

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
"Adcock, Jessie" <Jessie.Adcock@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 10/23/2020 8:24:20 AM

**Subject:** Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation: status update

**Attachments:** DBL - Aggressive Dog Council Memo - 10.6.20.pdf

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Kathryn Holm, Chief Licence Inspector, that provides an update on the Council resolution "Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation" which was approved in March 2020.

This topic is presently under review by a province-wide group of stakeholders and municipalities. Incorporating the outcome of that review, staff expect to report back to Council with by-law amendments and a recommendation for citizens who are not able to afford the services of a qualified animal veterinarian or behaviorist by the end of Q2 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jessie Adcock.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** | Deputy City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca)  
604.873.7666



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

## MEMORANDUM

October 23, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Gail Pickard, Acting Director, Civic Engagement and Communications  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Jessie Adcock, General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing  
Iain Dixon, Assistant Director, Legal Services  
Koji Miyaji, Deputy Chief Licence Inspector

FROM: Kathryn Holm  
Chief Licence Inspector

SUBJECT: Update on Staff Response to Council Motion "Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation"

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The purpose of this memo is to update Mayor and Council on staff's progress related to the Council Motion "Relief and Rehabilitation of Aggressive Dog Designation" and provide a timeline for a report back in 2021.

On March 3, 2020, Council directed staff to undertake the following:

- A. Prepare amendments to the Animal Control By-law to redefine the definition of "aggressive dog" such that an "aggressive dog" is one that a qualified veterinarian and/or animal behaviorist believes is an aggressive dog, after an assessment is done by that behaviorist and a full investigation is conducted by the City's Animal Control authority;
- B. Prepare amendments to the Animal Control By-law to allow a dog custodian to apply for the relief of an "aggressive dog" designation to the satisfaction of and at no cost to the City of Vancouver, no less than one year after such designation is made, after the custodian has worked with a qualified veterinarian and/or professional animal behaviorist to assess and modify the behavior of the dog;

- C. Report back with recommendations, including consideration of other jurisdictions where modernized, progressive animal control by-laws have been enacted, including New Westminster, Coquitlam and Fraser Valley Regional District; and
- D. To consider people that cannot afford the services of qualified veterinarians and/or qualified animal behaviorist and report back with findings and possible recommendations.

Through preliminary consultation with stakeholders, including the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Towards Animals (BCSPCA), staff have learned of a concurrent committee spearheaded by the Licence Inspectors and By-law Officers of BC (LIBOA), the BCSPCA and LIBOA member municipalities to prepare by-law language that municipalities could adopt to standardize “aggressive dog” designations and rehabilitation mechanisms across the Province. The committee is expected to finalize its recommendations by early 2021.

In light of the LIBOA-led committee work underway to address these same by-law considerations, staff will report back on the Council Motion upon receipt of the committee’s report, with any recommended by-law amendments. It is expected that staff will report back to Council with by-law amendments and recommendations for people who cannot afford the services of qualified veterinarians and/or animal behaviorists by end of Q2 2021. This will ensure alignment with best practices in other jurisdictions in British Columbia and provide sufficient time for a comprehensive consultation with stakeholders.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Jessie Adcock, General Manager, if you have any questions or concerns.

Kathryn Holm  
Chief Licence Inspector  
Development Buildings and Licensing  
604.873.7545 | [kathryn.holm@vancouver.ca](mailto:kathryn.holm@vancouver.ca)