

Subject: Oliver BC Adopts Cat Licence Bylaw - Why not NVD?

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From: "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>

To: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>

CC: "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mayor & Council: As expressed previously, I believe that the District's Animal Shelter should be funded primarily by District pet owners. As such I feel a logical extension of the dog licence bylaw should be extended to include cats.

I'd like to bring to the District's attention the fact that last week, Oliver B.C. changed their bylaw to licence cats starting in January 2003. I believe it would be financially prudent of the District to follow suit. Such a policy would be more fair & equitable to all taxpayers.

Yours truly, Dave Sadler

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

Town of Oliver to Implement Cat Control Bylaw

OLIVER- Oliver Council recently passed a bylaw to control and regulate cats in response to growing concerns regarding the rapid increase in the number of stray cats in the area.

According to the [Oliver Chronicle](#), the by-law, which will be implemented in January 2003, may be the first of its kind in the Okanagan. In addition to limiting the number of cats per household to two, the bylaw also outlines rules and fees for licensing and tagging, and establishes a fine of up to \$2,000 for any cat owner in violation of the by-law.

If cats are impounded, owners will have to pay \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses on top of other charges, such as storage fees. Owners of unlicensed impounded cats will have to pay to license their pet before he or she is permitted to reclaim it. Annual licensing fees have also been structured to encourage cat owners to have their pets spayed or neutered. Fees reportedly range from \$5 for spayed or neutered cats to \$40 for cats that are unaltered.

SPCA statistics on the number of cats and kittens from Oliver currently occupying space in the Penticton Shelter coupled with a number of complaints from a local hotel owner claiming his property had been inundated with up to 30 malnourished and sick stray cats, reportedly provided all the evidence the Town needed to take action.

According to the [Oliver Chronicle](#), the by-law will enable officials to respond to situations that warrant intervention. Responding to the point that the by-law would therefore be complaint-driven, Mayor Linda Larson indicated that all complaints would be prioritized. "It has to be based on more than an 'I don't like my neighbour's cat' situation. And a biting dog will get priority over a cat sniffing in someone's garden," Larson said.

Dianne McKeown, Penticton SPCA manager, told the [Oliver Chronicle](#) that she is in 100% support of Oliver's new by-law and is hopeful that other municipalities will adopt similar by-laws. According to Penticton SPCA statistics, 791 animals have been surrendered to the shelter between January and June of this year, with 131 cats and kittens being dropped off in June alone.