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To: Mayor and Council **Date:** September 11, 2003
From: Don Pearson **File:** -
 Manager, Community Outreach

Re: Animal Control and Shelter Services Contract

At the Community Safety Committee meeting on September 11, 2003 Councillors, while agreeing with the staff recommendation requested additional details be provided relating to the Contract, prior to the resolution being forwarded to Council.

Section 3.02 of the contract agreement between the City and the SPCA provides:

“The City and the Contractor, by mutual agreement, have the option to renew this Agreement for a further term of two years. The renewal term shall be on the same terms and conditions, except that the parties shall use their best efforts to negotiate new provisions to reduced payments by the City in Article IV through offsetting contributions of the Contractor pursuant to Article VII, with the intent that the annual payments for the renewal term described in this Article are reduced.”

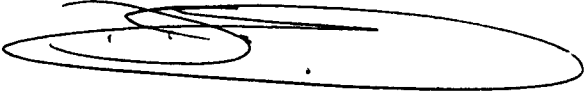
Preliminary discussions between the SPCA and the City have not resulted in any agreement, which would reduce the current annual payment of \$268,000 mentioned in Article IV. Initial indications were the SPCA would require additional funding (exceeding \$268,000). However, they have since revised their offer to retain the current annual funding, if fees relating to animal control (licence and pound fees) are increased. It should be noted that the SPCA have not indicated any disagreement to a further two-year extension of the current agreement.

The SPCA has stated they are willing to continue municipal bylaw enforcement in Richmond. However, they have publicly stated it is their long-term goal to opt out of municipal bylaw enforcement and concentrate on animal welfare issues in the province.

This presents an opportune time for staff to review the long-term strategies of the program and examine trends in other municipalities. Staff will be reviewing the current program costs and evaluating what, if any, services could be performed cost effectively by either City staff or private contractors. Discussions with the SPCA have been promising and they are currently preparing cost estimates for the different components of the animal control program.

The SPCA have agreed that the current Agreement may remain in place on a month to month basis should contract negotiations not be finalized by December 31, 2003.

It is our view this staff recommendation informs the SPCA of the City's position and allows for negotiations to continue with the parties not being constrained by the provisions of the current contract.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Don Pearson", enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

for Don Pearson
Manager, Community Outreach
4269

DP:dp