



REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: July 7, 2025

FROM: Municipal Enforcement Services Department

DATE: July 2, 2025

SUBJECT: **Renewal of Animal Control Contract with the Oakville & Milton Humane Society**

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

Page 1

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the contract between the Corporation of the Town of Oakville and the Oakville & Milton Humane Society, attached as Appendix A, be executed in accordance with By-law 2013-057.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Town has contracted animal control services through the Oakville & Milton Humane Society (OMHS) for many years.
- The most recent contract for animal control services will expire on November 30th of this year.
- Town staff have worked with the OMHS staff to negotiate an updated contract for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The OMHS has been providing animal care services in Oakville since 1936. Animal control is a community safety service that has been outsourced to the OMHS. The current contract, which expires on November 30th of this year, was negotiated in 2022. The OMHS is paid yearly for their services based on a negotiated fee for service, and the amount paid in year three of the current contract (ending in 2025) is \$1,218,990.

The current contract was reviewed and updated throughout this year with a focus on ensuring services provided address current and emerging issues, and public needs.

Key areas of the contract include:

- Sheltering and impounding of animals
- Seizing and impounding dogs at large
- Responding to wildlife in distress
- Assisting with community coyote concerns
- Community outreach and education
- Licensing and registering animals
- Patrolling the town and responding to animal complaints
- Conducting enforcement and attending court
- Enforcing violations of the Dog Owner's Liability Act
- Removing and disposing of dead animals from town streets
- Maintaining appropriate records
- Picking up and sheltering animals under protective care

The chart below helps to provide a high-level overview of some of the significant services provided by OMHS during 2024, the most recent full year of service.

Animal Control Activity 2024	
Activity	Number
Dogs licensed	7,279
Dogs running at large	157
Stray animals impounded	426
Investigations	297
Picked up wildlife	1,871
Picked up deceased wildlife	1,149
Patrols	4,912
Enforcement	
Orders	589
Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMP)	114
Provincial Offences Act (POA) charges	13

The management of wildlife is a topic that often comes up in connection with animal control. The animal control contract does not include provisions for removal of healthy wildlife from private residences. If healthy wildlife such as skunks, foxes and raccoons are found on private properties, it is the responsibility of the private property owner to have the wild animal humanely removed, at the property owner's expense. Animal control will respond if a wild animal is found is sick, injured or abandoned (babies).

Coyote management is an exception. Animal control continues to play a significant role in the Town's Coyote Management Protocol, and as such the animal control

contract continues to account for Animal Control Officers' involvement in the process.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Municipal Enforcement and OMHS staff have conducted a review and update of the animal control contract. The contract is set to expire at the end of November this year and without renewal, the Town would not be able to supply animal control services to Oakville residents.

The animal control contract provides for 25% of the total yearly dog licensing revenue to be transferred to the Town, partially offsetting the overall cost of the contract.

Dog licensing revenue was provided as follows:

Year	Number of Licences	Total transfer to the Town
2023	6,742	\$62,685.26
2024	7,229	\$66,560.84
2025 (YTD)	3,380	\$26,585.32

As part of current negotiations, OMHS staff have reviewed the contract and worked hard to ensure this proposal limits (and even reduces) costs, while not compromising their ability to maintain and grow the service delivery. As a result, the new contract begins with a 1.9 per cent decrease in overall costs to the Town in the first year, with a planned 3 per cent increase for each of the next two years, as follows:

Year	Total	Percentage
2025 (existing contract)	\$1,218,990	N/A
2026	\$1,195,874	-1.90%
2027	\$1,234,575	3.24%
2028	\$1,274,832	3.26%

This first year decrease recognizes work done by the OMHS in vehicle replacement planning and a staffing reorganization which provided a reduction in costs resulting in the 1.9 percent savings. The following increases are to offset anticipated inflationary pressure.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommend the Animal Control Contract attached as Appendix A of this report, be approved and executed to continue animal control services with the OMHS. Further, over the duration of this contract, staff will conduct a feasibility study to explore potential new approaches for animal services in the Town of Oakville and in the context of Halton Region. In partnership with other Halton municipalities and the OMHS, staff will consider options for continuing to meet the needs of residents and animals, provide animal-related enforcement services and coordinate services in a

broader system, exploring opportunities to create a more efficient and effective service.

Outcomes of the review could include continuation of the status quo or make recommendations to consolidate or coordinate services with other municipalities and partners in the region.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The provision of quality animal control services is essential to ensure community-animal conflicts are dealt with efficiently and professionally. This contract will have negligible impact on the public as the OMHS has provided and will continue to provide quality animal control services to the Town.

(B) FINANCIAL

The Animal Control Contract and the animal by-law related fees are both included in the Town's annual operating budget.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

N/A

(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report addresses Council's strategic priority/priorities: Growth Management, Community Belonging, Environmental Sustainability and Accountable Government.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

N/A

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – 2026-2028 Animal Control Contract

Prepared by:
Selena Campbell, Director
Municipal Enforcement Services

Submitted by:
Michael Mizzi, Commissioner
Community Development