

**DATE:** October 22, 2020

**FILE:** 4570-30

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Electoral Areas Services Committee

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

*J. Warren for: R. Dyson*

**RE: Request for Animal Control Feasibility Study**

**Purpose**

To advise the Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC) of a request from the Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA) that the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) work with HIRRA, and the Denman Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (DIRRA) to undertake an Animal Control Bylaw feasibility study for Hornby Island and Denman Island in 2021.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT a feasibility study be conducted to explore options and costs associated with animal control services on Hornby Island and Denman Island in 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT \$12,000 be included in the proposed 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan to be funded by both the Hornby Island Feasibility Study Fund, Function 155, and the Denman Island Feasibility Study Fund, Function 154.

**Executive Summary**

- Formal request received from HIRRA advising that DIRRA has agreed that Denman Island should participate in the proposed 2021 Animal Control feasibility study.
- Conducting a joint study of a shared animal control service, will provide options that would mutually benefit both Hornby and Denman islands.
- Study costs budgeted at \$12,000 and allocated at 50 per cent to Functions 155 and 154 respectively.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

*A. Yasinski*

*S. Smith*

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Amanda Yasinski  
Manager of Bylaw Compliance

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Scott Smith  
General Manager of  
Planning & Development

**Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)**

Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association	✓
Denman Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association	✓

## Background

The CVRD received a formal request from HIRRA dated January 9, 2020 requesting that the CVRD work with HIRRA and the Hornby Island community to undertake an Animal Control Bylaw feasibility study. The Comox Valley Regional District Animal Control Service was established in 1981 with the service area covering Areas B, C, and the Vancouver Island portion of Area A. Currently there is no animal control service for Hornby or Denman islands.

At the March 9, 2020 Electoral Areas Services Committee a staff report was presented, to advise the Committee of the correspondence received from HIRRA to have the CVRD undertake an Animal Control feasibility study in 2021. The recommendation from that report was:

*“THAT the Hornby Island Residents’ and Ratepayers’ Association and the Denman Island Residents’ and Ratepayers’ Association consider making a joint request that the Comox Valley Regional District undertake an Animal Control Feasibility study for both Hornby and Denman Islands in 2021.”*

On September 24, 2020 the CVRD received correspondence from HIRRA advising that DIRRA has agreed that Denman Island should participate in the proposed Animal Control feasibility study. The letter of request from HIRRA is attached as Appendix A of this report.

Conducting a joint study with cost sharing and the exploration of a shared animal control service, will provide information and options that would mutually benefit both Hornby and Denman islands. A feasibility study conducted for both Hornby and Denman islands would be budgeted at \$12,000 and allocated at 50 per cent to Functions 155 and 154 respectively.

This study would start in spring of 2021 and would involve bylaw and communication staff time with the assistance of a local consultant, who would lead a public consultation process including but not limited to the use of a dedicated webpage, online surveys, and public information sessions.

An overview of the steps to establishing an Animal Control Service for Hornby and/or Denman islands is attached as Appendix B of this report.

## Options

1. To consider a joint Animal Control feasibility study for Denman and Hornby islands in the 2021 budget.
2. To not proceed with a joint Animal Control feasibility study.

This report supports Option 1, with the CVRD undertaking a joint Animal Control Feasibility study for both Hornby and Denman Islands in 2021.

Attachments: Appendix A – “Response from HIRRA dated September 24, 2020”  
Appendix B – “Steps to Establishing an Animal Control Service”

**Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association  
(HIRRA)**

4305 Central Road, Hornby Island, BC, V0R 1Z0  
Ph: (250) 335-1842 E-mail: office@hirra.ca

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September 24, 2020

To: Comox Valley Regional District

Re: Hornby/Denman Animal Control Bylaw feasibility study

In January 2020, at the direction of our membership, HIRRA requested that the CVRD undertake an animal control bylaw feasibility study for Hornby Island. We received a response from Jake Martens that recommended we bring forward a request for a joint feasibility study with Denman for 2021.

The Denman Island Residents Association president, Ron Shepherd, informed me by email (Sept. 8, 2020) that he DIRA Board of Directors met on September 7, 2020, and agreed that Denman Island should participate in the proposed Animal Control Feasibility Study.

Currently there is no animal control bylaw on Hornby or Denman and residents of both islands have expressed concerns about animals at large.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the CVRD work with HIRRA, DIRA and our island communities to undertake an Animal Control Bylaw feasibility study in 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reina LeBaron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reina LeBaron, HIRRA Administrator on behalf of the HIRRA Executive:  
Lynn Nunley, President  
Jeremy Payne, Vice-president  
Rudy Rogalsky, Treasurer  
Alpen Kelley, Secretary

**Steps to Establishing an Animal Control Service for Denman and/or Hornby Islands**

This document gives a brief overview of the legislative process to establishing an animal control service for Denman Island or for Hornby Island. The benefits to establishing such a service include public access to trained animal control personnel, reactive and proactive investigations and patrol, promotion of responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals and if required dangerous dog management.

The alternative is for property owners to continue to rely on the RCMP to provide this service. In certain cases involving wildlife or dogs chasing wildlife then B.C. conservation officers will assist, however resources with both of these agencies are limited and therefore only when public safety is jeopardized or injuries have occurred would these agencies investigate.

