

From: Avinash Kowshik <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Patty Huber <phuber@okotoks.ca>
Subject: Follow-up to phone call - Attending May 10 council meeting

Hello Patty,

Thanks so much for taking my call and for the information you have provided. Just following up with a summary of what I would like to speak to at the council meeting on May 10.

Topic:

- Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw - Cats

Proposals:

1. Initial bylaw amendment to mandate that cats be licensed within the Town of Okotoks.
2. Subsequent bylaw amendment to mandate that cats not be permitted to be at large within the Town of Okotoks.
3. Partnership with Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services or local shelter to reduce cost of enforcement, through avoiding building a new facility.

Reasons:

- Cats at large pose a serious threat to local biodiversity, particularly for sensitive bird species and wetland animals, due to innate predatory instincts and potential to spread disease to local wildlife.
- Feces deposited in gardens poses a serious threat to human health, particularly when the soil is being used to cultivate root vegetables, as cat feces contains parasites that are dangerous to human health (ex. Toxoplasmosis).
- Due to Okotoks becoming densely populated within the past 2 decades, the risk of a cat at large attacking a person or neighbouring pet is much higher, and without the cat being licensed, there is no recourse for the victim of the injury.
- While building a new cat impound facility would incur a large cost, a partnership with Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services or other shelter within Calgary could greatly reduce the cost of enforcement, with these facilities being only 30 minutes away from the Town of Okotoks.

Contact information of proposing party:

Avinash Kowshik
[REDACTED]

Okotoks, AB, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Have a great afternoon, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Avinash Kowshik

J.D. Candidate 2023 | University of Calgary
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]