

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 1, 2022

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Mike Williams, Director of Protective Services

SUBJECT: **Animal Control Bylaw 14-21 Update Livestock Guardian Dogs**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council pass a resolution to amend the Animal Control Bylaw 14-21 and the definition of Livestock Guardian Dogs and to eliminate municipal licensing fees and requirements.

BACKGROUND:

In our current Animal Control Bylaw under Definitions, it does not refer to dogs that are considered "Livestock Guardian Dogs". Based on correspondence from the Ontario Sheep Farmers staff were asked to investigate the addition of a definition to this bylaw and the elimination of licensing fees/requirements.

DISCUSSION:

After reviewing other municipal animal control bylaws, I have discovered that many rural and agricultural municipalities recognize Livestock Guardian Dogs. By adding and recognizing these types of dogs, this would allow farmers to register them as Livestock Guardian Dogs. By doing this they could be exempt from other bylaws that prohibit dogs running at large or excessive barking at times, as long as they are protecting livestock at the time from predators.

If we recognize these dogs as working dogs, we should exempt them from paying the licensing fee as we do with other service dogs/animals. We would have to change our existing registration forms to add this exemption.

OPTIONS:

There are two options to consider:

- 1) Leave the bylaw as it is not recognizing Livestock Guardian Dogs and leave the definitions only stating “Dogs” or “Domestic Animals”.
- 2) Add the definition to refer these type of dogs as “Livestock Guardian Dog” with the following definition and requirements:

Livestock Guardian Dogs” shall mean:

A dog that is specifically trained to work and/or live with domestic farm animals (i.e. cattle, sheep, goats etc) without causing them harm while aggressively repelling predators and is used exclusively for that purpose. In order to qualify the dog owner must hold a valid farm registration number registered with the Municipality.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The amount of revenue that the Municipality will forego because of the exemption for livestock guardian dogs is estimated to be minimal on an annual basis.

SUMMARY:

I recommend that we recognize Livestock Guardian Dog in the definitions of this bylaw and exempt the farmers from paying the licensing fee if they hold a valid farm registration number.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:

Mike Williams,
Director of Protective Services

Ken Kelly,
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from the Ontario Sheep Farmers, received August 11, 2022