

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE:** AMENDING THE CITY OF VAUGHAN – TOWNSHIP OF KING  
ANIMAL SERVICES AGREEMENT IN RESPONSE TO AVIAN  
INFLUENZA

**FROM:**

Gus Michaels, Deputy City Manager, Community Services

**ACTION:** DECISION

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**Purpose**

Staff are seeking Council’s approval to amend the animal services agreement, dated May 1, 2021, between the City of Vaughan and the Township of King (the “Animal Services Agreement”) to enable Vaughan Animal Services to provide services with respect to the collection and removal of wildlife suspected to be sick, injured, or deceased as a result of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza virus, or any other infectious disease, in the Township of King, and to make administrative changes to satisfy insurance and indemnity requirements.

**Report Highlights**

- Vaughan Animal Services has been providing animal enforcement and sheltering services to the Township of King for more than 13 years.
- For the purposes of public health and safety, the Township of King has requested that Vaughan Animal Services collect and remove wildlife suspected to be infected with Avian Influenza.
- Vaughan Animal Services has the resources required to deliver the additional services at no additional cost to the City.
- Additional provisions will be added to the agreement to satisfy insurance and indemnity requirements.
- Council approval is needed to make this amendment to the Animal Services Agreement, as it does not address the removal of wildlife, or insurance and indemnity requirements.

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement amending the Animal Services Agreement to address the items as further described within this report, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, and in a form satisfactory to Legal Services; and
2. That this report and the decision of Council be forwarded to the Township of King.

## **Background**

**Vaughan Animal Services (“VAS”) has been providing animal services to the Township of King since 2011 under the terms of a written agreement.**

The Township of King has been satisfied with the animal control and sheltering services provided by VAS and, as a result, approached staff in January 2025 to expand the services provided by VAS to include the collection and removal of wildlife suspected to be sick, injured, or deceased as a result of Avian Influenza or any other infectious disease in the Township of King.

**The Avian Influenza pandemic has introduced substantial risk to birds, mammals, and humans, and a coordinated response is needed to lessen its impacts.**

Cases of Avian Influenza in both birds and mammals are expected to continue to increase as migratory birds begin to return to their habitats in the spring. Confirmed Avian Influenza infections in both birds and other mammals continues to rise to never-before-seen levels locally, regionally, and across Ontario. In the interest of public health and safety, the amendments to the Animal Services Agreement will require the City of Vaughan to provide services regarding wildlife that are diseased or deceased as a result of Avian Influenza or any other infectious disease. In doing so, VAS will be expanding the provision of a key service targeted at lessening the local impact of Avian Influenza.

**Additional amendments to the agreement between the City of Vaughan and the Township of King will address insurance and indemnity requirements.**

In addition to the wildlife removal services, amendments will be made to the agreement to address the transfer of risk for the provision of said services, as well as the other services currently addressed in the Animal Services Agreement. Specifically, language will be added to reflect insurance and indemnification requirements that the City of Vaughan determines is necessary in order to best address the risks that may arise as a result of providing the services currently set out in the Animal Services Agreement, and the services discussed in this report.

## **Council's approval is required to proceed with the addition of the above-described activities**

As the removal of deceased and diseased wildlife is not presently included in the Animal Services Agreement, Council's approval is required to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the necessary amendments to that agreement.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

[Item 11, Report No. 41 of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 17, 2024.](#)

[Item 18, Report No. 32, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 22, 2021.](#)

[Item 19, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 17, 2016.](#)

## **Analysis and Options**

Municipal animal control services, such as VAS, play a leading role in reducing the spread of zoonotic diseases, including Avian Influenza, by deploying specialized services and skills to safely and effectively remove and dispose of diseased and deceased animals in a humane manner.

Given that VAS staff are appropriately trained and equipped to carry out removal activities, and that there is a long-standing positive working relationship in place with the Township of King, the addition of these services is a logically progressive step to enhancing public health measures across the immediate region. These measures will benefit both municipalities by enhancing the municipal response to Avian Influenza and other zoonotic diseases and will further align the level of service provided in both municipalities.

## **Financial Impact**

There is no additional budget requirement associated with the removal of animals diseased and deceased due to Avian Influenza; Removals will be carried out by staff who are assigned to work within the Township as part of their regular duties, as defined in the Animal Services Agreement, at no additional cost to the Township of King, and costs associated with disposal of wildlife is accounted for in the VAS operating budget.

## **Operational Impact**

The operational impact associated with the recommendations in this report is limited, with the proposed activities being already provided by VAS in Vaughan. Thus, no additional resources, training or processes need to be considered. Legal Services was consulted and has prepared the amending agreement.

## **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

Legal Services will be sharing the amending agreement with the Township of King's Township Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services, along with the Town's legal counsel for their review. This initiative is further supported by York Region – Health.

## **Conclusion**

The amendments sought through this report expand on the current agreement between the City of Vaughan and the Township of King to enable VAS to collect and remove wildlife suspected to be sick, injured, or deceased as a result of Avian Influenza or any other infectious disease, and address the transfer of risk by including indemnity and insurance provisions. The amendments will assist in accomplishing the mutual goal of reducing the local impact of Avian Influenza, thus lessening risk to birds, mammals and humans, and the impact on local veterinary and health services.

**For more information**, please contact: Susan Kelly, Director and Chief Licensing Officer, By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, ext. 8952.

## **Attachments**

N/A

## **Prepared by**

Alexandra Scarr, Policy Implementation Specialist, extension 8448