

DECISION NOTE

Title: Financial Eligibility Requirements for The Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Date Prepared: February 18, 2020

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Maggie Burton, Chair

Ward: Not Ward Specific

Issue: Low Volume of Surgeries Being Performed

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The City provides a low cost spay/neuter program for residents of St. John's with a goal of decreasing the cat overpopulation issue.

The cat spay program is performed at the Humane Service division (maximum 140 surgeries per year). The cat neuter program has been outsourced to the Kenmount Road Animal Hospital (ability to perform 500++ surgeries per year).

There has been a low response from residents for both programs but specifically the cat neuter program. The cat spay program had an uptake of 50/105 for April-December 2019. The cat neuter program had an uptake of 28/500++ for the same period.

The Kenmount Road Animal Hospital also performs the SPCA low cost program surgeries and performed 276 cat neuters for the SPCA in 2019. This equals 248 more than the City cat neuter program.

One of the barriers in residents availing of the program is the net income level threshold.

The City's eligibility requirements are:

- combined family net income of \$25,000 or less.
- ages 65 or older receiving the guaranteed income supplement.

The SPCA's eligibility requirements are:

- combined family net income of \$ 40,000 or less.
- single net income \$25,000 or less.

Program to be revised to include the following:

Changes to be made to the income level to match that of the SPCA with a goal of making the program more accessible to residents and increasing the number of surgeries performed per year. As a result of making these changes there would more greatly impact in the cat overpopulation issue.

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Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications

N/A

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders

N/A

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans

- **Strategic Plan 2015-2018 Goal: *Responsive and Progressive***
Identify and deliver on projects, strategies and programs.

4. Legal or Policy Implications

N/A

5. Engagement and Communications Considerations

Public information when eligibility level is changed.

6. Human Resource Implications

N/A.

7. Procurement Implications

N/A

8. Information Technology Implications

N/A

9. Other Implications

N/A

Recommendation

That Council approve the following changes to the low income spay/neuter program with an implementation date of March 1, 2020.

- **Income eligibility updated to:**
 - **Single \$25,000 or less.**
 - **Combined family income \$40,000 or less.**

Prepared by/Date/Signature:

Cindy R. McGrath, Manager, Humane Services

Signature: _____

Heather Hillier, Shelter Veterinarian

Signature: _____

Approved by/Date/Signature:

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Tanya Haywood, DCM

Signature: _____

Attachments:

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