



Subject: *Impound & Boarding fees for dogs - Municipal Fee Policy*
To: CAO for Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: February 23, 2026
Related Motions: C26(31)
Prepared by: Kelly Ash, Manager of Development Services
Approved by: John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development

Summary

Council requested additional information be provided by Staff regarding impound and boarding fees for dogs before a decision was made on implementing these fees. This report provides direction on how and when to waive fees that are in line with Council's values.

Financial Impact Statement

The Municipality will receive revenue from the payment of impound and boarding fees, but those are a means of cost recovery for the service.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that the tabled motion C26(31) be lifted from the table and defeated at the Council meeting, and that the amended Municipal Fees Policy be approved as listed in this report.

Recommended Motions

Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council gives notice of intent for updates to the Municipal Fee Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated March 10, 2026.

Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) - March 10, 2026

Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council gives notice of intent for updates to the Municipal Fee Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated March 10, 2026.

Regular Meeting of Council - March 25, 2026

Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council approves the updates to the Municipal Fee Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated March 10, 2026.

Background

Motion C26(31) moved (later tabled) that Council gives notice of intent for updates to the Municipal Fee policy, including the addition of impound and boarding fees, as attached to the Executive Committee agenda and as amended on February 17, 2026.

Motion C26(32) Moved to table Motion C26(31) pending a further report (Re: Dog Control Fees).

Motion CRS26(33) Amend Motion CRS23(32) to incorporate a policy where a first offence of a dog being impounded for running at large that the fees are waived for up to 4 days.

When the Municipality was responsible for impounding dogs, our fees were as follows:

Impound fee: \$40
Daily boarding fee: \$15

There was limited cost recovery based on these fees.

At one time, we had our own kennel located in Georgefield at the East Hants Waste Management Centre, but that wasn't a sustainable model or location. We used several private kennels until the NS SPCA took over as our kennel operator in 2019. As of April 1, 2026, we will be taking over the service, including impounding dogs.

Discussion

Council has tabled motions from last month relating to the waiving of fees. Staff are recommending those motions be defeated, and the updated recommendation to the Municipal Fee Policy be approved.

There is a facility in Truro that has expressed interest in operating as our municipal kennel, and meets all of the requirements to impound a dog. The rate is \$80/dog/day plus HST, and includes housing, food, and exercise for the impounded dog. This fee would also be applicable if we had to keep a dog impounded for a court case, which could be a substantial amount of time.

The fees proposed are higher than other jurisdictions in the province, but we wanted to ensure that the fees were a deterrent to dog owners, and that they are held responsible for ensuring that their dog isn't roaming at large. As well, the boarding fee was proposed as a method of cost recovery for the service. It will not cover all costs of impounding a dog (i.e. staff time/overtime, fuel, equipment, supplies, insurance, etc).

In speaking with other jurisdictions, there are areas where owners let their dogs loose so they can be picked up by the county/town/municipality, and it's considered cheap boarding. While that might seem unfathomable, it does sadly happen. This is not something we want to happen in East Hants.

When a dog has been picked up for running at large in the past, Staff have used all means necessary to ensure that dog is returned to its owner. We do not immediately pick up a dog and take it directly to the kennel. We will follow that same process again. We will check for a tag or microchip, check social media channels for a report of a lost dog, etc.

In an effort to provide discretion to the Municipal Compliance Officer, the following has been added to the Municipal Fee Policy:

Where special circumstances, such as death in the family, sickness, loss of employment or other form of substantial personal financial hardship occur, as well as where Staff are of the opinion that the fees should be fully or partially waived based on the situation which led to the impoundment of a dog, the Municipal Compliance Officer may use their discretion to waive the impound fee and/or daily boarding fee.

If this approach is agreeable to Council, an internal procedure will be drafted to provide more direction to Staff on specific instances where fees may be waived that is in line with the values of Council.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Periodic review and evaluation of the policy supports the municipality's corporate excellence strategy. We want to be sure the services we offer, the fees we charge, and the things we require our residents to do provide value.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Municipal Fee Policy is a Council policy that sets out the fees related to the Dog Bylaw.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Staff recommend the following impound fees and boarding fees be implemented:

Impound fee, first offence: \$50.00

Impound fee, subsequent offence: \$75.00 (2nd), \$100 (3rd and thereafter)

Daily boarding fee: \$85.00

The boarding fees are a partial cost recovery. They do not cover all aspects relating to impounding a dog and transporting it to the kennel.

The draft changes to the Municipal Fee Policy are also attached to this report.

Alternatives

There are no alternative recommendations for this report.

Attachments

Draft Municipal Fee Policy - With Markup

Draft Municipal Fee Policy - Without Markup

Appendix A - Jurisdictional Scan