

Dear Mayor and Council,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to revisit a proposal originally presented by Jessie Morden in February 2024 to the Mayor and Council. However, it appears this proposal may not have been formally included in the council package at that time.

The proposal concerns the allocation of 100% of licensing, impound, and boarding fees to WAG. During the council meeting in February 2024, Jessie Morden emphasized the importance of this initiative. While the total amount may be relatively small in the RMOW budget, every dollar is critical to WAG's operations. In 2024, WAG received \$1,983 from licensing/impound/boarding fees, and full allocation would effectively double this amount and encourage more community members to license their dogs.

Benefits of Allocating Licensing Fees to WAG

Beyond financial support, directing all licensing fees to WAG would incentivize increased outreach and education on pet licensing, leading to:

- More lost pets being quickly reunited with their owners.
- Greater funding for the care of lost and injured animals.
- Improved planning for off-leash parks and other pet services, as RMOW uses dog licensing statistics to assess these needs.

The partnership between WAG and RMOW to boost licensing compliance could further strengthen Whistler's pet-friendly infrastructure.

Improving Licensing Efficiency

In addition to this proposal, Lindsay DeBou and I identified a major inefficiency in managing two separate databases:

- **Shelter Buddy** (used by WAG)
- **Tempest** (used by RMOW)

These systems do not communicate with each other, leading to duplicate data entry and unnecessary administrative work.

Currently, Whistler does not have an online dog licensing system, requiring residents to visit municipal offices or WAG in person. To address this:

- Lindsay DeBou has submitted an IT request to add Tempest e-apply, which would allow residents to:
 - Apply for and renew licenses online.
 - Reduce unnecessary foot traffic at municipal offices and WAG.

This is particularly important as WAG currently houses many reactive dogs, making in-person visits outside of Open Shelter Times both challenging for staff and potentially unsafe for the public.

Next Steps

I encourage the council to deliberate further on this proposal and consider the long-term benefits of allocating licensing, impound and boarding fees to WAG. While the financial impact on RMOW is minimal, the positive impact on animal welfare, public education, and community engagement is significant.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your thoughts and any opportunity to discuss this further.

Peta Woolnough - Executive Director

Whistler Animals Galore Society - WAG