

To: Community Services Committee

From: Ron Diskey, Commissioner,
Community Services Department

Report Number: CS-18-42

Date of Report: May 25, 2018

Date of Meeting: May 31, 2018

Subject: Heather Thomas requesting a low cost spay neuter clinic for possible inclusion in the 2019 budget

File: F-3010

1.0 Purpose

This report responds to the direction of Council from the January 8, 2018 Council meeting, that Community Services staff prepare a report on a low cost spay neuter clinic to come in the second quarter of 2018 for possible inclusion in the 2019 budget.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Community Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That based on report CS-18-42, the City of Oshawa offer support for existing low cost spay neuter initiatives in the way of promotion and collaboration;
2. That the City of Oshawa collaborate with the Toronto Humane Society and the Humane Society of Durham Region to explore improvements to the existing transportation program with the aim of increasing use and accessibility for the residents who require it;
3. That the City of Oshawa explore a transportation program to existing and planned low cost spay neuter clinics, including Peterborough which is anticipated to open in the Spring of 2019; and,
4. That the City of Oshawa promote the Humane Society of Durham Region on any future plans for a low cost spay neuter clinic.

3.0 Executive Summary

Not Applicable.

4.0 Input From Other Sources

- City of Toronto

- City of Barrie
- Peterborough Humane Society
- Marion Vernon Clinic, Barrie
- Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (O.S.P.C.A.)
- Humane Society of Durham Region (H.S.D.R.)
- Toronto Humane Society
- Toronto Animal Services
- Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services
- Finance Services

5.0 Analysis

At the January 8th, 2018 budget meeting, Council received multiple requests from Oshawa residents requesting a low cost spay neuter clinic be included in the 2018 budget. Council referred the request to the Community Services staff for a report to come in the second quarter of 2018 for possible inclusion in the 2019 budget.

Community Services staff recognize the need for low cost spay neuter services. There are a number of programs in existence however, they are difficult to navigate, poorly promoted and therefore underutilized.

Existing low cost spay neuter clinics in Ontario:

- City of Ottawa Spay and Neuter Clinic, Ottawa
- Toronto Humane Society, Toronto
- City of Toronto – mobile program
- Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (O.S.P.C.A.) Centre Veterinary Hospital, Newmarket
- Lincoln County Humane Society Animal Clinic, St. Catharines
- Marion Vernon Clinic, Barrie
- Windsor/Essex County Humane Society Veterinary Clinic, Windsor
- East Village Animal Hospital, London
- Peterborough Humane Society, Peterborough – *opening Spring 2019*

City of Ottawa Spay and Neuter Clinic is the only City operated facility that provides dog and cat spay and neuter within Ontario. The Ottawa clinic is a revenue neutral service, meaning that fees are set to recover the cost of services without generating a loss or a profit. Fees for service are approved by City Council as necessary to maintain that objective.

Toronto Humane Society, Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (O.S.P.C.A.) Centre veterinary Hospital, Lincoln County Humane Society Animal Clinic, Windsor/Essex County Humane Society Veterinary Clinic, Peterborough Humane Society Clinic are all Humane Alliance-partnered 'High Volume Spay/Neuter Clinics' and follow the Humane Alliance model for low cost spay neuter clinics. The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (A.S.P.C.A.) Spay / Neuter Alliance (formerly the Humane Alliance Model) is the organization that created the spay/neuter model that is currently used for all Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.) and Humane Society

low cost Spay Neuter clinics operating in Ontario. The alliance offers training and operating models for all organizations implementing low cost Spay Neuter services.

5.1 Clinic Option

Marion Vernon Spay and Neuter clinic in Barrie provided estimated cost for supplies and spay neuter surgery equipment to start a low cost spay neuter clinic.

- Estimated startup supplies and surgery equipment is approximately \$250,000. These costs are also consistent with information received from Lincoln County Humane Society Animal Clinic. This does not include costs to retrofit existing space, required HVAC and plumbing.
- Additional staff with estimated annual salary and benefit costs required to operate a clinic would be approximately \$419,500 and would include one Clinic Manager, two Receptionists, two Veterinary Technicians and one Veterinarian.

5.2 Mobile Option

Toronto Animal Services – Spay Neuter Your Pet (S.N.Y.P.) truck: The Spay Neuter Your Pet program provides mobile spay and neuter services for dog and cat owners in low income households, who may not be able to afford traditional veterinarians. Residents with a household income of less than \$50,000 will qualify for subsidized or waived fees.

Estimated cost for a City operated S.N.Y.P. truck, similar to the City of Toronto S.N.Y.P. program:

- Capital costs of approximately \$419,800 including vehicle and equipment.
- Annual Operating costs of approximately \$165,900 including staffing, fleet maintenance, storage, fuel and medical supplies.

5.3 Durham Region Spay Neuter Assistance Program Option

Durham Region Spay Neuter Assistance Program offers vouchers for reduced spay neuter fees for cats only with the following criteria:

- Durham Region resident
- Receiving assistance from: Senior Guaranteed Income Supplement; Ontario Disability Support Program; Canada Pension Plan Disability Payment, or Ontario Works Program
- Optional program for veterinarians to participate

5.4 Toronto Humane Society Option

Toronto Humane Society offers transportation services in conjunction with the Humane Society of Durham Region. This program offers transportation to Toronto Humane Society's spay and neuter clinic. In conversations with Toronto Humane Society they appear to be willing to increase availability if the need is there. Lack of advertising, awareness and timing of the transportation seems to be the major issues with the existing program.

There is opportunity for City staff to work with existing groups to promote existing low cost spay neuter initiatives and collaborate with these groups to increase awareness and accessibility for those who require access to the existing programs and services. This would include staff time, creating pamphlets, etc.

City staff can explore the possibility of a transportation program to existing and planned low cost spay neuter clinics, including Peterborough which is anticipated to open in the Spring of 2019.

6.0 Financial Implications

The financial implications for options 5.1 and 5.2 are detailed in the respective sections. Promotion and collaboration between City staff and existing low cost spay neuter programs and services for option 5.3 would require staff time and resources that would be managed within the existing operating budget. The financial implications for option 5.4 would need to be determined when staff explore the possibility of a transportation program to existing and planned low cost spay neuter clinics, including Peterborough once it is open in the Spring of 2019.

7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

The recommendations in this report respond to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Goal of 4.1: Economic Prosperity and Financial Stewardship:

- Responsible taxation



Beth Mullen, Director,
Strategic and Business Services



Ron Diskey, Commissioner,
Community Services Department