

## **MOTION TO DIRECT THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAWS**

Mover: Judy Hupponen

Seconder: Matthew Shoemaker

**WHEREAS** the City of Sault Ste. Marie's existing dog and cat by-laws are 17 and 15 years old respectively; and

**WHEREAS** the existing by-laws provide the means to impound cats and dogs running at large, impose license fees on dog owners and enforce dangerous dog notices; and

**WHEREAS** the scope of the current by-laws only partially address the animal issues the Sault Ste. Marie and District SPCA is presented with on a daily basis; and

**WHEREAS** responsible pet ownership goes beyond confining dogs or cats to the owner's property and purchasing an annual license but rather, includes ensuring that all animals in our City are treated in a humane and responsible manner and are prevented from disturbing or harming people, animals or property; and

**WHEREAS** the Sault Ste. Marie and District SPCA has reviewed by-laws from sixty different communities and 62% of those communities surveyed have animal by-laws which contain such care provisions; and

**WHEREAS** enhancing Sault Ste. Marie's animal control by-laws to include such care provisions would be to the benefit of domestic animals, pet owners, the Sault Ste. Marie and District SPCA and the community at large,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legal Department, with assistance and input from the Sault Ste. Marie and District SPCA, review how Sault Ste. Marie's animal control by-laws could be strengthened and enhanced and report back to Council with findings and recommendations.