

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 5. **Dealing with Doggie Doo Doo in Support of Vancouver's Zero Waste Goals and Cleaner Parks and Streets**

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

#### WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is currently undertaking a dog waste collection pilot project that started in 2016 and involves six city parks. Red dog waste collection carts have been located at Charleson Park, Coopers Park, Grimmatt Park, John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park and Hinge Park. Only minor expansion is currently contemplated for a further one to two parks in the coming year;
2. The goal of the dog waste pilot is to increase diversion of dog waste away from the landfill. Dog waste at the landfill creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas;
3. The dog waste pilot program aligns with the City's Zero Waste goal;
4. By providing dog owners with a convenient disposal option, the collection pilot is also intended to support cleaner parks, green spaces, and streets. Keeping dog waste off the ground is important as people walk on paths and parks and no one wants to step or slip in dog waste. Dog waste is also smelly and poses health risks if not cleaned up and disposed of properly. Plus dog waste is not a fertilizer, and does not disappear in the rain;
5. When red dog waste carts or bins are not available in public spaces, people's only disposal option is to place dog waste bags in general litter bins, which means contributing to the landfill. Disposal for residents involves bagging the waste before placing in a designated cart or in the garbage;
6. This motion aligns with recommendation 2.10 of the People, Parks and Dogs Strategy, to "Expand the separated dog waste program and promote initiatives to effectively manage dog waste". During the public engagement process, Vancouver residents were very supportive of more separated waste bins to address both odor issues and broader sustainability benefits;
7. In addition to the cost of bins, the City's processing of dog waste involves collection and manually separating waste from the bags. Bags are disposed as garbage, and dog waste is taken to the waste water treatment plant;
8. Metro Vancouver estimates that over 350,000 dogs produce dog waste each day;

9. Vancouver's urban dog population is growing. 2016 data from the City of Vancouver Animal Services group shows a steady increase in the number of licensed dogs over the last 12 years, with 21,332 licensed dogs. However the actual estimated dog population in Vancouver is between 32,390 and 55,947;
10. Currently there is only one vendor providing dog waste services across several municipalities;
11. For resident dog owners disposing privately, dog waste can be flushed in toilets and treated at a wastewater treatment plant with other sewage. Waste needs to be removed from bags; it cannot be flushed in them as they will clog plumbing and sewers. It should not be put in storm sewers on streets as these carry rain to natural creeks. Other private disposal options include using a collection service or building a composter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back on costs, and barriers to expanding dog waste collection services throughout the City, as well as possible options to address any identified barriers.
- B. THAT the report back be provided to Council in time to enable consideration of the inclusion of expanded collection and waste management services in the 2020 operating budget.
- C. THAT staff consult and engage with Metro Vancouver staff to identify available waste management services and the opportunity for shared services.
- D. THAT staff engage with the Vancouver Park Board staff to include any further considerations in the report back to Council.

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