

A Cat Licence or Dog Licence is Your Pet's Ticket Home

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 4 in a series of 'What's New' articles that explore the new Bylaw. This week, we'll look at the importance of licensing your cats and dogs.

What If My Pet Is Always Kept Indoors?

Under the new Bylaw, all cats and dogs must be licensed annually. Even if your pets are always kept indoors, there is a chance they can accidentally escape your property. A licence helps ensure that your pet can more easily be returned home safely by the Town's Animal Control Contractor who will have an up-to-date record of how to contact the pet's owners.

Cat Licences & Grandfathering Licences Available for Purchase

You can now purchase cat licences and Grandfathering Licences under the Town of Ponoka's new Animal Control Bylaw.

To purchase a cat licence or Grandfathering 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 documented proof of spay or neuter, such as an official letter from your veterinarian or a receipt from the procedure, along 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.

Grandfathering Licences

A maximum limit of five cats and dogs in total per residence is permitted in the Town of Ponoka under the new Bylaw (unless the property is occupied and operated by a licensed kennel operator). Pet owners who currently own more than five cats and dogs can apply for a Grandfathering Licence for each animal that exceeds the five-animal-per-residence limit. Upon application and payment, those animals will be grandfathered under the new Bylaw. Grandfathering Licences are not transferrable to another dog or cat.

June 30 Deadline

Applications for Grandfathering Licences will not be accepted after June 30, 2021. Pet owners have until June 30 to purchase cat licences and Grandfathering Licences before enforcement of the Bylaw begins.

Cat licences and Grandfathering Licences purchased this year will not expire until December 31, 2022, giving those pets an extra six months of licensing coverage in the first year of the new Bylaw. After December 2022, cat licences and Grandfathering Licences will need to be renewed annually, similar to dog licences. Dog licences purchased this year will expire and require renewal by December 2021.



Find out 'WHAT'S NEW' in Ponoka's

ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW



Licensing also saves pet owners added cost by avoiding the fines for failing to license your cat or dog if they are caught running at large.

What If My Pet Won't Wear a Collar?

If your cat or dog refuses to wear a collar, you may want to consider getting them microchipped or tattooed by your veterinarian. This can help the Town's Animal Control Contractor identify your pet's owners to help return your pet home safely if they are found running at large. The Town's Animal Control Contractor can also use the identity information on the microchip or tattoo to confirm if your pet has a valid dog or cat licence.

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 until June 30, 2021 for each dog or cat that exceeds the five-animal limit;
- **A new Aggressive Dog definition**, regulations and licensing requirements; and
- **New fee and fine schedules** that were last updated in 2007.

The new Bylaw takes effect immediately, but cat licensing and the five-animal-per-residence limit 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 ~

- **Town Facilities Closed April 2 & 5** – The Town Office and the Waste Transfer Station will be closed on April 2 (Good Friday) and April 5 (Easter Monday).
- **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.
- **Grey Carts and Green Carts** should be placed at the curb for pick up on April 7, 8 and 9 – depending on your Zone.
- **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

Town of Ponoka
#200, 5604 - 50 St., Ponoka, AB, T4J 1G5
Town phone: 403-783-4431
www.ponoka.ca