

CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE

BY-LAW NO. 5756-1999

**A by-law to establish and regulate spaying/neutering
of cats within the District of Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS:

- a) Cat identification will provide cats protection under the law equal to that afforded dogs, by establishing ownership which, in turn, would encourage cat owners to take full responsibility for their pets' welfare.
- b) Cat identification will protect cats, as dogs are now protected, by establishing minimum holding periods for cats released to or impounded by the S.P.C.A.
- c) A program to require cat identification will facilitate the return of owned cats.
- d) Cat identification will provide a method to distinguish between owned and unowned cat populations.
- e) Cat identification would advance the reduction of the at large cat population, thereby reducing the untold suffering of cats at large in our community.
- f) Cat identification would reduce the number of unowned cats at large, thereby reducing unwanted litters, overpopulation, and the costs to the District for euthanizing owned cats at large.
- g) Unsterilized cats allowed outside impregnate other cats and give birth to kittens outside, adding to the District's large unwanted, unowned feral cat population.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge, in open meeting assembled, **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1) This By-law shall be cited for all purposes as "Maple Ridge Cat Spay/Neuter By-Law No. 5756-1999."

Cat Identification Program

- 2) In the construction and for the purposes of the By-law, the following words and terms shall have the meaning hereby assigned to them unless repugnant to the context hereof:
 - a) "At large" means:
 - i) on the premises of a person other than an owner of the cat, without the consent of an occupant or owner of such premises; or
 - ii) on a public street, on public or private school grounds, or in any other public place, except when under the control of an owner by leash, cord, chain, or other similar means of physical restraint that is not more than eight feet in length.
 - b) "Identification" means:
 - i) a collar or tag worn by a cat which includes the current name, address and telephone number of the owner; or
 - ii) tattooing or implanting of a microchip, (a tiny computer chip placed under the skin which may be scanned for identification purposes).
 - c) "Impounded cat" means any cat released to or under the custody of or control of the S.P.C.A.
 - d) "Person" includes corporations, estates, associations, partnerships and trust, and one or more individual human beings.
 - e) "S.P.C.A." means the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
 - f) "Sterilized cat" means any cat that has been spayed or neutered, as the case may be, by a veterinarian.
 - g) "Unsterilized cat" means any cat that has not been spayed or neutered, as the case may be, by a veterinarian.

Identification Required:

- 3) It shall be unlawful for any person to be an owner of a cat that is actually or apparently over six months of age unless the person maintains identification worn by the cat. This section shall not apply to cats in quarantine and cats brought into the District exclusively for the purposes of entering them in a cat show or cat exhibition and not allowed to be at large.

Owner – Exception:

- 4) “Owner” means any person owning, harbouring or keeping, or providing care or sustenance for a cat, whether registered or not, or having custody of a cat, whether temporarily or permanently. This definition shall not apply to any person who has notified the S.P.C.A. of the cat at large that the person has taken into possession and:
 - a) who is or will be transporting the cat to the S.P.C.A.; or
 - b) who has made arrangements with the S.P.C.A. to have the cat picked up by the S.P.C.A.

Removal of Cat Identification:

- 5) It shall be unlawful for any person other than an officer of or a person authorized by the S.P.C.A. to remove any identification from any cat not owned by the person.

Cats Released to the S.P.C.A.:

- 6) Any person who takes into the person’s possession any cat that he or she believes to be an unsterilized cat shall immediately notify the S.P.C.A. and shall release the cat to the S.P.C.A. upon request.
- 7) In the case of any cat released to the S.P.C.A. wearing identification, the S.P.C.A. shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the owner by telephone, and shall send written notice to the owner. The cat shall be held by the S.P.C.A. for not less than five days, after which time the S.P.C.A. may return the cat to the person who had released the cat to the S.P.C.A., offer the cat for adoption, or euthanize the cat, if not sooner recovered by the owner. An owner wishing to recover the cat shall pay a daily impoundment fee of \$2.50 for each full day, or fraction therefore, that the cat is held by the S.P.C.A.
- 8) In the case of any cat released to the S.P.C.A. not wearing identification, the S.P.C.A. shall hold the cat for not less than five days, after which time the S.P.C.A. may return the cat to the person who had released the cat to the S.P.C.A., offer the cat for adoption, or euthanize the cat, if not sooner recovered by a person claiming ownership. If a person claiming ownership seeks to recover the cat, the person shall pay a daily impoundment fee of \$2.50 for each full day, or fraction therefore, that the cat is held at the S.P.C.A.
- 9) Any cat released to the S.P.C.A. with a “notched ear”, indicative of a sterilized feral cat, may be held by the S.P.C.A. for not less than five days, after which time the S.P.C.A. may return the cat to the person who had released the cat to the S.P.C.A., offer the cat for adoption, or euthanize the cat, if not sooner recovered by a person claiming ownership. If a person claiming ownership seeks to recover the cat, the person shall pay a daily impoundment fee of \$2.50 for each full day, or fraction therefore, that the cat is held at the S.P.C.A.
- 10) If a cat released to the S.P.C.A. is not recovered by the owner, the person who had released the cat to the S.P.C.A. shall have the right of first refusal for permanent custody and ownership of the cat.

Sterilization of Cats:

- 11) It shall be unlawful for any person to be or become an owner of a cat that is actually or apparently over six months of age unless the cat has been sterilized or unless the person holds a valid cat breeding permit for an unsterilized cat as provided for in this By-law.

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12) It shall be unlawful for any person to allow an unsterilized cat that is actually or apparently over six months of age to be at large whether or not the person holds a valid cat breeding permit for the cat as provided for in this By-law.

Cat Breeding Permits:

- 13) The S.P.C.A. may prescribe the form of application required by any person who wishes to obtain a cat breeding permit that will exempt that person from the provisions of Section 11 during the life of the permit.
- 14) The S.P.C.A. may, upon receiving an appropriate application form and the fees for a cat breeding permit, issue a cat breeding permit, which permit will be valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance.
- 15) An owner who holds a cat breeding permit is responsible for ensuring that the cat to which the permit relates is not permitted to be at large in the District.
- 16) The fee for a cat breeding permit issued pursuant to this By-law is \$35.00.

Enforcement:

- 17) If a cat, with or without identification, has not been sterilized, the person claiming ownership may be cited by an officer of the S.P.C.A. for a violation of Section 11. The penalty for violating Section 11 shall be waived upon:
 - a) purchase of a cat breeding permit as provided for in this By-law; or
 - b) proof that the cat has been sterilized being furnished to the S.P.C.A. within 30 days after the date the citation was issued.
- 18) The S.P.C.A., or his or her authorized representative is hereby authorized to enter at all reasonable times upon any property subject to the regulations of this By-law, in order to ascertain whether such regulations are being obeyed.

Penalty:

19) Any person who contravenes the provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and on summary conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$100.00.

READ A FIRST TIME the 9th day of February, 1999.

READ A SECOND TIME the 9th day of February, 1999.

READ A THIRD TIME the 9th day of February, 1999.

RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED the 23rd day of February, 1999.

MAYOR

CLERK