



## RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR INQUIRY

### MAYOR ROBERTSON

Mayor Robertson inquired regarding the possibility of eliminating the Town's requirement for licensing professional therapy dogs.

### Estimated Administrative Time to Respond



Under 4 hours (no motion required)



Over 4 hours (motion required) Estimated Hours: [Click here to enter text.](#)

### Motion

n/a

### Response

All dogs in the Town are required to be licenced under Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw 18-08, section 3(a).

As per section 3(j): "A person who, by reason of special needs, owns and uses an animal trained to assist shall, upon proof, be exempt from licence fees".

"Proof" as required by this section is commonly provided in the form of a letter of certification from the accrediting agency who trained the dog and owner.

However, this is not always the case as not all agencies will provide a letter of this nature and the role of Service Dogs has greatly expanded since 2008. When this type of proof cannot be provided or the type of service being provided by the dog is not in relation to a person with "special needs", the case is reviewed by the Manager of Municipal Enforcement to determine if a fee is to be charged. Since the roles of Service Dogs has become so diverse, our current practice is to licence the dog free of charge unless there is compelling evidence to indicate the owner is attempting to mislead the Town.

Therapy Dog will fit within the expanded definition of Service Dog that is being incorporated into a new Animal Control Bylaw, expected to come before Council for consideration in Q2 of 2018 and will replace Bylaw 18-08.

### Attachment(s)

1. n/a