



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: July 31, 2018

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Cam Forbes, By-law Enforcement Officer

SUBJECT: Lifetime Dog Tags

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Ensure growth and development in Clifford, Palmerston and Harriston makes cost effective and efficient use of municipal services, and development in rural and urban areas is well planned, reflects community interests, is attractive in design and layout, and is consistent with applicable County and Provincial Policies.

BACKGROUND:

Over the years, we have purchased new tags annually at a cost that rises every year. Every January, approximately 1000 tags are mailed to current dog owners, which takes a considerable amount of time.

COMMENTS:

In an effort to save time and money, we would like to update the dog by-law to go to a life time dog tag. This permanent tag system reduces the need to dispose of and replace tags every year.

To update this by-law, we would change the wording of By-law 2016-31 section C 4) from "Every dog tag shall bear the dog tag number and the year in which it was issued" to read "Every dog tag shall bear the license number as issued and be kept on the dog as long as the dog resides in the Town of Minto and the tag is still legible". And Section C 8) will include the wording "or becomes illegible" in regards to the replacement of the tags.

The fees and charges will remain the same and residents will still be required to renew their license annually.

We are currently looking at tags that will have a QR code on them that anyone with a smart phone can scan and it will take them to the S.O.S. Lost Pets website. Once you are on this website you can enter the tag number and it will bring up information for you to contact the owner to notify them that you have found their dog.

We will still register all dogs the same as we have in the past, it will be up to the home owner to register their pet with S.O.S. Lost Pets. A small pamphlet is included with the tag that explains how to register your pet on the website or by text message.



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

By switching to lifetime dog tags, we will save approximately 50 hours of staff time stuffing envelopes with tags to be mailed out, beginning in 2020 with permanent tags being sent out in 2019. As well we will no longer need to purchase tags annually at a cost of approximately \$400.00 a year. Owners will still be invoiced on a yearly basis to renew their licence.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council of the Town of Minto receives the By-law Enforcement Officer's July 31, 2018 report regarding Lifetime Dog Tags and considers an amending By-Law in open session.

Cam Forbes
By-Law Enforcement Officer