

Date: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Report To: Mayor & Council.

From: Patrick Briere, By-Law Enforcement Officer.

Re: Request Letter Dated October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from Best for Kitty.

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As you will recall, Council on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, referred a request letter dated October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from Best for Kitty to the Planning & Development Executive Committee for review.

With that said, the Planning & Development Executive Committee did review the request letter and report as presented at the PDEC meeting held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Committee was presented with the below information by By-Law Enforcement.

Our office can report that the Town of Fort Frances Animal Pound is currently permitted to operate under Provincial Permit as an Animal Pound by the Province of Ontario. Under this Act the Town is required to follow a legislated process with any animal in our facilities/operators care. This means that any animal that comes into our facility would have to fall under this process for us to maintain our operator's licence with the Province.

We have also received correspondence from our HR Department and our insurance provider with regards to a third party/volunteer personnel/groups using/operating within our facility, the response from our insurance provider is as follows:

There are some processes that will need to be addressed prior to the Town permitting such an arrangement:

1. If they only need daily access, we suggest that Town staff permit them on premises – we do not recommend unfettered access to the building. Further, whoever lets them in, must be assured that they will only access the animal shelter. Our understanding is that it is adjacent to public works, the Town must be able to restrict access to the remainder of the compound.
2. Prior to entering into this arrangement, a formalized agreement is recommended. The agreement ought to be that the BfK organization has a valid insurance policy in place. Further the scope of their work needs to be stipulated in the agreement: will they have permission to apprehend animals that they feel are strays? Will they have the authority to spay or neuter cats? Is there a process in place to advise the general public as to when BfK finds a cat so that if someone has lost their pet, they can retrieve them before the cat gets re-homed?
3. BfK needs to understand that their volunteers will not qualify or have access to WSIB benefits – this is a challenging problem because should one of their

workers slip and fall whilst in the facility, the Town could have exposure as the occupier.

4. Our concern is the unfettered and unsupervised access to the building – there is no surveillance cameras or alarm. If the Town is going to proceed, at the very least, it is recommended that the Town have a staff member present when BfK is using the facility. Privacy issues could come into play as it relates to pet owners' information. This must be administered by Town staff only.
5. We also have concerns about communicable illness as it pertains to the other animals – granted, this could happen within the existing animal control program. Increasing the amount of animals in the shelter at any given time, there is a risk that contagious illnesses could be brought into the pre-existing shelter.

Therefore, we are asking that the Planning & Development Executive Committee is recommending accept the letter as information and not approve the request from Best for Kitty for usage of the Town of Fort Frances Animal Pound.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by

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<p><b>Council approval of this report will:</b> accept the letter as information and not approve the request from Best for Kitty for usage of the Town of Fort Frances Animal Pound.</p>
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