

To: Mayor and Council **Date:** June 5, 2023
From: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: **New Kennel Bylaw**

Recommendation(s)

Staff are recommending the repeal of District of Mission Kennel Bylaw 2788-1994 and that the first three readings be granted to the new City of Mission Bylaw 6198-2023, a bylaw to regulate kennels within the City of Mission. The new Kennel Bylaw is listed for first three readings in the Bylaws for Consideration section of the agenda.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a new Kennel Bylaw (**Attachment A**) for Council's consideration of first three readings.

Background

The existing City's Kennel Bylaw 2788-1994 was enacted in 1994 and last amended in 2010. Since that time, the industry has seen many changes and there is a need to be less prescriptive and recognize that there are less "industrial" type building materials and housing forms that are suitable for kennels. This is reflected within the 2018 Canadian Veterinary Association's "A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations" (Code) – the industry standard that is referenced in many other City's kennel bylaws as well as recognized by the BC SPCA.

Discussion and Analysis

The new bylaw is similar to the existing bylaw but adds clarity of the difference between a hobby kennel and a kennel; the latter being the traditional commercial kennel. The terms kennel and hobby kennel are maintained and are referenced in the City's Zoning Bylaw so no amendments are required to the Zoning bylaw.

The setbacks and minimum kennel size requirements are maintained. The Code is referenced as something that must always be complied with. Clear language for requiring a business licence for operating either a kennel or a hobby kennel is now included. This is an important component as issuance of a business licence allows additional conditions to be added as part of the licence and also allows the licence to be suspended or cancelled should issues arise around animal care or nuisance impacts on neighbours. In the case of a hobby kennel, it also serves as a deterrent from people obtaining a hobby kennel business licence simply to have more than the standard three dogs per residence currently permitted in Mission.

The new kennel bylaw and the business licence application forms for kennel owners will include requirements to disclose as to whether the applicant, owner or employees have been the subject of an order or seizure under animal cruelty legislation in the past. If such a person is denied a business licence, the decision to deny a business licence must be made on case-to-case basis and reason(s) provided in writing. Also, if the business licence is approved, the business licence can include terms and conditions included in the kennel bylaw, such as regular inspections, to try and limit the chance of new orders or seizures from occurring again.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Communication

No further communication is required. Staff had discussions with owners of kennels in Mission early in the development of this bylaw and they are supportive of the less prescriptive approach and a reference to the Code of Practice.

Summary and Conclusion

Mission's Kennel Bylaw was enacted in 1994 and last updated in 2010. Since that time, the kennel industry has evolved to the point where a variety of housing forms and building materials are now acceptable for the construction of kennels. Staff are recommending repeal of Kennel Bylaw 2788-1994 and first three readings be given to a new bylaw.

Report Prepared by: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed by: Nav Dhanoya, Acting Manager of Bylaws and Licensing

Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

Attachment A: Kennel Bylaw 6198-2023