

Ponoka's New Animal Control Bylaw – Find Out What's New

Did you know the Town of Ponoka has a new Animal Control Bylaw that regulates both cats and dogs? Today we are bringing you Part 3 in a series of 'What's New' articles that explore the new Bylaw. This week, we'll look at the new definition, regulations and licensing requirements for Aggressive Dogs.

New Definition for 'Aggressive Dog'

The new Bylaw defines 'Aggressive Dog' as any dog that has been designated as such by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in accordance with the Bylaw or has been made the subject of an Order under Alberta's Dangerous Dogs Act.

The CAO may declare a dog to be an Aggressive Dog if they have reasonable grounds to believe the dog has a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to threaten, attack, chase or bite other Animals or humans; has inflicted a severe injury upon another Animal or human; has been the subject of an order or direction of a Justice or Judge, pursuant to the Dangerous Dogs Act; or is a continuing threat of serious harm to any human or other Animal.

Owners of Aggressive Dogs can request an appeal of the CAO's decision within 14 days of receiving written notice of the declaration. To appeal, Aggressive Dog owners must submit a request in writing and a fee payment of \$100 for the declaration to be reviewed by Council.

Licensing Aggressive Dogs

Owners of Aggressive Dogs must apply for an Aggressive Dog Licence and tag immediately after becoming the owner of an Aggressive Dog or within seven days after the Dog has been designated as aggressive, whichever occurs first. Aggressive Dog Licences and tags must be renewed annually prior to December 31 each year.

Cat Licences Available for Purchase

The new cat tags have arrived. You can now purchase cat licences under the Town of Ponoka's new Animal Control Bylaw. To purchase a cat licence, please contact the Town at pets@ponoka.ca or 403-783-4431 to request a copy of the animal licensing form. You can then send the completed form along with official documented proof of spay or neuter with payment by mail to the Town Office (#200, 5604-50 Street, Ponoka, AB, T4J 1G5), by email at pets@ponoka.ca, or by placing the completed form and payment in the drop box in the west vestibule at the Town Office between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.



Cat owners have until July 1 to purchase licences before enforcement of the Bylaw begins. Licences purchased this year will **not expire until December 31, 2022**, giving cat owners an extra six months of licensing coverage in the first year of the new Bylaw. After December 2022, cat licences will need to be **renewed annually**, similar to dog licences. Dog licences purchased this year will expire and require renewal by December 31, 2021.

For more information about cat licences, visit the Town website at www.ponoka.ca. Scroll down the homepage and click the link under 'New Animal Control Bylaw – Online Open House'.

Find out 'WHAT'S NEW' in Ponoka's ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW



To purchase an Aggressive Dog Licence and tag, owners must complete a licence application form; pay the annual fee; prove they have a locked pen or enclosure that prevents any other person entering; and display a sign warning others of an Aggressive Dog at each entrance of their property, and on the locked pen or enclosure where the Aggressive Dog is confined.

New Bylaw Regulations for Aggressive Dogs

Under the new Bylaw, the owner of an Aggressive Dog is guilty of an offence if the Aggressive Dog is:

- In a designated off leash area;
- Running at large;
- Not wearing a muzzle and on a leash with someone able to control them at all times when the dog is off the owner's property; or
- Not indoors in a locked enclosure, in a pen outside or being supervised by an adult on the owner's property.

Owners of Aggressive Dogs are also guilty of an offence under the Bylaw if they don't obtain an Aggressive Dog licence and tag.

Other provisions in the new Bylaw include:

- **A limit of five cats and dogs** in total per residence is permitted (unless the property is owned or occupied by a licensed kennel operator);
- **A grandfathering licence** can be applied for between April 1 and June 31, 2021 for each dog or cat that exceeds the five-animal limit;
- **Annual licensing** is required for all dogs and cats aged six months and older;
- **A new Aggressive Dog definition**, regulations and licensing requirements; and
- **New fee and fine schedules** that were last updated in 2007.

The Bylaw takes effect immediately, but cat regulations and licensing will not be enforced until **July 1, 2021** in order to give citizens time to become familiar with the new Bylaw and to purchase cat licences and grandfathering licences.

Questions?

You can learn more about the new Animal Control Bylaw at an **online Open House** being held on the Town website at www.ponoka.ca. Scroll down the homepage and click the link under 'New Animal Control Bylaw – Online Open House'. You can also phone the Town Office with any questions from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at 403-783-4431.

~ UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ~

- **Next TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 6 p.m.**
- **Next COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 @ 6 p.m.**
- **The public is welcome to observe all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings electronically due to COVID-19. Please register first** by no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting by phoning 403-783-4431 during office hours Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You will be provided with details on how to observe the meeting by telephone or an online audio link.
- **Public Forum:** If you would like to address Council via telephone during the Public Forum portion of the meeting, please register by no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting by phoning 403-783-4431.

~ TOWN NEWS ~

- **Grey Carts and Green Carts** should be placed at the curb for pick up on March 24, 25 and 26 – depending on your Zone.
- **Recyclable Materials** bundled in clear or blue transparent plastic bags should be placed at the curb for pick up March 31, April 1 and 2 – depending on what Zone you live in.
- **Missed Pickups** – If your curbside waste, recycling or compost is not picked up on your designated collection day, please file an Online Service Request at www.ponoka.ca to report the missed pick up, or call the Town at 403-783-0159 for assistance filling out the form.



Hometown Weekly
Town of Ponoka News & Events

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