

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Graham Dickson - Pound Funding Agreement - CK 1870-10

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 3:15 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Graham Dickson - Pound Funding Agreement - CK 1870-10

--- Replies to this email will go to executivedirector@saskatoonspca.com ---

Submitted on Monday, March 7, 2022 - 15:14

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, March 07, 2022

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Graham

Last Name Dickson

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email executivedirector@saskatoonspca.com

Address [REDACTED] 6th Street East

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatoon SPCA Inc.

Subject Pound Funding Agreement

Meeting (if known) Planning Development & Community Service Committee

Comments

I have been working closely with city administration (Brad Babyak) to put together a cost estimate for the municipal pound. I would like the opportunity to present on behalf of the SPCA and answer any questions that might arise. I will have a PowerPoint presentation that I will provide by the week's end.

Attachments

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Graham Dickson and Various Speakers - Municipal Pound Funding Agreement - CK 1870-10
Attachments: municipal_pound_funding_request.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 3:38 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Graham Dickson and Various Speakers - Municipal Pound Funding Agreement - CK 1870-10

--- Replies to this email will go to executivedirector@saskatoonspca.com ---

Submitted on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - 15:37

Submitted values are:

Date Tuesday, April 05, 2022
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Graham
Last Name Dickson
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email executivedirector@saskatoonspca.com
Address 5028 Clarence Ave S
City Grasswood
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code S7T 1A7
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatoon SPCA Inc.
Subject Municipal Pound Funding
Meeting (if known) Planning Development & Community Services Committee
Comments
Hello,

I had submitted a request to speak at the PDCS Committee meeting in March, however the item was moved to April 12th. I am writing to provide our report for the Committee (attached) and to confirm that myself and the four other speakers have been moved from the March agenda to April's.

Is it possible to request a specific speaking order? Our preference would be as follows:

- 1) Myself
- 2) Dr. Sandra Neumann
- 3) Eva Alexandrovici (Saskatoon Animal Control Agency)
- 4) Emma Caldwell
- 5) Chris Gilchrist

Thank you for your help,

Graham Dickson

Attachments

[municipal_pound_funding_request.pdf](#)

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

Municipal Pound Funding Request

Renewing the Partnership Between the Saskatoon SPCA and the City of
Saskatoon

Graham Dickson

SASKATOON SPCA INC. 5028 Clarence Ave S, Grasswood SK, S7T 1A7

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ABOUT THE SPCA

The Saskatoon SPCA is a non-profit and registered charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for companion animals in Saskatoon. We achieve this through education, adoption, and advocacy for animal welfare legislation. The Saskatoon SPCA has operated the municipal pound for more than 40 years. We are committed to serving the people of Saskatoon.

By the numbers:
>22,000 animals cared for
>12,000 animal adoptions
>5,000 lost animals returned
since 2015

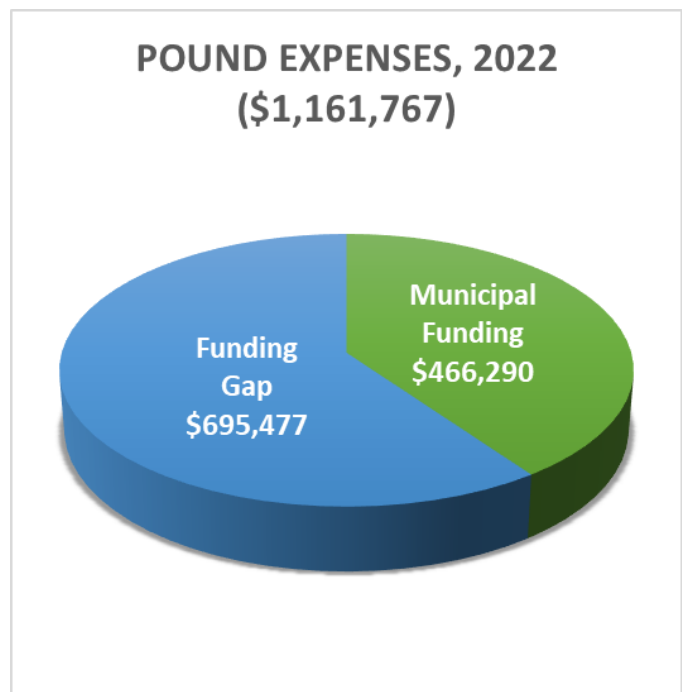
Our partnership with the City of Saskatoon is, in theory, a symbiotic one. The SPCA delivers municipal pound services at a cost savings for the city. In return, the Saskatoon SPCA leverages the pound to achieve our larger goal of improving the welfare of animals in Saskatoon. In doing so, we provide services to the community that are above and beyond our contractual obligations, including adoptions services, lost and found services, training and behavioral supports, pet safekeeping programs, and

more. It is a mutually beneficial arrangement that enhances the lives of our communities across the city.

FUNDING SHORTFALL

Today the cost to provide pound services far outpaces the level of funding received from the City of Saskatoon. Current funding covers less than half of our pound-related expenses, and the SPCA pays hundreds of thousands of dollars out of pocket every year to uphold the pound contract. This is not sustainable.

We desperately need a cost-recovery funding model that will allow us to develop programs and services designed to stop animals from ending up in the pound to begin with. At present we have ceased offering such programs or services because almost all SPCA resources are being used to support daily operations of the municipal pound.



Our partnership with the city is no longer symbiotic. We will be forced to stop providing pound services in the next six months without a cost-recovery funding model in place.

WHAT CHANGED?

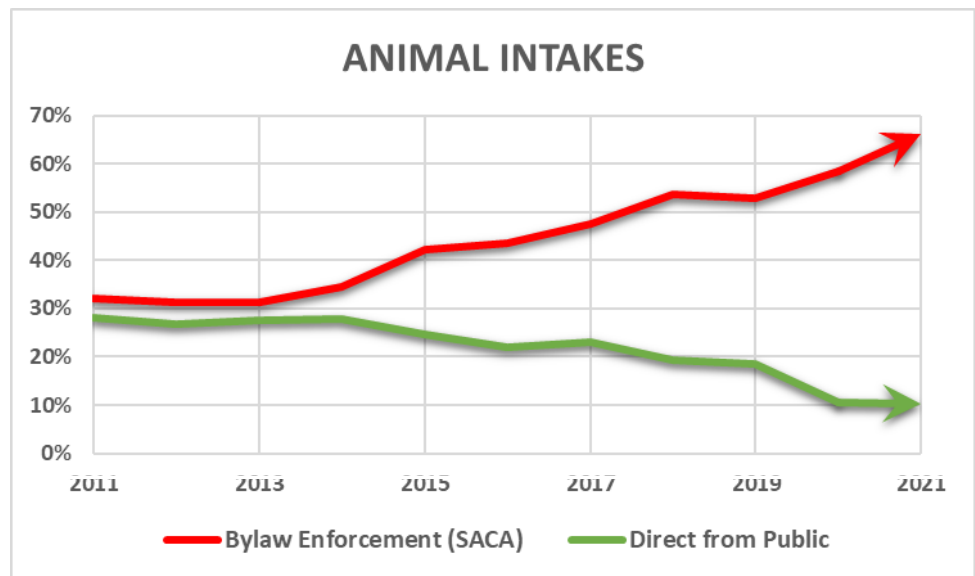
Multiple factors have contributed to our current funding deficit, including growing regulatory oversight and the growth of the city and thus increased demand for pound services. This is a problem that has been growing slowly over time. It is vital, however, to acknowledge that the existing funding agreement is fundamentally flawed in that it does not recognize costs borne by the SPCA after an animal's mandatory holding period expires.

Regulatory Oversight

Growing regulatory oversight and rising minimum standards of care for animal shelters has led to increased costs over the last two decades. This is the case across North America. The SPCA has incurred steadily rising costs as we are required to rely more heavily on skilled labour to respond to the increase in health and safety standards mandated by organizations such as the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association.

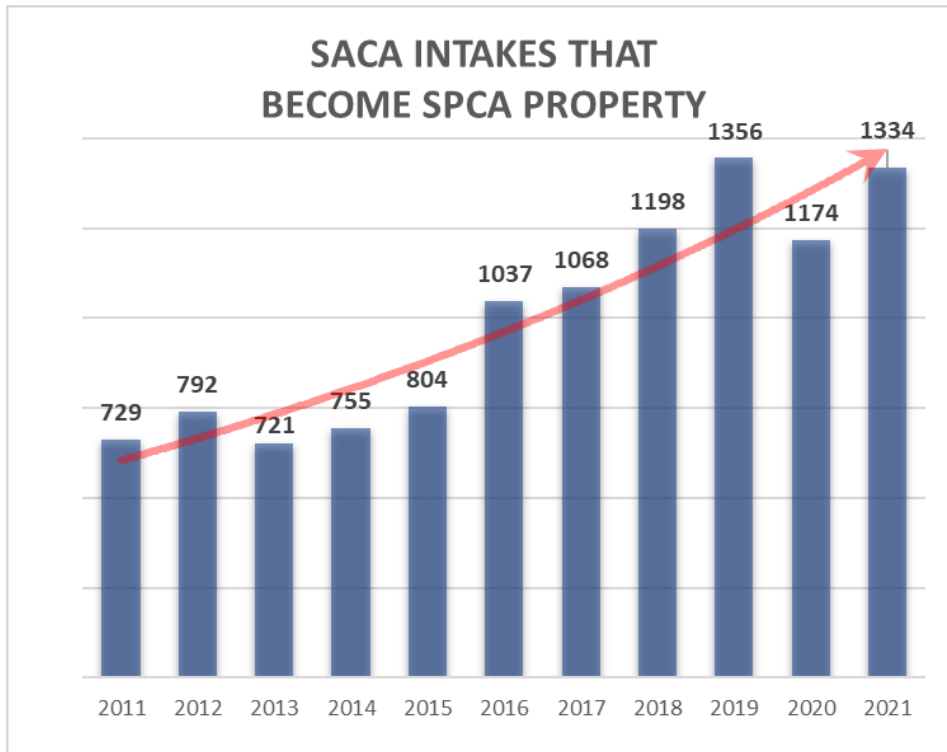
City Growth & Expansion

As Saskatoon has grown both in size and population, so too has the demand for animal control and pound services. The proportion of animal intakes from SACA has doubled since 2011. Because SACA intakes have a mandatory holding period, this means more animals stay in our care for longer periods of time, which increases cost of care and drastically reduces our overall capacity for care.



The growing costs associated with pound services has depleted the SPCA's ability to accomplish the mission of improving the welfare of animals in Saskatoon. Insufficient pound funding is preventing the SPCA from serving the community.

Un-owned Animals & the Burden of Care



The SPCA is mandated to accept all intakes through SACA. When no owner steps forward to claim these animals, the SPCA alone bears the financial burden of care after the holding period. The number of animals we inherit each year has nearly doubled in the last decade. This is a tremendous expense and one that is not accounted for in our current funding model.

The Saskatoon SPCA has relied on donations and our own reserves to fund this work. This is unsustainable.



SACA brings a cat to the pound, and it is held for four days. No owner comes forward to claim the cat, and it becomes SPCA property. The SPCA has two options:

ADOPTION

As per section 8(11) of the pound contract, *“The Society shall manage a humane adoption service where ... unredeemed animals are placed in adoptive homes.... The Society shall make every effort to ensure that any cat or dog adopted after the holding period has expired is spayed or neutered...”*

The cost to prepare an animal for adoption (spay/neuter, de-worm, vax, etc.) ranges from \$200 to \$1,000.

EUTHANASIA

As per our mission, we work to ensure that as many adoptable animals find forever homes and euthanize only when it is the humane option (ex: illness or injury).

The cost of performing euthanasia is roughly \$150.

An average of 1,823 animals become SPCA property through pound service delivery every year. The annual cost for the SPCA to prepare these animals for adoption is between \$364,600 and \$1,823,000.

WHAT ABOUT “SURPLUS” YEARS?

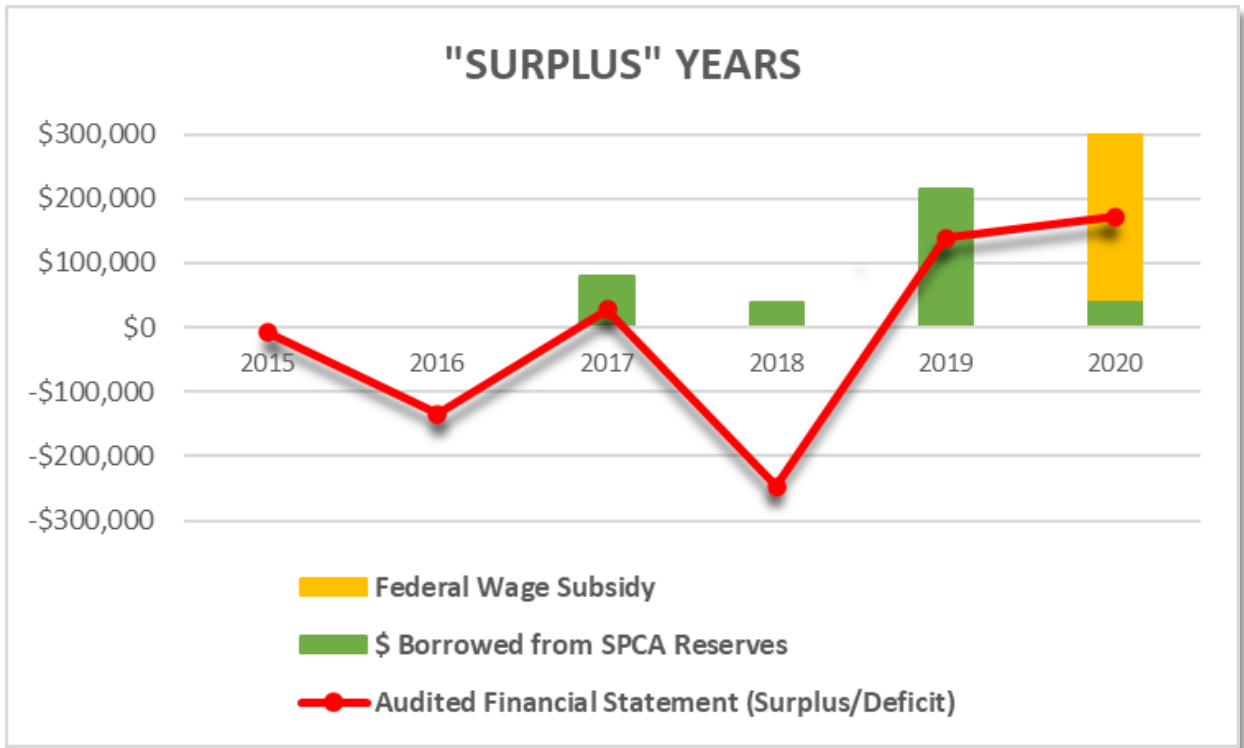
Our audited financial statements show surpluses as recently as 2020, 2019, and 2017. It is important to note these financial statements reflect the *entirety* of our operations, not solely pound services. Adoptions services, educational programming, animal protection services, and most importantly fundraising revenues all contribute to our bottom line. For perspective, our 2022 pound funding amounts to \$466,290. This only covers about 40% of pound expenses (see APPENDIX I – City of Saskatoon Animal Pound Funding Needs for reference).

There are two sources of funding outside of charitable gifts that have contributed to surpluses. The federal wage subsidy (CEWS, illustrated in yellow below) has been instrumental in helping us maintain operations. Similarly, withdrawals from our own reserves (the Ray Duerr fund, shown in green) have been used heavily in recent years to sustain operations.

Without cost-recovery funding for pound services, the SPCA will be forced to terminate our partnership with the City.

THE RAY DUERR FUND

The SPCA reserve fund is named after Ray Duerr, a long-time supporter and volunteer. Fifty percent of all bequests received are deposited into these reserves. Withdrawals must be approved by SPCA membership. Between 2017 and today, we have withdrawn roughly \$900,000 to support operations.



It is our position that donor dollars should not be used to subsidize a municipal service mandated by the Cities Act.

A LONGSTANDING ISSUE

The pound funding deficit is not new, it has grown slowly over several years. The existing funding agreement externalizes real costs resulting from pound services, such as the care for un-owned and ‘dangerous’ animals (see inset, below). Standards of veterinary care for shelter animals have increased over the last two decades, resulting in increased costs to pound operators nation-wide. As the city has grown, so too has the demand for bylaw enforcement. This has resulted in a growing proportion of mandatory SACA intakes to the pound, and a doubling of the number of animals the SPCA inherits every year.

DANGEROUS ANIMALS & THE SPCA

The Saskatoon SPCA is contractually obliged to provide care, shelter, and sustenance for animals pending a ‘dangerous animal’ designation by the courts. Handling these animals is a very real risk to our staff. It can take months, sometimes more than a year, for the courts to deliver a ruling on these animals. Without legal resources or protections, the SPCA cannot recoup these expenses from animal owners. Today, we pay out of pocket to enforce these important municipal bylaws.

As these costs have accumulated, we have relied more and more on donor dollars to provide pound services. We have reached the limit of our reserves and of our donors’ ability to subsidize the City. We now face the unpalatable decision of walking away from the pound as it impedes our ability to improve the welfare of animals in Saskatoon.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESULT?

- Programs and services have been cut as an increasing proportion of resources are dedicated to maintaining the pound. We no longer offer proactive, upstream solutions to Saskatoon’s stray animal problem.
- Resource and capacity shortfalls have forced us to turn members of the public away who need to surrender a pet or place a lost animal in our care. Since 2011, the number of animal intakes directly from the public has dropped 78%. We are failing to serve the community.
- The population of stray and feral cats in Saskatoon has exploded in the absence of proactive programs and services that could be delivered by the SPCA.
- The overwhelming amount of stray and feral cats in Saskatoon has led to an increased strain on Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA), the pound, and ultimately Saskatoon taxpayers.
- Today, the SPCA is unable to meet its core objective, to provide upstream solutions that will increase the quality of life for Saskatoon’s companion animals.
- The SPCA will run out of reserve funds this calendar year without intervention.

The Saskatoon SPCA is uniquely positioned to partner with the City in providing valuable and mandatory public health and safety services. A new partnership framework is needed to support this.

IF NOT US, WHO?

A study commissioned by the city of Regina found that a municipally run pound service would incur an exponential increase in pound services costs. No matter who runs the pound, the current funding level does not reflect or provide the resources needed to safely and professionally allocate care for Saskatoon's companion animals. We are eager and enthusiastic partners that can provide value-added services and drive cost savings for taxpayers.

No other organization in Saskatoon is positioned to operate the pound. No other organization has the human capital, the skills, decades of experience, professional training, or institutional knowledge of the SPCA. We want to continue this work and ask only for true cost-recovery funding for pound services.

WHAT IS POSSIBLE?

A truly symbiotic relationship between the City and Saskatoon SPCA would be transformational for both parties. Resources and donor dollars once used to support the pound will again be invested in proactive programs and services. SPCA-driven initiatives aimed at addressing Saskatoon's cat overpopulation problem will become a reality. Evidence shows that education and advocacy efforts reduce unwanted animal populations and thereby reduce the need for the pound and animal control services. The SPCA will be enabled to serve the people of Saskatoon.

Our goal as an organization is to build and run an affordable spay and neuter clinic. This would not only decrease the number of stray, feral, and abandoned animals in our city, but we would have the capacity to partner with the City and drive more outcomes from the popular Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program (SSNP), for example.

We are eager and enthusiastic partners that can provide value-added services and drive cost savings for taxpayers.

OUR ASK

Cost-recovery funding

A detailed projection of the costs to operate the pound in 2022 is available in *APPENDIX I – City of Saskatoon Animal Pound Funding Needs*. We worked closely with City administrators to ascertain these costs and have ensured that they reflect the real costs of operating the pound program. We ask that amendments be made to the funding agreement that recognizes previously externalized expenditures, such as the care for dangerous and un-owned animals, for example.

Retroactive payment to January 1, 2022

The Saskatoon SPCA and its donors have subsidized the City for many years. We do not ask for extensive retro-active payment, but only adequate funding beginning this calendar year that will help mitigate our rapidly depleting reserves.

Inclusion of a 'Dispensation Fee'

To help the SPCA shoulder the significant financial burden associated with unredeemed animals, we ask that the City of Saskatoon adopt a funding scheme like other Western Canadian jurisdictions wherein a portion of the cost associated with unredeemed animals is built into the funding agreement.

As outlined on page four, we ask only that the City contribute the lesser of two possible costs (\$150) for the average number of animals that are not redeemed by an owner and become SPCA property each year (1,823). The SPCA is mandated within the funding agreement to adopt as many unredeemed animals as possible. We are eager to uphold this responsibility, but we cannot assume this significant financial burden alone.

APPENDIX I

City of Saskatoon Animal Pound: Funding Needs

	2022
	\$
Revenue	
Care & Sustenance Fees	9,720
	<u>9,720</u>
Expenditures	
Salary Expenses	581,448
Dispensation Fee	273,450
Animal Care (food, veterinary & medical supplies)	120,717
Veterinary Contract Services	62,088
Emergency Medical Care	35,306
Facilities	32,669
Contract Services	20,881
Office Expenses	16,780
Staff Training & Development	12,350
Insurance	6,800
Auto Expenses	4,101
Ammortization	3,996
Uniforms	900
	<u>1,171,487</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u>(1,161,767)</u>