



## Corporation of the Township of Brock

### Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Sarah Jones

**Position:** Supervisor By-Law Enforcement and Animal Services

**Title / Subject:** By-Law and Animal Services Division Q1 Report

**Date of Report:** April 3, 2024

**Date of Meeting:** April 29, 2024

**Report No:** 2024-PS-005

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#### 1.0 Issue / Origin

The Supervisor of By-Law and Animal Services is responsible for preparing and presenting quarterly reports.

#### 2.0 Background

Council has requested in each quarter a reporting on the activities of the By-Law and Animal Services Department, including the Township of Brock Dench Animal Shelter. This report represents the first quarter report (Q1) from January 2024 to March 2024. The statistics for the quarterly reports are generated, but not limited to, emails, phone calls, and tracking software and programs used by the Department, FirePro (Bylaw) and Shelter Buddy (Animal Shelter).

#### 3.0 Analysis

In the 1st quarter of 2024 the Township of Brock By-Law and Animal Services Department responded to incidents/investigations in both by-law and animal services. The mild winter that the Township of Brock has experienced has influenced the Q1 numbers, especially with respect to parking infraction notices as we had minimal days of snow thereby reducing the number of parking infractions for any snow events. The most significant factor the mild winter has had is in animal services and specific to wildlife care and control. The Township experienced an outbreak of the distemper virus among wild animals, most specifically raccoons and skunks. Distemper is highly infectious and causes the animal infected to present a wide range of symptoms which include but are not limited to neurological symptoms, discharge from eyes, nose and mouth, general confusion, and lethargy. As well, many infected animals show little to no fear of humans and domestic animals and can become aggressive.

Many of the symptoms can closely resemble the rabies virus which can cause panic for the public and is a zoonotic disease transmittable to both humans and pets to which there is no cure. The only way to 100% distinguish between distemper and rabies would be through an autopsy and testing of the brain, something which is done only when the rabies suspected animal has bitten or attacked a person and in some cases a pet. It is important to note, that at this time, the rabies virus has not been found to be in Ontario.

Additionally in the first quarter, the animal shelter has experienced success in finding homes for the high number of dogs that the shelter experienced in the 2023 season. Staff remain positive that the high number of dog's experienced in 2023, often called "Covid Puppies" maybe experiencing a downward trend.

This report also includes phone calls, emails, and inquiries for both bylaw and animal control related calls and the animal shelter which includes but is not limited to; staff visits to veterinarian and animal pickups, and transfers and visits by the public to the shelter for adoptions, animal claims etc.

Charts 1-4 identify the number of emails, calls, and investigations and licensing inspections for the By-Law Enforcement and Animal Services Department.

### **Chart 1 – By-Law Enforcement and Animal Services**

#### **Q1 Phone Statistics + Emails**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Q1 2024</b>	<b>Q1 2023</b>
<b>Parking</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Property Standards</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Building/Public Works</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fireworks/ Illegal Burn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other Depts / Council</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Noise</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Nuisance</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Zoning</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Animal Related</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Fence</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Licensing</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>

**Chart 2 – Phone and Email Statistics/Service Calls – Dench Animal Shelter Q1**

Phone Call Type	Q1 2024	Q1 2023
Adoptions	82	48
Wildlife Injured	45	2
Dog/Cat At large	10	13
Feral Cats	17	9
Lost/Found Pets	16	10
Barking	0	0
Surrenders	6	15
PAWS	4	3
Donations	12	20
Animal Interference / Bite	3	2
Vet	4	2
Other	37	27
Emails	337	247

**Chart 3– Service Calls Attended By-Law Enforcement and Animal Services Q1**

Call Type	Q1 2024	Q1 2023
Parking Infractions	136	177
Parking Other	17	2
Property Standards	9	14
Fireworks	0	0
Illegal Burn	1	2

<b>Noise</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Nuisance</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Animal Services (General)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Wildlife Injured/Abandoned</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Animal Dog Bite/Animal Attack</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Zoning</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

**Chart 4 – Licenses – Inspected and Issued Q1 2024**

<b>Licensing</b>	<b>Q1 2024</b>	<b>Q1 2023</b>
<b>Breeding and Boarding Kennels</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Doggie Day Care</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Campgrounds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Taxi/Limo</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Wrecking Yards</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**Fines/Charges/Court Updates Q1 2024**

By-Law Type: Nuisance x 2 (2022)  
 Status: To be spoke to May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

By-Law: Noise By-Law x 1  
 Charge: Part 1 – Unnecessary Noise (2022)  
 Status: 2023 (fine yet to be paid)

By-Law: Noise By-Law (2023)  
 Charge: Part 1 – Unnecessary Noise  
 Status: No Update – in court - pending

By-Law: Animal Control x 1 (2024)

Charge: Animal at Large  
Status: In Court First Appearance Date not yet set.

By-law: Animal Control x 2 (2023)  
Offence: Keep Or Harbour More Than Permitted Dogs  
Failure to purchase License  
Status: In Court First Appearance Date not yet set

By-Law: Animal Control x 2 (2024)  
Charge: Dog at Large  
Failure to purchase License  
Status: Conviction

By-Law: Animal Control x 2 (2024)  
Charges: Dog at Large / Fail to Purchase License  
Status: Appeal of conviction – set date of appeal to follow

By-Law: Animal Control By-Law (2023)  
Provincial Law: Dog Owner's Liability Act  
Charge: DOLA x 2  
Status: Convicted x 2, fines issues, Provincial Muzzle and Restraint Order with Conditions

By-Law: Animal Control By-Law (2024)  
Charge: Part 1 – Prohibited Animal without license  
Status: Early Resolution June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

18 Warning Notices issued for first time offenders for various by-law and animal services violations in which the majority were resolved through education.

#### **4.0 Related Policies / Procedures**

N/A

#### **5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment**

Due to an outbreak in distemper and other wildlife interference calls, and the need for veterinary intervention, the budget for Wildlife Care and Control has been adversely affected. It is impossible to predict these types of outbreaks and the increases in costs for veterinary care each year. The chart below provides a comparison of the Wildlife Care and Control Budget for Q1 of 2024 with the total budget numbers from 2023. The Wildlife Care and Control Budget includes euthanasia costs and equipment (nets, crates, PPE, and disposals). The mild winter and a continued destruction of habitats due to increase in housing and population and other factors show that these types of conflicts between wild animals and humans will likely be on the increase meaning the budget for the control and management of wildlife in the Municipality should be reconsidered in future budgets moving forward. It should also be noted that future outbreaks in wildlife such as distemper, rabies and the bird flu virus should also be considered. Staff will be preparing a report on Wildlife Services and Municipal Responsibility in Q2.

	Q1 -2024 to date	2023 Year End Total
Wildlife Care and Control	\$1,536.42	\$2,058.76
Wildlife Care and Control Budget Amount	\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00

### **5.1 Asset Management**

N/A

### **6.0 Climate Change Impacts**

N/A

### **7.0 Communications**

This report is presented to Council on a public agenda and available for public review through the electronic agenda website or the livestreaming of the virtual meeting.

### **8.0 Conclusion**

Current statistical information for Q1 has shown typical and expected results in all sectors except for wildlife care and control calls in which the level of calls has been extreme. It is expected in all sectors for numbers to increase in all areas in the Q2-4 due to an increase in visitors to the Municipality. It is also assumed that the level of outbreak observed in the population of wildlife will be on the decrease as we transition into Q2.

### **9.0 Recommendation**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law and Animal Services Division Q1 Report 2024-PS-005, be received for information.