

To: Bill and Anita Holmes  
Cc: Council  
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO  
Date: November 8, 2019

**Reference: 11/154/2019-229**

## RE: Dog Licensing

Thank you for your written concern regarding the new [Responsible Animal Ownership Bylaw #469](#) and licensing fees for spayed/neutered dogs.

Council received your letter and it was included in the [Council mailbox](#) at the October 28, 2019 Council Meeting. Although there was an appreciation of the specific circumstances you have outlined, Council ultimately felt that the benefit of a consistent application of the recently passed bylaw outweighed the negative impact to those with elderly animals. Accordingly, they did not provide any direction to administration to change the bylaw to grandfather older animals.

You mentioned that your dog is not microchipped; however, if it is spayed or neutered, the license fee is \$75 for its lifetime, rather than the full \$150.

The new licensing structure for the lifetime of the cats and dogs are the following:

- Altered and Microchipped - Dog or Cat - \$15
- Unaltered and Microchipped - Dog or Cat - \$75
- Altered but not Microchipped - Dog or Cat - \$75
- Unaltered and not Microchipped - Dog or Cat - \$150

The rationale of moving to this new system is to reward responsible pet ownership. If an animal is both altered and microchipped, the lifetime cost is only \$15. When it comes to pets, the City's highest priority is to return an animal back to its owner. The quickest way Bylaw Enforcement Services can do that is by scanning the animal with a microchip scanner to find its registered owner.

The onetime registration is easier for the public as they do not have to continually return to City Hall on a yearly basis to renew their pet's license. We only ask residents to let us know if they relocate so staff can update the files.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Matthew Goudy, P.Eng  
Chief Administrative Officer

