property increased more than the average, it will result in a tax increase to their property taxes that is higher than average – sometimes much higher if their particular increase is significant.



This year the total single-family residential assessment has increased by 2.4%, which is a mix of non-market increases with market value increases. Focusing only on market value changes, single family homes increased by an average of 2.2% and strata residential units by an average of 0.2% in the past year. Because single family homes rose when strata units didn't, there will be a tax shift off of strata properties towards single family homes. This means that three quarters of single family homes will receive an ultimate tax increase that is higher than the general tax increase we apply this year, and that over 80% of strata properties will receive a tax increase that is less than the general tax increase we apply this year. To simplify this further, any residential property whose assessment rises by more than 2% will ultimately have a tax increase higher than our general tax increase percentage. I encourage anyone with an unexpected increase in assessed value to visit the BC Assessment website to check comparable assessments and contact BC Assessment in person (if necessary) to help determine whether to launch an appeal of the assessment by the February 1<sup>st</sup> appeal deadline.

The number of vacant residential lots in Comox has decreased due to 2015 construction from 154 to 135. That is still enough lots for several years of normal construction activity.

Commercial assessments are again mostly unchanged (89% increased by less than 1%, were unchanged, or went down). So as with residential assessments, I encourage anyone whose commercial assessments went up by more than that to investigate the reasons for the increase further (again - visit the BC Assessment website and contact them personally if needed before the appeal deadline).

The Non-Market Changes reported by BC Assessment should slightly exceed the \$37,000 we budgeted for new taxation this year. We will have to wait until we receive the Revised Tax Roll at the end of March to know exactly how much more this will be, because there are always changes in the roll arising from tax appeals.

The following page provides a schedule showing continuity of assessment from the most recent 2015 totals (Revised Roll) to the 2016 Completed Roll.

And as usual, I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have related to the 2016 Completed Roll or how we calculate tax rates.



## Town of Comox

### Continuity of Assessments (2015 to 2016)

D. Jacquest Jan 6, 2016

Property Class	Count	2015 Revised	Non Mkt Chg	Count	2016 Completed	% Mkt Chg
Residential Vacant	153	36,323,801	-4,691,000	135	32,219,901	
Residential Single Family	4,343	1,508,790,300	13,384,500	4,371	1,546,173,300	1.59%
Residential ALR	8	3,110,500	0	8	3,102,300	
Residential Strata	1,131	277,582,800	7,845,100	1,153	283,934,200	-0.54%
Residential Other	93	<u>58,348,000</u>	<u>2,164,100</u>	86	<u>59,563,500</u>	
<b>1 - Total Residential</b>	<b>5,728</b>	<b>1,884,155,401</b>	<b>18,702,700</b>	<b>5,753</b>	<b>1,924,993,201</b>	<b>1.17%</b>
2 - Utilities	11	808,800	440,600	12	1,250,100	
5 - Light Industry	2	79,000	0	2	79,000	
6 - Business & Other	262	117,763,601	793,950	259	116,773,451	-1.51%
8 - Rec/Non Profit	69	2,738,000	-174,000	73	2,701,000	
9 - Farm	4	<u>84,726</u>	<u>0</u>	4	<u>84,726</u>	
<b>Totals All Classes</b>	<b><u>6,013</u></b>	<b><u>2,005,629,528</u></b>	<b><u>19,763,250</u></b>	<b><u>6,039</u></b>	<b><u>2,045,881,478</u></b>	

Change in Average Home Values:	2015 Revised	2016 Completed	% Mkt Chg
Average Single Family Res Home	347,407	353,734	1.82%
Average Residential Strata	245,431	246,257	0.34%

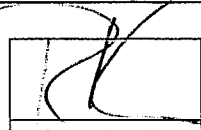
<u>Breakdown of Combined Assessment Changes:</u>	<u>Single Fam Res</u>	<u>Strata Res</u>	<u>Bus &amp; Other</u>
Up > 10%	2.3%	4.5%	5.4%
Up 5.0 - 9.9%	10.9%	5.5%	2.0%
Up 2.0 - 4.99%	39.9%	6.6%	3.0%
Up 1.0 - 1.99%	12.1%	4.7%	0.5%
Up < 1%	7.6%	8.2%	14.9%
0% or down	27.1%	70.5%	74.3%
<b>Average Change:</b>	1.89%	0.18%	-0.78%
<b>Median Change:</b>	2.21%	0.00%	0.00%

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# TOWN OF COMOX REPORT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

<b>FROM:</b>	<b>RICHARD KANIGAN, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>STATUS UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2018</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 13, 2016</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>JANUARY 8, 2016</b>

 <i>Submitted by</i>	 <i>Concurrence</i>	<i>Richard Kanigan CAO</i> <i>Approval</i>
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I have attached a copy of the Town of Comox current Strategic Plan for Comox, and I have modified it slightly by adding a column with a status update as of January 2016. As you will note, many of the items have been actioned and are under way. 2016 will prove to be a very busy year for the Town with the Marina Park Vitalization project scheduled to begin construction this spring (tentatively in April) along with the many other capital projects planned to be completed.

The document is provided for Council's information and to see if there are any items that Council would like to add at this point.

In terms of next steps, staff will be bringing forward a draft financial plan document to the next Committee of the Whole scheduled for January 27, 2016.



RK/II



## TOWN OF COMOX

### Message from the Mayor and Council

On behalf of all members of Council and staff, I am pleased to present the Town of Comox Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2018. This document sets the direction of the Town for the next four years and beyond. Much of what is included here is a reflection of the achievements of past Councils and it continues to build on those achievements.

An Official Community Plan (OCP) was adopted in 2011 after a comprehensive community consultation process over two years. The OCP and other associated planning documents are in place, and functioning well, and there is still work to be done. Comox will be facing some change over the next number of years as the hospital will be moving to its new location, so we have made it a priority to work with St. Joseph's hospital to develop what role it will play in our community in the future. In addition, the closure of the former Comox Elementary School site also provides opportunity for growth and revitalization in an established area of the Town.

In order that new development can proceed in a timely fashion, the strategic plan continues to provide the groundwork for continually improving our infrastructure in an aggressive and financially responsible manner with the development and implementation of an asset management policy and action plan. We are also committed to improving how we get our message out to the community through improved communications that reinforces our commitment to being fiscally transparent and accountable.

As a relatively compact community, residents enjoy many opportunities to walk in Comox to complete errands, to take in the beautiful waterfront, or to get away from it all in the magnificent greenspaces that have been preserved for all to enjoy. This strategic plan identifies these opportunities as a high priority and the Town will continue to improve these trails and connections to various greenways over the next four years.

One of our most exciting opportunity exists with the vitalization of the downtown core and marina waterfront area. Over the past few years, plans have been drawn up, extensive feedback has been provided by the community and grant applications have been submitted to make this project come closer to reality. We have a jewel of a downtown; waterfront, south facing, tremendous green space and high quality services all within walking distance. Council has committed to working with all stakeholders to bring more excitement, more people, more economic opportunities to the heart of Comox while retaining the small town feel that we have all grown to cherish and protect.

As you can see, we have an exciting future ahead of us, and we hope you join us for the success that is just ahead!

Mayor Paul Ives

March 4, 2015



## Strategic plan overview

<p><b>Purpose of the Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p>This strategic plan aligns with our 2011 Official Community Plan (OCP) vision statement. The 2015 strategic plan guides our work, sets goals and priority actions for the Town of Comox. It tells our citizens what Council plans to accomplish and sets performance measures and targets for assessing progress over the next four years.</p>
<p><b>Vision from 2011 Official Community Plan</b></p>	<p>The Town of Comox is an active residential community that welcomes all ages. The heart of Comox is the Downtown – a compact, pedestrian friendly area with a lively mix of commercial services, housing and public services. Comox enjoys strong connectivity within and between neighborhoods, commercial/service areas and the waterfront through a variety of transportation choices. Comox embraces its natural areas and surroundings, recreational opportunities and ambiance as a unique seaside town. Comox will grow in a way that maintains and enhances community livability.</p>
<p><b>Core Services</b></p> <p>What we do</p>	<p>Public safety and protection          Strong governance and administration          Financial management and accountability          Economic Development          Public works: infrastructure and engineering          Recreation          Parks          Arts and culture          Community development and planning</p>
<p><b>Strategic priorities</b></p> <p>In addition to core services, our strategic priorities for 2015 – 2018 include:</p>	<p><b>Downtown vitalization/marina enhancement</b>  <b>Fiscal balance/infrastructure asset management</b>  <b>OCP implementation</b>  <b>Comox Economic Development Plan implementation</b></p>

<p><b>Downtown Vitalization/Marina</b></p>				
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<b>Enhancement</b>			
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>01/16 Update</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Park in Marina Park</li> </ul>	Consider feasibility and design Consider funding and construction	2015 2016 - 2017	Rotary has committed to leading a fundraising campaign
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event Marketing for Marina Park and Downtown Comox</li> </ul>	Develop action plan for attraction of additional events throughout the year in Marina Park and downtown with the assistance of the BIA and CVEDS	2016 - 2017	Work to be undertaken once the waterfront project is underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with Comox BIA to ensure consistent priorities regarding Downtown Revit and Marina Vitalization</li> </ul>	Council Liaison to Comox BIA established  Seek feedback from Comox BIA on capital expenditure of \$48,000  In cooperation with Comox BIA, facilitate the implementation of a Downtown Façade improvement program	2015  2016  2016 - 2017	Ongoing  Have committed funds towards waterpark  To be considered next year

<b>Fiscal Balance/Infrastructure Asset management</b>			
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>01/16 Update</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Plan Open House</li> </ul>	Host Public Open House displaying upcoming capital projects	2015	Planned for spring of 2016 as well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset Management Program</li> </ul>	Complete inventory of engineering assets Develop an asset management plan  Ensure adequate funding for asset maintenance and replacement	2015  2016  ongoing	Ongoing  Ongoing  Part of financial planning process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MMBC – Recycling</li> </ul>	Resolve funding issue with MMBC and Province	2015	Mayor appointed to UBCM committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in Curbside Organics Collection in Comox</li> </ul>	Consider altering frequency of garbage pick up to every two weeks, organics and recycling collection on a weekly basis	2015	To be considered in 2016

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance Trail and Greenway Network in community</li> </ul>	<p>Continued focus on greenway development</p> <p>Trail development to improve connectivity through data collection</p> <p>Introduce way finding routes in community</p>	<p>2015 – 2019</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2015 - 2016</p>	<p>Ongoing work as part of capital plan for Parks</p> <p>Preliminary work done, incorporating into GIS In 2016 Capital Plan</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benefits of studies – (updating when necessary)</li> </ul>	Provide adequate and timely funding to ensure studies are current and updated	2015 - 2018	Ongoing
<b>OCP Impementation</b>			
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>01/16 Update</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider Affordable Housing initiatives</li> </ul>	Investigate potential partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and Comox Valley Transition Society for housing projects	2015 - 2016	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundary Extension – Hector Road, and completion of Storm Water Management Plan, Servicing Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Complete boundary extension application and submit to Province for approval</p> <p>Subject to approval, proceed with storm water and servicing plans</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>2016</p>	Application submitted and awaiting response Study funds in 2016 Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Tree protection bylaw</li> </ul>	Draft bylaw and consider adoption	2017	Slated for next year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Education – Role of Local Government</li> </ul>	Utilize newsletter and social media to provide clarification on role of local government	2015 -2018	Regular newsletters published. Increased use of Social media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refinement of Public Process – Development applications, Storm water management plan</li> </ul>	Evaluate amendments made to public process related to development process and the preparation of servicing plans for continued improvement	2015 - 2018	Ongoing

<b>Comox Economic Development Plan Implementation</b>			
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>01/16/Update</b>
St. Joseph's Hospital Future	Collaborate with St. Joseph's hospital board on developing a future plan for hospital site	2015 - 2018	Planned for 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comox Elementary School Site – Future</li> </ul>	Collaborate with SD 71 on the disposition or repurposing of former Comox Elementary School Site	2015 - 2016	Presently on hold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed Wing Search and Re</li> </ul>	Continue working with CVEDS and CVAC on attraction of FWSAR project to Comox	2015	Council approved tax exemption
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Airport L (Light Industrial)</li> </ul>	In cooperation with CVEDS, develop marketing strategy for the development of lands near airport	2016 - 2017	Will continue to work with CVEDS on strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harbour Air – Establishment of safe, overnight moorage for float plane</li> </ul>	Work with other waterfront stakeholders to find a suitable location for overnight floatplane moorage	2015 - 2017	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website Redo/Revamp</li> </ul>	Update website utilizing the fiscally conservative approach	2015	Started in 2015, to be completed in 2016

**Shelly Russwurm**

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**Subject:** FW: Situation at St Joe's Hospital, no space for elderly, don't allow more seniors' residences!  
**Attachments:** Letter to hosp. Dec 14, 2015.doc

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**December 14, 2015**

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**From:** "Elizabeth Naish" <lizbnaish@shaw.ca>

**TOWN OF COMOX**

**To:** [mswift@comox.ca](mailto:mswift@comox.ca), [bprice@comox.ca](mailto:bprice@comox.ca), [hmackinnon@comox.ca](mailto:hmackinnon@comox.ca), [mgrant@comox.ca](mailto:mgrant@comox.ca),  
[kgrant@comox.ca](mailto:kgrant@comox.ca), [ramott@comox.ca](mailto:ramott@comox.ca), [pives@comox.ca](mailto:pives@comox.ca)

**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2015 10:09:28 AM

**Subject:** Situation at St Joe's Hospital, no space for elderly, don't allow more seniors' residences!

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I'm sending on to you my letter to the hospital administration regarding the lack of space or facilities for the elderly at St Joe's currently.

I feel the hospital is in crisis right now, with FIFTY acute care (30 of them cleverly renamed "alternate level of care") beds being taken up with frail elderly waiting for a spot in

a nursing home. This is of course why there are long wait lists for elective surgery, and why sick people spend uncomfortable days on stretchers in Emergency.

I am particularly concerned that another addition to Berwick is being considered, which would add to the elderly population of Comox, and make the hospital under even more

stress. Wouldn't it be a good idea to have future supports in place before bringing yet more seniors to Comox??

Thank You,

Liz Naish, Retired RN,

#6 Sandpiper South, 1650 Comox Avenue, Comox B.C. V9M 3N2

250 941 1911

LOG: 15-510	REFER:	AGENDA:
FILE: 0400-03	ACTION: MR	RCM - Jan 6

December 14, 2015

Dear Ms Murphy, - - - , Don McRae,

St Joe's Hospital Comox is currently in crisis. I am angry about a couple of things.

Firstly one elevator has been out of action now for getting on for 2 weeks and the one remaining has had short periods of down-time during recent storms. The smaller elevator near the OR is out of bounds to the public, and worst of all . . .the stairwells at the corners of the building are off limits to the public, with a dinky little sign that says : "In case of fire, the door will open"! As I visit daily I have to wait and wait for the elevator, and give place, of course, to the food trolleys, patients going for treatments, bodies going to the morgue (YES!), and staff hurrying to their next duty. (You understand that the main stairwell doesn't go to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.)

Now what if there was a disaster; a major accident on the winter highway, a runaway bus on the ski hill (happened in the eighties), a plane crash, a cruise ship running aground (happened in Campbell River), or even , please no, a terrorist attack at the Air Base? St Joe's would have to suddenly be able to cope with an influx of injured victims, and would have to empty out its current in-patients, according to a pre-arranged plan. This would be impossible with the one elevator. It's just not on to have such bad maintenance!

Secondly the care of the "transitional elderly" is appalling. No fault of the staff . . its just the circumstances that mean that my frail 90 year old friend, with intermittent delusions, and inability to look after herself at home even with Home Support coming in twice daily, is housed in an acute care bed, waiting for a space in a nursing home. (This could take up to 6 months) She is right next to the nursing station where up to a dozen staff meet and talk 24 hours a day. She thinks, with her limited hearing and good imagination, that they have drinks parties every night . .she can hear the bottles clinking! The room has no decoration, there is nothing for her to do, and she is not allowed to go off the floor (except with a relative). She feels she is in jail, or worse, and has become more depressed, refuses to eat, and constantly wails she was doing no harm to anyone at home, and why does she have to stay here? It really is like a solitary confinement situation, and there's no end in sight. It's even difficult for her to get a drink of water, or a warm blanket. There is nowhere to go to get away from the incessant noise.

I understand that there are currently **FIFTY** patients like her in St Joe's, waiting for placement!!

"Care With Compassion" ??

Yours sincerely, Liz Naish, retired RN.

K9 Kind Dog Training and Behavior Consulting  
Carrie Lumsden  
1685 B Little River Road  
Comox, BC V9M 4C5  
250-792- KIND (5643)  
k9\_kind@hotmail.com  
[www.k9kind.ca](http://www.k9kind.ca)

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TOWN OF COMOX

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Mayor Paul Ives *and Council*  
Town of Comox  
1809 Beaufort Ave  
Comox,, BC V9M 1R9

LOG: 15-520	REFER:	AGENDA: Rcm
FILE: 4800-01	ACTION: MR	Law 6

Dear Mayor Ives,

I am writing to you regarding animal control in the Town of Comox. As a Dog Trainer, animal welfare advocate and a member of the community, I wish to improve animal control and welfare in order to benefit the residents and pets in the Town of Comox. Enclosed is a Dog Licence Initiative proposal for your review which has also been provided to the Mayor and each Council member of the Town of Comox.

The animal control bylaw, under which the Town of Comox operates, addresses various animal control issues. However, with full enforcement of the bylaw, as proposed in the enclosed initiative, the Town of Comox will further improve on the animal control service and safety in the community. As reported in the article of the Comox Valley Record of November issues are arising that go directly to the enforcement of the bylaw and community safety. Please see the following link. <http://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/eeditions/?iid=i20151020044435988>

This proposal offers a possible solution to this issue as well as a public awareness program animal and community the Town of Comox and will generate a new revenue stream without requiring the use of the Town's existing resources.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience to discuss this matter further.

Regards,

Carrie Lumsden

**The Town of Comox**  
**Dog Licence Initiative Program**  
**2016**

***K9 Kind***  
*Dog Training & Behavior Consulting*  
**Carrie Lumsden, CTB.CCS**  
Certified Professional Dog Trainer  
& Behavior Therapist



250-792-KIND (5463)  
www.k9kind.ca  
k9\_kind@hotmail.com

*Great Dogs Don't just  
"Happen"*



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**This proposal is not a request for funding in fact, is a new revenue source for the Town of Comox**

### **Executive Summary**

This proposal brings together the expertise of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada and makes us patently aware of the benefits of bylaw enforcement and the licencing of dogs. These groups make up the National Companion Animal Coalition which was formed in 1996 to promote socially responsible pet ownership and enhance the health and well-being of companion animals.

Evidence shows that while bylaws may exist, often enforcement and licencing take a back seat to other more pressing issues. Municipalities can address these problems by enforcing bylaws that discourage irresponsible breeding, encourage proper socialization which will reduce aggressive behavior and benefit management of all breeds, and that require dogs to be licensed. The enforcement of municipal dog bylaws will result in reduced pound costs due to fewer unidentified stray dogs, increased revenue from licence fees and fines, a reduction in the dog population due to incentives to spay and neuter, and a reduction in conflicts between dogs and the public. A public awareness program will be a significant benefit to encourage compliance.

K9 Kind will undertake the Dog Licencing Initiative Program in addition to acting as an agent for the sale of dog tags. Currently, Comox Animal control is responsible for the delivery of animal control which includes making dog tags available for sale at their offices or through their staff while on patrol in Comox. K9 Kind's program goes beyond the scope of the existing animal control contract, in that the Town of Comox will proactively be promoting the benefits of dog licences in order to promote the importance of responsible dog ownership.

Without licences, Comox Animal Control is not able to identify many of the lost animals that arrive at shelters or rescues. Further, the lack of licencing enforcement results in the loss of a key revenue generating opportunity. K9 Kind recommends that dog licencing be aggressively pursued as a core service.

When the Dog Licencing Initiative Program is introduced, the municipality will need to conduct a public awareness program to help dog owners understand the issues and what are their responsibilities. This will be done by K9 Kind Inc. in a positive way to encourage compliance. By highlighting the benefits to the animals themselves, as well as the public at large, Comox residents will understand the need for responsible pet ownership. Further, all of the significant health and behavioral benefits to spaying or neutering dogs will be part of the public awareness portion of the program.

## Rationale

### Why it is Important ?

#### The residents of Comox need to know:

- a. that the City Council is making sure that its existing bylaws are being enforced;
- b. that there is an adequate mechanism for finding their lost dog;
- c. that all residents feel safe and un-harassed by loose dogs in public places;
- d. that all residents will be aware of animal control processes and their responsibilities as pet owners;
- e. they will know that their dogs welfare is being protected

#### The Town of Comox will benefit by:

- a. an increased revenue stream through licencing;
- b. compliance with Comox Animal Control Bylaw 1322, Section 4.1 to 4.7;
- c. increased community and health benefits through the licencing of dogs;
- d. quicker and more frequent re-unification of lost pets with their owners, reducing animal stress and health and safety risks;
- e. reduced shelter needs and lower euthanasia rates due to the increased proportion of lost pets reunited with their owners;
- f. improved ability to plan and deliver animal control services because the size, type and location of the dog population will be known;
- g. improved ability to enforce Township bylaws because owners can be identified and held accountable for the behavior of their animal (s); (please refer to the letter and the link contained therein)
- h. improved ability to identify patterns of animal related problems through information obtained with the annual licence.

## **Licensing/Identification**

One of the roles of municipal animal control bylaws is to encourage responsible pet ownership through licensing and spay/neuter requirements. Tags should also be worn as proof of ownership so that animals may be returned to their owners more quickly. As a result of tags being worn, dogs are often returned by neighbours without incurring pound costs. Municipalities have the option of offering incentives for pet owners who comply with the bylaw by reducing licence fees and fines for dogs that are spayed or neutered. Compliance is encouraged by implementing stiff fines for failing to obtain and wear a licence. To give the bylaw in the Comox Valley more credibility and substance, it is recommended that licence fees are adjusted to remain comparable to the licence fees of the surrounding areas. With the increased revenue from increased licence fees, enforcing the bylaw does not become a cost to the City of Courtenay. Municipalities have recognized this and have adjusted their licence fees accordingly. (see Appendix A)

According to an Ipsos Reid Survey conducted in Toronto in 2007 only 16% of dogs are licensed. 2013 statistics from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies show that 49% of canine intakes in shelters are stray dogs as opposed to owner surrendered, cases of abuse, transferred from other shelters or born in shelters. Only 25% of all canine intakes are returned to their guardian. Increasing the percentage of dogs licensed in the Town of Comox will increase the number of dogs reunited with their owners.

Responsible pet owners save municipalities money by reducing the number of dogs running loose, by preventing nuisance dogs through indiscriminate breeding and by keeping their pets under control. The theory underlying breed-specific laws, which indicate that some breeds bite more often and cause more damage than others - ergo laws targeting these breeds - will decrease bite incidence and severity, has not met with success in practice. (See Appendix B "Statement of Breed Specific Legislation" compiled by the ASPCA, particularly the highlighted sections, for references to this paragraph) Breed specific legislation is often thought of as a solution to reduce the number of dog bites in a community. However, there is no supporting scientific evidence showing that the number of bites is reduced. In fact, studies show that breed specific legislation causes more problems in a community: reduced medical care of dogs and training of banned breeds resulting in an increase of canine disease such as rabies; an increase in dog bites caused by other breeds; and perhaps the most harmful unintended consequence of breed-specific laws, the tendency to compromise rather than enhance public safety. As certain breeds are regulated, individuals who exploit aggression in dogs are likely to turn to other unregulated breeds. An effective alternative to breed specific bylaws include dog licensing laws that hold dog guardians accountable for failure to adhere to animal control laws and enhanced enforcement of dog license laws. Revenue from licensing and fines can be allocated to offset pound costs and for education programs throughout the municipality.

Also the Ipsos Reid Survey noted that in other municipalities, approximately one-third of the population will licence their pets once they become aware of the benefits of licensing and the legal requirements to do so. Frequent and visible presence in the community is critical to raising this awareness. For example, proactive licence sales in Toronto have resulted in an increase of new licence applications by 68%. Also it should be noted that some municipalities closer to home like Ladysmith and Duncan proactively sell licences which is the underlying tenet of this proposal.

## **Neutering (Spay or Castration)**

In Canada pet overpopulation is a major problem. It is currently a significant factor in the euthanasia of 18% of dogs in animal shelters across the country every year (Canadian Federation of Humane Societies 2013 statistics from Canadian shelters). Municipalities should be part of the solution to this problem by modifying/enforcing by-laws that encourage and reward responsible pet owners who licence, permanently identify and spay and neuter their pets.

## **Responsibilities of Owner**

There are many responsibilities that come with pet ownership. Some of these responsibilities are for the benefit of the animal, and some are for the benefit of society. It is important that municipalities enact bylaws that both require and encourage responsible pet ownership. In a fast-paced society where decisions are made quickly and things are easily disposed of, pets often become victims of neglect. As well as costing the animals their quality of life, such neglect also costs taxpayers money in enforcement, pound costs, euthanasia, etc.

## Proposal

### About K9 Kind

K9 Kind Inc. was founded in 2011 in the Comox Valley by Carrie Lumsden who is a Canadian Certified Dog Trainer, an IPDTA (International Positive Dog Training Association) Certified Dog Trainer and member, a Certified Behavior Therapist and a Certified Dog Trainer and Assessor. Carrie sought to utilize her post secondary background in business and her 15 years of experience working in animal shelters, animal rescues, animal control and veterinary clinics to address the need for better education and awareness regarding the care and training of dogs in an effort to reduce the number of dogs being surrendered to shelters and euthanized for behavioral reasons. 34% of shelter intakes in Canada are due to owner surrender. 80% of the dogs being surrendered have behavioral issues of varying degrees. Given that shelters have limited resources, there is rarely enough funding to train and rehabilitate dogs with behavioral issues. Without addressing these problems the likelihood that these dogs will be adopted is greatly reduced. By educating owners about the need for early training and socialization, and the importance of early spaying and neutering, K9 Kind Inc. improves the quality of life for dogs and reduces the number of dogs entering shelters system via surrenders.

During Carrie's career in animal welfare, as an employee at the SPCA, veterinary clinics, animal rescues and animal control, she has seen first hand the impact of the benefits of proactive license sales and community education programs. Carrie has also participated in animal rescue working with and in remote territories, and therefore has an understanding of the difficulties inherent in smaller communities. Her experience includes: animal rescue and rehabilitation both behaviorally and medically; dog training; adoption counseling; home inspection to determine the suitability of prospective adopters; volunteer coordinating; disease control; bylaw enforcement; impounds and relinquishment; volunteer fundraising for societies who mandate rescue and protect dog welfare; and kennel, cattery and livestock operations.

Carrie currently owns a 2 year old Great Pyrenees mix named Chay who is a Certified Therapy Dog through St. John's Ambulance. Together they volunteer in the community of Comox at senior's homes visiting with the residents. As well Carrie co-founded the Taking The Lead Canine Therapy Program at École Au-Coeur-de-l'île, the francophone school in Comox. The program offers canine therapy to children with developmental and behavioral disabilities that serves to teach children leadership skills while working with dogs. Please see the following link. <http://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/eeditions/?iid=i20151020044435988>

### Purpose

Without identification, Comox Animal Control is not able to identify many of the lost animals that arrive at shelters. By licencing all dogs, many of the animals brought into the shelter can be reunited with their owners which will decrease the number of dogs relinquished, hold owners accountable for abandoned or nuisance dogs and increase the revenue collected to support animal control services.

The Dog Licencing Program will also serve to compile a record of all resident dogs, who owns them and where they live making Animal Control complaints much easier to resolve. Animal Control Officers will be able to search the data base by tag number, address, and breed. This program compliments, as opposed to competes with, the current animal control provided by Comox Animal Control. Together, K9 Kind and Comox Animal Control will have a greater capacity to deliver a full service compliment and strengthen the level of service provided to the residents of Comox.

## Objectives

K9 Kind will;

- a. market the Dog Licence Initiative Program through radio, newspaper, veterinarians and pet stores
- b. hire and train a team of Canvassers to deliver the public information campaign to the Town of Comox
- c. respond to inquiries and licence refusals
- d. remit licence sales and revenue monthly
- e. analyze data and meet with the Town of Comox to establish goals every quarter
- f. work with realtors, the Welcome Wagon, churches, Volunteer Comox and the Immigrant Welcome Center to identify newcomers to Comox and develop a package for distribution
- g. e-mail or mail licence renewal letters for 2017 dog licences

The Canvassers will;

- a. canvass the Town of Comox delivering the public information and selling dog licences
- b. remit licence sales on a weekly basis

## Education

The Dog Licensing Initiative Program will serve to educate the public on the benefits of responsible dog ownership through dog licensing. Pet owners must be aware of their responsibilities to their pets. Their pets should not annoy or harass their neighbors or other animals that share the environment. This can result in many negative impacts including dog bites, threats to people or animals, damage or contamination of property, pet overpopulation and abuse or neglect of animals. The solution involves effective legislation and education that encourages responsible pet ownership.

K9 Kind will educate the public about proper canine socialization, the benefits of early spay and neuter as well as early training and socialization to prevent behavioral issues in adulthood that result in a higher volume of dogs in shelters. (See appendix C) Information on spaying and neutering covers both cats and dogs even though cat licensing is not a requirement of the bylaw or the Dog Licence Initiative Program.

An important aspect of responsible pet ownership is the neutering of companion animals to prevent the birth of more puppies needing homes. The Town of Comox already encourages pet owners to have their pets spayed or neutered with preferential licence fees for altered dogs. The Dog Licensing Initiative Program is an opportunity to educate pet owners about the health and behavioral benefits of neutering their pets, as well as their social responsibility to do so. A description of this educational process can be found in the marketing section. (page 6)

It is important for municipalities to keep in mind that dangerous dogs are generally the result of irresponsible ownership. Dogs can become a threat if they are not properly socialized and trained, if they are mistreated or if they are deliberately bred or encouraged to attack people or animals.

As a critical part of this proposal educating the public in responsible pet ownership will dramatically contribute to compliance of the Town's bylaw.

## **Management and Personnel**

K9 Kind Inc. will be responsible for the hiring and recruiting of the staff necessary to canvass the residents of Comox. They will also manage and complete payroll for all personnel working within the Dog Licencing Initiative Program. Staff will be managed by the President of K9 Kind Inc. The personnel will be trained to sell licences to the public in a non-confrontational and professional manner. Candidates that possess exceptional communication, conflict resolution with cognitive skills will be chosen for the positions. Since this is a new program we are aware that some residents might be resistant to change, therefore all employees will be trained to be diplomatic and sensitive to a program that demands change.

Should residents refuse to speak with a Canvasser, they will not be reported to Comox Animal Control. They will be given another chance to speak to the Coordinator of the Dog Licence Initiative Program about responsible pet ownership and the licencing requirements in a non-confrontational manner. In this way we are encouraging residents to voluntarily participate in the Dog Licence Initiative Program. Should they refuse a second time their name and contact information will be turned over to Comox Animal Control for follow up using the bylaw enforcement contract as they see fit.

The Dog Licence Initiative Program will in turn create jobs in Comox and will not affect current city jobs. K9 Kind Inc. will be responsible for: record keeping; accounting; remittance of licence sales to the Town of Comox on a monthly basis; designing and ordering of all forms and supplies needed to operate the program and; payroll for all personnel.

## **Marketing Strategy**

Marketing will work as a strategy to mitigate the impact of initiating a new program where non-participation may lead to penalties. Marketing for the Dog Licence Initiative Program will raise awareness of responsible pet ownership, gain support from the public and ensure revenue collected from licence fees. To ensure new members of the community are aware of the licencing requirements, K9 Kind will collaborate with the Town of Comox, real estate agents, the Welcome Wagon and community churches.

K9 Kind has done preliminary research showing that veterinarians and pet stores have indicated a willingness to participate in a licencing awareness program with counter displays. Media advertising including radio, is shown to be most effective. (Toronto Dog Licencing Initiative Program) Radio and newspaper ads will circulate prior to the commencement of canvassing residents.

It is expected that a large percentage of people will willingly licence their pets once they become aware of the benefits and of the bylaw requirements. Also, there must be a significant level of enforcement to support the marketing campaign. People should know that there is a penalty for non-compliance.

K9 Kind reviewed and considered numerous marketing strategies, the results of which indicate that the strategy employed in this proposal will not only be effective in terms of licences purchased, but will also be cost effective for the Town of Comox.

### Timeline of Services 2016

Date	Activities	Outcome	Milestones
January 2016	Establish contacts, meeting with the T of C, working with Comox Animal Control, developing of all necessary materials	Completion of preparation for the 2016 Dog Licence Initiative Program	Launch of the Dog Licence Initiative Program
February 2016	Commence marketing through radio, newspaper, veterinarians and pet stores, meeting with the T of C	Connect with >50% of the residents informing them of dog licence requirements. Reduce canvasser wages.	Increased voluntary compliance from previous year
February 2016	Meeting with the T of C (See Appendix D)	Review Dog Licence Initiative Program goals	
January 2016 - February 2016	Hire and train a team of Canvassers to deliver the public information campaign on behalf of the T of C	All staff will meet residents of C in a professional and courteous manner. They will be knowledgeable, clear and concise in their delivery of the information package (See Appendix C)	Staff have all completed training
March 2016 - June 2016	Canvass the T of C residents delivering the public information and selling dog licences	Canvassers will visit every residential dwelling in the T of C selling dog licences to dog owners (100% coverage) (See Appendix C, E and F)	Compile a complete record of all resident dogs in the T of C. Provide educational materials regarding: the proper care and control of domestic animals; the behavior and health benefits of early spaying and neutering and the importance of early training and socialization to reduce future behavior problems. (See Appendix C, E, F and G) (>90 dog licence sales)
May 2016	Meeting with the T of C	Review Dog Licence Initiative Program goals	
March 2016 - June 2016	Licence refusals	Residents will be directed to the Project Coordinator (K9 Kind) who will discuss licence requirements and arrange for a canvasser to return to the residence (See Appendix H)	Improved refusal rate by >50%. 100% turned over to Comox Animal Control. Full enforcement of the bylaw.
March 2016 - June 2016	Licence refusals not resolved by the Project Coordinator	An unlicensed dog complaint will be made by the Project Coordinator to the Comox Animal Control (See Appendix I)	By August 2016 the T of C will have a complete record of all resident dogs and >90% of the licence revenue will be collected
September 2016	Meeting with the T of C	Review dog Licence Initiative Program goals	
September 2016 - October 2016	Work with realtors, the Welcome Wagon, Volunteer Comox, the Immigrant Welcome Centre and churches to identify newcomers to CR and develop a package for distribution	With feedback from residents in 2016, develop a package for distribution for newcomers	Contact with >90% of new residents providing education for newcomers of the existing animal control bylaws and dog licencing requirements. >90% compliance of the bylaw
November 2016 - December 2016	Licence renewal reminders are e-mailed for 2017 dog licences	An increased number of residents of the T of C will willingly comply, to the previous year to the dog licencing requirements reducing the need for Canvassers	Increased licence revenue compared to previous years for the T of C



### Timeline of Services 2017

Date	Activities	Outcome	Milestones
January 2017	Meeting with the T of C	Review Dog Licence Initiative Program goals	
January 2017 - February 2017	Voluntary licence purchases by the residents of C	Reduced need for Canvassers	Increased voluntary licence sales
March 2017 - June 2017	Canvassers return to all dwellings that own dogs based on data from previous years to renew dog licences that have not already done so.	>90% compliance of the bylaw	Maintenance of complete database of resident dogs and work towards zero tolerance
July 2017	Renew contract with the T of C	Continued compliance with the bylaw, revenue collection and improved animal welfare	
December 2017	Licence renewal reminders are emailed for 2018 dog licences	An increased number of residents of the T of C will willingly comply, to the previous year to the dog licensing requirements reducing the need for Canvassers	Increased licence revenue compared to previous years for the T of C

### Revenue Projection 2016

#### Predicted Dog Population in Comox

32.3% of households have a dog and there are 1.38 dogs per household

5,974 dwellings in Comox thus there are approximately 2,663 dogs in Comox

According to an Ipsos Reid Survey (see below) conducted in Toronto in 2007 only 16% of dogs are licenced.

69% of dogs are spayed or neutered

Based on these statistics, if all dogs in Comox are licenced it would generate the following revenue each year of the Dog Licence Initiative Program providing that the licence fees are raised to \$20 for altered dogs and \$40 for unaltered dogs.

2,663 dogs

1,838 @ \$20 altered = \$36,760 licence revenue

826 @ \$40 unaltered = \$33,040 licence revenue

Total predicted licence revenue = \$69,800

Less 16% - \$11,168 (dogs that are currently licenced)

Uncollected dog licence revenue - \$58,632

*Based on Ipsos-Reid's proprietary Canadian online panel the national demographic results were weighted to reflect the true population distribution across Canada. The panel was balanced on all major demographics to mirror Statistics Canada census information.*

*Source: The Business of Urban Animals Survey: The facts and statistics on companion animals in Canada.*

*Applied to the Township of Comox to provide an estimate of the pet population*

## 2015 - 2016 Budget

<b>Projected Revenue (New Revenue Stream)</b>	
Predicted Licence Revenue	\$58,632

<b>Payroll Expenses (Incurred by Kind)</b>	
Project Coordinator	\$14,000
Wages and Salaries (represents EI, CPP, Vacation Pay and Wages)	\$20,443
WCB	\$405
Criminal Record Checks * This amount may be deducted from the budget if the T of C has their own process for criminal record checks	\$210
Administration Staff	\$600
Project Trainers	\$1,600
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$37,258</b>

<b>General and Administration Expenses</b>	
Facility Rental	\$1,607
Advertising	\$2,161
Office Supplies	\$1,753
Telephone	\$1,357
Travel	\$274
Canvasser Supplies	\$703
Computer Hardware/Software	\$1,800
Educational Materials	\$1,090
Other overhead costs	\$ 1,075
<b>Total General and Administration Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,820</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$49,078</b>
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<b>Net Profit to Town of Comox</b>	<b>\$9,554</b>
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successful completion of activities for the 2016 calendar year will form the basic budget to be negotiated with the town for future years. Future contract subject to change (increase/decrease) depending on documented actual time

## Conclusion

Establishing the Dog Licence Initiative Program in the Town of Comox will:

- a. proactively work towards licencing all dogs residing in the Town;
- b. act as a bylaw enforcement tool, meeting the requirements of existing bylaws created by Town Council;
- c. create an education program that encourages responsible pet ownership;
- d. informs all of their responsibilities as dog owners; and
- e. creates new revenue for the Town of Comox

Most dog owners recognize the need for licencing programs and are willing to comply. The Dog Licence Initiative Program will save the Towns of Comox costs from the complaints of free-roaming dogs and will prevent indiscriminate breeding. The return on investment for this initiative has both increased financial return as well as social benefits that can potentially impact all residents of Comox. Comox Valley is named as one of the top five quality of life destinations in Canada. Initiating this program can only enhance these standards.

## Appendix A - Licence Fees of Surrounding Areas

### **Courtenay**

Altered - \$5

Unaltered - \$25

### **Comox Valley**

Altered - \$10

Unaltered - \$30

### **Campbell River**

Altered - \$20

Unaltered - \$40

### **Nanaimo**

Altered or unaltered - \$30

### **Parksville**

Altered - \$25

Unaltered - \$35

### **Township of Langley**

Paid by Feb 1

Cost after Feb 1

Altered \$21

\$31

Unaltered \$50

\$60

## Appendix B - Breed-Specific Legislation – ASPCA

Dog attacks can be a real and serious problem in communities across the country, but addressing dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs can be a confusing and touchy issue. **Breed-specific legislation (BSL) is the blanket term for laws that either regulate or ban certain dog breeds in an effort to decrease dog attacks on humans and other animals.** However, the problem of dangerous dogs will not be remedied by the “quick fix” of breed-specific laws—or, as they should truly be called, breed-discriminatory laws.

### Who Is Impacted by Breed-Specific Laws?

Regulated breeds typically comprise the “pit bull” class of dogs, including American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers and English Bull Terriers. In some areas, regulated breeds also include a variety of other dogs like American Bulldogs, Rottweilers, Mastiffs, Dalmatians, Chow Chows, German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers or any mix of these breeds—and dogs who simply resemble these breeds.

Many states, including New York, Texas and Illinois, favor laws that identify, track and regulate dangerous dogs individually—regardless of breed—and prohibit BSL. However, more than 700 U.S. cities have enacted breed-specific laws.

### Are Breed-Specific Laws Effective?

**There is no evidence that breed-specific laws make communities safer for people or companion animals.** Following a thorough study of human fatalities resulting from dog bites, **the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) decided to strongly oppose BSL.** The Center for Disease Control cited, among other problems, the inaccuracy of dog bite data and the difficulty in identifying dog breeds (especially true of mixed-breed dogs). Breed-specific laws are also costly and difficult to enforce.

### What Are the Consequences of Breed-Specific Laws?

BSL carries a host of negative and wholly unintended consequences:

- **Dogs Suffer.** Rather than give up beloved pets, owners of highly regulated or banned breeds often attempt to avoid detection by restricting their dogs’ outdoor exercise and socialization—forgoing licensing, microchipping and proper veterinary care, and avoiding spay/neuter surgery and essential vaccinations. Such actions can have a negative impact on both the mental and physical health of these dogs.

In addition, breed-specific laws can create a climate where it is nearly impossible for residents to adopt and live with such a breed—virtually ensuring destruction of otherwise adoptable dogs by shelters and humane societies.

- **Owners Suffer.** Responsible owners of entirely friendly, properly supervised and well-socialized dogs who happen to fall within the regulated breed are required to comply with local breed bans and regulations. This can lead to housing issues, legal fees or even relinquishment of the animal.

- **Public Safety Suffers.** Breed-specific laws have a tendency to compromise rather than enhance public safety. When animal control resources are used to regulate or ban a certain breed, the focus is shifted away from effective enforcement of laws that have the best chances of making communities safer: dog license laws, leash laws, anti-animal fighting laws, anti-tethering laws, laws facilitating spaying and neutering and laws that require all owners to control their dogs, regardless of breed. Additionally, guardians of banned breeds may be deterred from seeking routine veterinary care, which can lead to outbreaks of rabies and other diseases that endanger communities. Breed-specific laws may also have the unintended consequence of encouraging irresponsible dog ownership. As certain breeds are regulated, individuals who exploit aggression in dogs are likely to turn to other, unregulated breeds. Conversely “outlaws” may be attracted to the “outlaw” status of certain breeds. The rise of pit bull ownership among gang members in the late 1980s coincided with the first round of breed-specific legislation.

### What Are the Alternatives to Breed-Specific Laws?

There is no convincing data to indicate that breed-specific legislation has succeeded anywhere to date.

The CDC has noted that many other factors beyond breed may affect a dog’s tendency toward aggression—things such as heredity, sex, early experience, reproductive status, socialization and training. Conversely, **studies can be referenced that point to clear, positive effects of carefully crafted breed-neutral laws.** A breed-neutral approach may include the following:

- **Enhanced enforcement of dog license laws**
- Increased availability to low-cost sterilization (spay/neuter) services
- Dangerous dog laws that are breed-neutral and focus on the behavior of the individual guardian and dog
- Graduated penalties and options for dogs deemed dangerous
- Laws that hold dog guardians financially accountable for failure to adhere to animal control laws
- Laws that hold dog guardians civilly and criminally liable for unjustified injuries or damage caused by their dogs
- Laws that prohibit chaining, tethering and unreasonable confinement, coupled with enhanced enforcement of animal cruelty and animal fighting laws
- Community-based approaches to resolving reckless guardian/dangerous dog questions that encompass all stakeholders, available dog bite data and recommended realistic and enforceable policies

## ASPCA Policy and Position Statements

### Background

Despite the well-established strength of the human-animal bond (Wensley, 2008), exemplified by the nearly 74 million dogs kept as companion animals in the United States, coexistence is not always peaceful. In the U.S., approximately 334,000 people visit emergency rooms annually for dog bites (Bradley, 2006), with an additional unknown number of individuals incurring other dog bite-related injuries (e.g., breaking a bone while fleeing a threatening dog) (AVMA, 2001). Notwithstanding relative stability in the number of dog bites over time (Bradley, 2006), and the fact that according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) only two percent of those seeking emergency room treatment for dog bites each year are actually hospitalized (CDC WISQARS), some communities have enacted laws that intensively regulate or even ban certain dog breeds in an effort to decrease dog attacks on humans (AVMA, 2001). Often, such laws are responses to a particularly violent individual dog attack or, as some hypothesize, result from media campaigns that negatively portray a particular breed (Capp, 2004). However, the theory underlying breed-specific laws—that some breeds bite more often and cause more damage than others, ergo laws targeting these breeds will decrease bite incidence and severity—has not met with success in practice. To understand the ASPCA's opposition to such laws, it is critical to examine what is known about which dogs bite and why, which dogs are most dangerous, and the impact of breed-specific laws to date.

**The CDC strongly recommends against breed-specific laws in its oft-cited study of fatal dog attacks, noting that data collection related to bites by breed is fraught with potential sources of error (Sacks et al., 2000).** Specifically, the authors of this and other studies cite the inherent difficulties in breed identification (especially among mixed-breed dogs) and in calculating a breed's bite rate given the lack of consistent data on breed population and the actual number of bites occurring in a community, especially when the injury is not deemed serious enough to require treatment in an emergency room (Sacks et al., 2000; AVMA, 2001; Collier, 2006). Supporting the concern regarding identification, a recent study noted a significant discrepancy between visual determination of breed and DNA determination of breed (Voith et al., 2009).

A variety of factors may affect a dog's tendency toward aggression; these include heredity, early experience, socialization and training, sex and reproductive status (Lockwood, 1999). **For example, intact males constitute 80 percent of all dogs presented to veterinary behaviorists for what formerly has been described as dominance aggression, are involved in 70 to 76 percent of reported dog bite incidents, and are 2.6 times more likely to bite than neutered dogs, while unspayed females "attract free-roaming males, which increases bite risk to people through increased exposure to unfamiliar dogs," and "contribute to the population of unwanted" and potentially aggressive dogs (Gershman et al., 1993; Sacks et al., 2000; AVMA, 2001).** Chaining and tethering also appear to be risk factors for biting (Gershman et al., 1993), and programs that target tethering have proven effective in reducing bite rates (Sacks et al., 2000; AVMA, 2001). Other factors implicated in dog aggression are selective breeding and raising of dogs for elevated aggression, whether for protection, use in dog fighting competitions, social status or financial gain (Bradley, 2006); abuse and neglect (Delise, 2007); and inadequate obedience training and supervision (Shuler et al., 2008).

Breed-specific laws must also be evaluated from a welfare perspective. Although intended to improve community safety and comfort, ultimately these laws can cause hardship to responsible guardians of properly supervised, friendly, well-socialized dogs. In some localities, the list of banned breeds includes not just American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Bull Terriers and Rottweilers, but also a variety of other breeds, including American Bull Dogs, Mastiffs, Dalmatians, Chow Chows, German Shepherd Dogs, Doberman Pinschers and any mix of these breeds. Although guardians of these dogs may have done nothing to endanger the public, they nevertheless may be required to choose between compliance with onerous regulations or forfeiture of their beloved companions, and may even be required to forfeit their companions outright. In Prince George's County, Maryland, where Pit Bull Terriers are banned, the Animal Management Division reports that 80 percent of the approximately 500 to 600 animals seized and killed by animal control every year under the ban are "nice, family dogs" (Taylor, 2009).

Even laws that ostensibly are only regulatory may impose a de facto ban on a breed, creating a climate where it is nearly impossible for residents to live with such breed, and virtually ensuring destruction of otherwise adoptable dogs by shelters and humane societies. In Ohio, due to a state law that classifies all pit bulls as "vicious" and imposes various requirements on their guardians, pit bull guardians have great difficulty locating housing and obtaining homeowners' or renters' liability insurance, and most Ohio shelters have a pit bull non-adoption policy. The consequences have been disastrous: while in 1996, 101 Ohio animal control agencies reported handling 2,141 dogs deemed to be pit bulls, in 2004, 68 agencies reported handling 8,834 such dogs, of whom only 1,425 (16 percent) were reclaimed by their original guardians or adopted by new ones, and 7,409 (84 percent) were killed (Lord et al., 2006). In addition, dogs outside a targeted breed may become "collateral damage" of breed-specific laws. The Prince George's County pit bull ban places significant pressure on the county shelter, which has limited space and yet must hold pit bulls during the pendency of lengthy legal



## Appendix B Continued - Breed-Specific Legislation – ASPCA

proceedings. As a result, the shelter has had to euthanize hundreds of otherwise adoptable dogs of many different breeds due to lack of space, and has suffered decreased adoption rates because there are so few dogs available (Taylor, 2004).

**Perhaps the most harmful unintended consequence of breed-specific laws is their tendency to compromise rather than enhance public safety. As certain breeds are regulated, individuals who exploit aggression in dogs are likely to turn to other, unregulated breeds** (Sacks et al., 2000). Following enactment of a 1990 pit bull ban in Winnipeg, Canada, Rottweiler bites increased dramatically (Winnipeg reported bite statistics, 1984-2003). By contrast, following Winnipeg's enactment of a breed-neutral dangerous dog law in 2000, pit bull bites remained low and both Rottweiler and total dog bites decreased significantly (Winnipeg reported bite statistics, 1984-2003). In Council Bluffs, Iowa, Boxer and Labrador Retriever bites increased sharply and total dog bites spiked following enactment of a pit bull ban in 2005 (Barrett, 2007).

**Also of concern is the possibility that guardians of regulated or banned breeds will be driven "underground...making criminals of otherwise law-abiding people" and deterring them from seeking routine veterinary care, including having their dogs inoculated against rabies.** In this regard, it is worth noting that whereas rabies currently kills one or two Americans annually and in some years none, up until the mid-twentieth century it killed approximately one hundred Americans annually. Worldwide, rabies currently kills approximately 55,000 people a year, "ninety-nine percent [of whom] are estimated to have contracted the disease from domestic dogs" (Bradley 2006).

**It must also be considered that if limited animal control resources are used to regulate or ban a certain breed of dog, the focus is shifted away from routine, effective enforcement of laws that have the best chance of making communities safer: dog license laws, leash laws, animal fighting laws, anti-tethering laws, laws facilitating animal sterilization and laws that require guardians of all dog breeds to control their pets. In 2003, a task force formed to study the effectiveness of the Prince George's County pit bull ban concluded the ban to be extremely costly while providing little attendant financial or public safety benefit to the county and noted that, as a direct result of the ban, "Animal Management Division human resources [are] stretched thin...thus reducing their ability to respond to other violations of the [Animal Control] Code."** The task force recommended that Prince George's County repeal the ban (Prince George's County Task Force, 2003). However, while out-of-county pit bull adoptions were initiated, for political reasons the ban was not repealed. The Ohio pit bull law, enacted in 1989, has been accompanied by a doubling of dog fighting complaints by Ohio animal control agencies—from 14.6 percent of animal control agencies making complaints in 1996 to 29 percent of animal control agencies making such complaints in 2004 (Lord et al., 2006). Yet studies examining the impact of Britain's Dangerous Dog Act of 1991 and the Spanish Dangerous Animals Act of 1999 (notwithstanding their names, both laws are breed-specific) indicate that the targeted breeds were not significantly associated with bite incidence prior to enactment of either law and that bite incidence failed to decrease post-enactment (Klaassen et al., 1996; Rosado, 2007).

**Thus, the ASPCA is not aware of credible evidence that breed-specific laws make communities safer either for people or other companion animals. There is, however, evidence that such laws unfairly target responsible pet guardians and their well-socialized dogs, are inhumane, and impede community safety and humane sheltering efforts** (Sacks et al., 2000; Wapner, 2000; Taylor, 2004).

### ASPCA Position

Although multiple communities have been studied where breed-specific legislation has been enacted, no convincing data indicates this strategy has succeeded anywhere to date (Klaassen et al., 1996; Ott et al., 2007; Rosado, 2007). Conversely, studies can be referenced that evidence clear, positive effects of carefully crafted, breed-neutral laws (Bradley, 2006). It is, therefore, the ASPCA's position to oppose any state or local law to regulate or ban dogs based on breed. The ASPCA recognizes that dangerous dogs pose a community problem requiring serious attention. However, in light of the absence of scientific data indicating the efficacy of breed-specific laws, and the unfair and inhumane targeting of responsible pet guardians and their dogs that inevitably results when these laws are enacted, the ASPCA instead favors effective enforcement of a combination of breed-neutral laws that hold reckless dog guardians accountable for their dogs' aggressive behavior. Ideally, a breed-neutral approach should include the following:

## Appendix B Continued - Breed-Specific Legislation – ASPCA

- **Enhanced enforcement of dog license laws, with adequate fees to augment animal control budgets and surcharges on ownership of unaltered dogs to help fund low-cost pet sterilization programs in the communities in which the fees are collected. To ensure a high licensing rate, Calgary, Canada—its animal control program funded entirely by license fees and fines—imposes a \$250 penalty for failure to license a dog over three months of age (Calgary Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, 2006).**
- Laws that mandate the sterilization of shelter animals, ideally before adoption, and make low-cost sterilization services widely available.
- Enhanced enforcement of leash/dog-at-large laws, with adequate penalties to ensure that the laws are taken seriously and to augment animal control funding.
- Dangerous dog laws that are breed-neutral and focus on the behavior of the individual guardian and dog (taking care to ensure that common puppy behaviors such as jumping up, rough play and nipping are not deemed evidence of dangerousness). Graduated penalties should include mandated sterilization and microchipping (or other permanent identification) of dogs deemed dangerous, and options for mandating muzzling, confinement, adult supervision, training and owner education. In aggravated circumstances—such as where the dog seriously injures or kills a person, or a qualified behaviorist who has personally evaluated the dog determines that the dog poses a substantial risk of such behavior—euthanasia may be justified. In Multnomah County, Oregon, a breed-neutral ordinance imposing graduated penalties on dogs and guardians according to the seriousness of the dog’s behavior has reduced repeat injurious bites from 25 percent to seven percent (Bradley, 2006).
- **Laws that hold dog guardians financially accountable for a failure to adhere to animal control laws, as well as civilly and criminally liable for unjustified injuries or damage caused by their dogs. Calgary, Canada, has reduced reported incidents of aggression by 56 percent and its bite incidents by 21 percent by requiring guardians of dogs who have displayed aggression to dogs or to humans to pay fines ranging from \$250 to \$1500 (Calgary Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, 2006).**
- Laws that prohibit chaining or tethering (taking care also to prohibit unreasonable confinement once a dog is removed from a chain), coupled with enhanced enforcement of animal cruelty and animal fighting laws. Lawrence, Kansas, significantly reduced dog fighting and cruelty complaints by enacting an ordinance prohibiting tethering a dog for more than one hour (Belt, 2006).
- Further, the ASPCA supports a community-based approach to resolving the reckless guardian/dangerous dog question whereby all stakeholders—animal control, animal shelters, medical and veterinary professionals, civic groups, teachers, public officials—collectively identify an appropriate dog bite prevention strategy. Central to this model is an “advisory council or task force representing a wide spectrum of community concerns and perspectives” whose members review available dog bite data, current laws, and “sources of ineffectiveness” and recommend realistic and enforceable policy, coupled with outreach to the media and educational efforts directed at those in regular contact with “dog owners and potential victims” (e.g., medical and veterinary professionals, animal control/shelters, teachers) (AVMA, 2001).
- In summary, the ASPCA advocates the implementation of a community dog bite prevention program encompassing media and educational outreach in conjunction with the enactment, and vigorous enforcement, of breed-neutral laws that focus on the irresponsible and dangerous behavior of individual guardians and their dogs. The ASPCA believes that this approach—promoting education in the appropriate care, training and supervision of dogs as well as state and local laws that address licensing, reproductive status, chaining/improper confinement, cruel treatment and at-large dogs; imposing civil and criminal liability on guardians for their negligent and reckless behavior; and targeting problematic dogs and guardians early with progressively escalating penalties—constitutes the most compassionate, fair, efficient and ultimately effective means of resolving concerns related to dangerous dogs in the community.

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**The Town of Comox  
Dog Licencing Initiative Program**

1809 Beaufort Ave – Comox, BC – V9M 1R9  
phone: 250 339-2202 – fax: 250-339-7110



**Why should I have my pet spayed or neutered?**

Animal shelters, both public and private, are faced with an incredible burden: What to do with the overpopulation of dogs and cats for which they cannot find homes. Approximately 3.5 million animals are euthanized at shelters in Canada each year, due to the primary fact that there are not enough willing adopters. Having your pet spayed or neutered ensures that you will not be adding to this tremendous burden.

**What are some of the health and behavioral benefits?**

Through neutering and spaying, you can help your dog live a happier, healthier, and longer life. Spaying a female dog eliminates the inconveniences associated with the heat cycle and the burden of male dogs roaming to mate, becoming, thus, a nuisance. The long-term benefit of spaying and neutering results in improving the health of dogs. Spaying females prior to their first heat cycle substantially eliminates the risk of breast cancer and totally prevents uterine infections and uterine cancer.

Neutering of male dogs can prevent certain undesirable sexual behaviors, such as urine marking, mounting, male aggression and the urge to roam. As well, neutering your male dog, prior to puberty (5 to 6 months of age), will result in a stronger bond between you and your dog being one that reduces the likelihood of unwanted sexual behavior which is a distraction when training your dog. If you have more than one pet in your household, all the pets will generally get along better if they are neutered. Neutering also prevents testicular cancer and enlargement of the prostate gland, and greatly reduces their risk for perianal tumors.

**Should I allow my purebred dog to have just one litter?**

Mixed breed or purebred — there just aren't enough good homes. Purebred animals also often end up in shelters. In fact, 25 percent of shelter dogs are purebreds. Responsible purebred breeders have homes for their potential litters before they breed and are educated to promote proper socialization and problematic behavior prevention.

**Is it wrong to deprive an animal of the natural right to reproduce?**

No, your dog will not suffer from not having a litter. It is wrong to allow these animals to reproduce millions of unwanted offspring that are eventually euthanized because there aren't enough responsible homes.

**Shouldn't every female pet have at least one litter before being spayed?**

No. In fact, your pet will be healthier.

**If I find homes for my pet's litters, then how am I contributing to the problem?**

Only a finite number of people want pets. So every home you find for your pet's offspring takes away a home from a loving animal already at a shelter. Also you do not have control over the offspring being bred by the new owners of the litter.

**Did you know that proper socialization of puppies should take place within the first 4 months of age?**

Puppies should have positive experiences with 100 people and 100 dogs prior to 16 weeks of age. Proper socialization greatly reduce the risk of behavior problems down the road. Behavior problems are the primary reason why people surrender dogs to shelters. Far too many puppies develop utterly predictable, yet easily preventable, behavior, temperament and training problems, because many breeders and owners use outdated and ineffective training techniques. Rather than creating another shelter dog, learn how to raise *your* puppy to stay in *your* home ... forever. - Ian Dunbar Veterinarian and Animal Behaviorist

*Adopted from the ASPCA and Dr. Ian Dunbar Veterinarian and Animal Behaviorist*

**For more information regarding the Dog Licence Initiative Program Please contact Carrie Lumsden at 250-792-KIND (5463) or  
k9\_kind@hotmail.com**

## **Appendix D - Requirements from the Town of Comox**

- Map of civic addresses
- Database of civic addresses
- Records of current licences sold by February 28th, 2016

## Appendix F - Receipt

### The Town of Comox

1809 Beaufort Ave – Comox, BC – V9M 1R9  
 phone: 250 339-2202 – fax: 250-339-7110



Dog Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Name	Breed	Description	Social Behavior	Sex	Altered	Licence No.	Fees
							\$
							\$
							\$

Date	Payment Type	Total \$
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**Dog Owners may be required to provide proof of spay or neuter.**

**2017 dog licences will be available January 2nd, 2017 and can be purchased at the Town Hall.**

## Appendix G - Canvasser Return Form

**The Town of Comox**  
**830 Cliffe Ave,**  
1809 Beaufort Ave – Comox, BC – V9M 1R9  
phone: 250 339-2202 – fax: 250-339-7110

### Sorry we missed you.

The Town of Comox is launching the Dog Licencing Initiative Program in an effort to improve animal control services as well as animal welfare in our community. Bylaw No. 1322, Section 4.1 to 4.7 requires all dog owners residing within the Town limits to hold a current dog licence. The Dog Licencing Initiative Program will ensure all dogs are identified and in turn will reduce the number of stray dogs and ensure your dog will be returned to you if they become lost.

We are dedicated to providing superior animal control services and promoting responsible pet ownership in our community.

Please contact Canvasser No. 01  
at 250-123-4567  
to arrange a time for us to return at your  
convenience.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
For inquiries regarding this program please contact  
Carrie Lumsden at  
250-792-KIND (5463) or [k9\\_kind@hotmail.com](mailto:k9_kind@hotmail.com)



**The Town of Comox  
Dog Licencing Initiative Program**

1809 Beaufort Ave – Comox, BC – V9M 1R9  
phone: 250 339-2202 – fax: 250-339-7110



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**Licence Refusal**

The Town of Comox is launching the Dog Licencing Initiative Program in an effort to improve animal control services as well as animal welfare in our community. Bylaw No. 1322, Section 4.1 to 4.7 requires all dog owners residing within the Town limits to hold a current dog licence. Failure to licence your dog/s can result in a fine of \$50 for each dog. Dog licencing revenue funds animal control and reunites stray dogs with their owners.

Since you refuse to purchase a licence from our Canvasser we require that you contact Carrie Lumsden between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday at 250-792-KIND (5463) within 5 business days.

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Sponsored by K9 Kind Dog Training

[www.k9kind.ca](http://www.k9kind.ca)



# Appendix I - Animal Control Complaint Form

## The Town of Comox Animal Control Complaint

Reporting Person - K9 Kind Dog Licencing Initiative Program

Date - \_\_\_\_\_

The following statement is true to the best of my knowledge

Dog Owner's Name - \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Owner's Address - \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Incident - \_\_\_\_\_

Violation - Unlicensed dog

Dog Breed - \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Description - \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Breed - \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Description - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature - \_\_\_\_\_ Date - \_\_\_\_\_ 2016