



# Staff Report

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## By-law Services

**Report To:** COW-Finance, Admin, Fire, Legal, Community Services  
**Meeting Date:** June 26, 2023  
**Report Number:** FAF.23.080  
**Title:** Georgian Triangle Humane Society ("GTHS") – Pound keeper Services  
**Prepared by:** Debbie Young, Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.080, entitled "Georgian Triangle Humane Society ("GTHS") – Pound keeper Services";

AND THAT Staff recommend it would be in the best interest of the Town to enter into a Pound Keeper contract to provide this service to our residents.

AND THAT Council provide direction to Staff as to the level of service that By-law is to provide to residents regarding dogs at large, as outlined in the scenarios provided below;

- (a) Provide no service for dogs at large; or
- (b) Enter into a Pound keeper contract with GTHS and provide services for dogs at large.

### B. Overview

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GTHS has approached the Town to consider a contract for Pound Keeper services. This staff report outlines the details of the services and costs for Council's consideration.

### C. Background

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The Town of The Blue Mountains has been without a contract for the care and boarding of dogs at large since on or about November 2022.

Previously By-law had a contract with Blue Mountain Veterinary Services which allowed By-law Staff to take a dog for impound and also for emergency care if required. That contract ended on or about November 2022. Since that time, Staff have not been able to pick up any dogs at large that have been reported. By-law Staff would like Council to consider whether this is a service we wish to again provide to residents.

To date, By-law has been able to locate the owners of dogs at large but with the upcoming tourist season approaching, many dogs will not be licensed with the Town.

The location of GTHS is the closest service from the Town which is approximately 20 minutes. This location will allow officers to drop off a dog and resume their duties in a quick and efficient manner.

The GTHS provides access to the officers to be able to leave a dog in a secure location after hours of any veterinary clinic. At this time no veterinary clinics are willing to take on this pound keeper service and they are limited to a closing time of 5:00 p.m.

Discussions with Sonya Reichel, Executive Director of GTHS have been entered into to review the details of what a contract would look like, including services provided, expenses and the sale of dog tags. GTHS is the only local Pound keeper that has the ability to take dogs at this time.

The Pound keeper would be responsible for the care and shelter of dogs, under the custody of the Town as a result of running at large, surrendered by an individual other than the owner of the animal, or removed from a home as a result of a pet owner being in contravention of the Care of Animals (By-law 2006-32) as well as collecting, documenting and remitting of fees associated with impoundment.

The Town's objectives with respect to the Pound keeping Services are as follows:

- (a) Boarding of dogs that are impounded pursuant to municipal by-laws
- (b) Humane care of dogs brought under the care of the Pound
- (c) To work cooperatively with the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and other officers in coordinating Pound keeping Services
- (d) To provide excellent customer service on behalf of the municipality

The data provided below is in relation to dogs picked up by By-law Office:

2021 - 10 dogs

2022 - 10 dogs

2023 - None to date (no ability to do so)

## **D. Analysis**

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If the Town chooses to enter into a Pound keeper contract with GHTS, the following is their proposal:

Average intake: 5-12 dogs per year

Annual contract: \$6,300

Increases 2% per year

Opportunity to re-negotiate in 3 years (might increase if the average number of dogs per year increases from 8.5 dogs per year)

4-day hold for dogs

Pound keeper provides:

- Open 7 days a week
- 24-hour ability to drop off dogs
- Boarding for 4 days
- Advertising lost dog
- Collection of all fees (impound/license)
- Access to veterinary hospital for resident dogs
- Will put the dog up for adoption if owner is not located
- Boarding fee or medical fees to be collected from owner for the GTHS at our discretion (most of the time this is waived).

Fee structure:

- Impound fees/tag fees are remitted
- Town is invoiced quarterly for \$1,575
- Town of The Blue Mountains covers urgent or extensive care needed by the dog upon entry (i.e., hit by car dog or dog found in medical distress).

It has been anticipated by GTHS that the average price for care for a dog is approximately \$700. GTHS advised that they are currently updating their contracts with local municipalities based on the estimate cost of \$700 per dog which will be recalibrated every couple of years. Current data in relation to our neighbouring municipalities with GTHS is as follows:

- Meaford – currently renegotiating an updated contract.
- Wasaga Beach - can take anywhere from 9 to 32 dogs. They pay \$12,000 per year with a 2% increase annually.
- Collingwood - an average of 35 dogs. They pay \$24,000 per year with a 2% increase annually.

In addition to the above, the Pound keeper would also collect a fee of \$50 which is payable to the Town for our services, including capturing or collecting the dog and transporting it to the Pound keeper. This fee would only be collected when the pet owner picks up their dog from the Pound keeper.

The Pound keeper would also sell dog tags for the Town and fees collected with be deducted from the quarterly invoices.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

### **2. Organizational Excellence**

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

### **4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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None

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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The cost of the contract for 2023 will be assumed by the By-law operating budget which will see some cost savings due to staff vacancies. Future year costs will be included in the annual budget as appropriate.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Debbie Young, Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing at [bylawadmin@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:bylawadmin@thebluemountains.ca).

**J. Attached**

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None

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Young  
Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing

For more information, please contact:  
Debbie Young, Interim Manager of By-law and Licensing  
[bylawadmin@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:bylawadmin@thebluemountains.ca)  
519-599-3131 extension 242

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	FAF-23-080-Georgian-Triangle-Humane-Society-(GTHS) - Poundkeeper-Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 12, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature - Task assigned to Ryan Gibbons was completed by workflow administrator Debbie Young**

**Ryan Gibbons - Jun 12, 2023 - 10:23 AM**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	FAF-23-080-Georgian-Triangle-Humane-Society-(GTHS) - Poundkeeper-Services.docx
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Ryan Gibbons - Jun 15, 2023 - 8:38 AM**