



# RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BYLAW REVIEW

## WHAT WE HEARD REPORT (PHASE ONE)

An overview of the project, engagement activities, range of input received and the themes that were raised in phase one.



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

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## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw is to create a positive relationship between pets and people, and help create a safe environment for Calgary. Calgarians' needs have changed since the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw was updated 12 years ago and The City of Calgary is reviewing this bylaw to better understand how it reflects community values and meets the needs of all Calgarians.

Engagement was conducted in-person and online between February 26 and May 27, 2020. A wide range of techniques were used to reach people 'where they spend time'. This allowed people to provide independent input and have collaborative conversations. Using different techniques also takes people's interest, abilities and investment in project outcomes into consideration. Engagement focused on reaching different stakeholders, including pet owners, people who do not own pets, City staff and pet industry representatives (e.g. veterinary clinics, businesses, pet daycares, pet sitters, dog walkers, animal rescue organizations, academics, breeders, kennels, other nearby municipalities, etc.).

Stakeholders provided a wide range of input into the following topics, including:

- Wildlife in Calgary – mindful urban planning, more information is needed about wildlife and we all have a role to ensure our safety and theirs
- Feral, Stray and Roaming Cats – minimize impact to other people and animals, deal with overpopulation, and take care of cats' wellbeing
- Urban Agriculture – proper set up, training and ensure no negative impact to neighbours
- Vicious dogs – be in control, reduce the dog's contact with others, assess and strive to re-train when possible, improve pre-court care, and try to understand why an incident occurred
- Licensing – outdoor versus indoor, reduce fees, improve value, consider licensing or registering other kinds of pets, review expectations for dog walkers and dog-walking businesses, review retail sale of pets and expectations and liability regarding imported animals, guidelines for framework for pet rescue organizations
- Administration – avoid overregulating, improve customer service, be in control of pets, follow rules, enhanced communication and mutual respect between people, and review multi-use spaces
- Responsible pet ownership – caring for pets, minimize impact to others and following the rules

For more input provided by the public, City staff and targeted stakeholders, please see the attached What we Heard report.



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## Project overview

Pets are important to Calgarians. The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw aims to foster a positive relationship between pets and people and helps create a safe environment for Calgary. The City of Calgary is reviewing this bylaw to better understand how it reflects community values and meets the needs of all Calgarians. It is being reviewed as part of a Calgary Community Standards workplan item that came out of [Service Plans and Budgets 2019 – 2022](#). The goal is to have a bylaw that will adapt to the changing trends in society and that will improve public safety and livability.

## Engagement overview

### Engagement activities

The engagement approach in phase one included in-person and online activities. The following is a list of activities used in phase one:

Pop-ups - Pop-up engagement events are intended to reach people “where they are,” often in locations that reflect the nature of the project (such as off-leash parks) or where a variety of stakeholders will be reached (such as an LRT stations or recreation facilities). These occurred between February 29 and March 10, 2020.

World Café - This type of meeting offers multiple conversations running simultaneously, allowing for concurrent discussions on all the topics open for input. Participants can move between the topic areas of interest to them. A public world café occurred March 4, 2020 and world cafés at City Hall School occurred March 4 and 9, 2020.

Online engagement - Using an online approach promotes inclusion for those individuals who prefer to participate at a time that is most convenient for them. This ran from February 26 – March 18, 2020 at [www.calgary.ca/petbylaw](http://www.calgary.ca/petbylaw).

Internal drop-in sessions for City staff and workshops for targeted stakeholders were scheduled, however, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we moved these to online. Staff were invited to an online platform that ran from March 18 – May 27, 2020. The online platform for targeted stakeholders ran from April 30 – May 27, 2020. Targeted stakeholders included invited representatives who work in the pet industry. This includes, but is not limited to, veterinary clinics, businesses, pet daycares, pet sitters, dog walkers, animal rescue organizations, academics, breeders, kennels, other nearby municipalities, etc.



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## Topics open for input

Phase one engagement topics included what is, and is not, working, and what else should be considered, in relation to:

- Wildlife in Calgary – how can we co-exist peacefully
- Feral, Stray and Roaming Cats – assess concerns and expectations
- Urban Agriculture – what rules need to be in place to feel safe
- Vicious dogs – expectations of owners of vicious dogs and expectations of The City in handling vicious dogs
- Licensing – value in licensing for Calgarians, dog walking (regulations, limits), rules around retail sale, and importing animals
- Administration – what do Calgarians need regarding responsible pet ownership, expectations of owners and non-pet owners, reasonable number of cats/dogs per household
- Responsible pet ownership – assessing what this means to Calgarians

## How we communicated

Various methods were used to get the word out regarding engagement opportunities. These included:

- Media release and interviews promoting the engagement to a wide range of radio and newspaper outlets
- 31 bold signs in various locations across the city
- Online marketing at Calgary.ca and targeted websites, including multicultural websites
- Social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- General Email invitation – poster created and sent to over 350 agencies and organizations in Calgary to filter through their networks/clients
- Targeted Email invitation – invitations sent to over 200 contacts affiliated with the pet industry
- Grassroots networking – targeted stakeholders were encouraged to connect other pet industry contacts with the project
- Digital Display Units located across the city and inside City facilities
- Handouts were given to people in attendance at various in-person events to distribute amongst their networks

Additionally, everyone is welcome to sign up at [www.calgary.ca/petbylaw](http://www.calgary.ca/petbylaw) to receive project updates and learn about future engagement opportunities.



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To see the engagement principles used in shaping and executing the engagement process see [Appendix A](#).

## What we asked

In phase one of public engagement, we asked you to share your thoughts on what is and isn't working with the current regulations. We also asked you to provide input on other things that should be included in the bylaw.

Engagement questions did not change from one engagement activity to another, however different questions were asked of some stakeholders to build on feedback. This allowed us to do an overview and then dig deeper, which will be useful as we develop potential bylaw amendments.

For a list of specific engagement questions posed to all stakeholder groups, please see [Appendix B](#).

## What we heard

All comments online and in-person were reviewed and analyzed for themes. For transparency, these themes are categorized by stakeholder group then by topic area and question. The themes are available through the links below.

- [Public](#)
- [City staff](#)
- [Targeted Stakeholders](#)

## What we heard – Public

Overarching public themes

- Responsible pet ownership includes providing good quality of life for the pet, ensuring its basic needs are met and being in control so it does not disturb/hurt people and property
- Improve customer experience, including more visible and effective enforcement, transparency regarding fees, use of incentives over consequences, clearer expectations around what and when to license, and improved communication/education





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- Enforce the bylaw with consequential actions for those who do not follow the rules, rather than place more rules on everyone
- Accountability includes following the guidelines and abiding by the bylaw, taking responsibility if an incident occurs, respecting each other's points of views and space, and trying to solve problems together

Each question in the chart below is hyperlinked to the same section in the Summary of Public Input section.

Themes by topic area

Topic	Question	Theme/ summary of main responses
<a href="#">General</a>	<a href="#">What does responsible pet ownership mean to you?</a>	Responsible pet ownership is ensuring that pets are cared for and treated well
		Responsible pet ownership is monitoring that pets are under control and not disturbing others
		Responsible pet ownership is following the bylaws and abiding by the rules
<a href="#">Cats</a>	<a href="#">Roaming cats concerns</a>	Nuisance behavior and property damage caused by roaming cats is a concern
		Roaming cats' survival and access to basic needs are concerning
		Roaming cats prey on wildlife
		Roaming cats pose a potential health and safety risk to people and pets
	<a href="#">Feral cats concerns</a>	Feral cats pose a health and safety risk to people and pets
		Overpopulation of feral cats is a concern
		Wellbeing of feral cats is a concern
<a href="#">Expectations of City</a>		The City should find strategies to reduce overpopulation of feral cats
		The City should increase enforcement and hold owners more accountable for roaming cats
<a href="#">Wildlife</a>	<a href="#">How can we co-exist</a>	Access to information, such as where there are concentrations of wildlife and ways to deal with them, should be widespread and easy to obtain and understand
		Wildlife were here first and we should find ways to share the land with them
		People can take actions that reduce the chances of drawing wildlife closer to residential areas
<a href="#">Vicious dogs</a>	<a href="#">Expectations of owners</a>	Owners of vicious dogs should receive additional education and formal training, including techniques to properly manage the dog
		Owners should take actions to be more in control of the dog and be more accountable when an incident occurs involving the dog(s)



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	<a href="#">Expectations of City</a>	<p>Further enforcement, including harsher consequences and increased monitoring is expected</p> <p>Support efforts to reduce aggressive behavior in dogs, including dog assessments and public education</p>
<a href="#">Urban Agriculture</a>	<a href="#">Beekeeping</a>	<p>Ensure appropriate setup for urban beekeeping, including number and hives, location on property, type of bees</p>
		<p>Provide access to education for beekeepers and neighbours</p>
		<p>Neighbours should be aware of nearby beekeeping</p>
		<p>Ensure that urban beekeeping addresses health concerns, especially life-threatening allergies</p>
	<a href="#">Livestock</a>	<p>Establish and enforce criteria for keeping livestock; including property size, enclosures, type of livestock, etc.</p>
<p>Establish guidelines that reduce the potential negative impact of urban livestock on neighbours</p> <p>City enforcement, including permits and processes for monitoring urban livestock is important</p>		
	<a href="#">Pigeons</a>	<p>Ensure smell, noise and droppings from urban pigeons do not negatively impact neighbours</p> <p>Establish criteria for safely keeping pigeons, including property size, number of pigeons, etc.</p>
<a href="#">Administration</a>	<a href="#">Pet owners need from Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw (other)</a>	<p>Pet owners expect enhanced enforcement, communication and customer service</p>
		<p>Pet owners expect further clarity on expected pet behaviours on private and public property</p>
		<p>Pet owners expect more accessible training opportunities and resources be available, including pet management and rules that need to be followed</p>
	<a href="#">Non-pet owners need from Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw (other)</a>	<p>It is believed that non-pet owners should be educated not to approach pets without the owner's consent</p>
<p>Non-pet owners want resources to address conflicts as they arise, including reporting incidents and conveying pet fears to pet owners</p>		
	<a href="#">Reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for dog owners (other)</a>	<p>Monitor behaviour of reactive and aggressive dogs and take steps to ensure the safety of the dog, other pets and people</p> <p>Non-pet owners and children should be mindful in their interactions with dogs in or near off-leash parks, including not approaching without consent or participating in activities that would interest or scare dogs</p> <p>Pet owners and non-pet owners should speak more directly with one another regarding what they need</p>



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<p><a href="#">Reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for people without dogs (other)</a></p>	<p>If frequenting areas where there are lots of dogs, people should learn how to interact with dogs safely</p> <hr/> <p>Locations of off-leash parks, use, set up and activities within off-leash parks sets a tone for dog behaviour</p> <hr/> <p>Pet owners and non-pet owners should speak more directly with one another regarding what they need</p>
<p><a href="#">Expectations of dog behavior in other public spaces that are not off-leash areas</a></p>	<p>Dogs should be on-leash when outside of off-leash parks or private property</p> <hr/> <p>Owners should be in control of their dogs</p> <hr/> <p>Owners should be paying close attention to their dogs so behaviours are not missed and negative incidents are decreased</p> <hr/> <p>Owner discretion should be trusted, and flexibility should be allowed, especially during training</p> <hr/> <p>Dogs should not be in the way of other users in multi-use areas, such as pathways</p> <hr/> <p>Mutual respect is expected between pet owners and non-pet owners</p>
<p><a href="#">Reasonable number of dogs rationale</a> (themes on the right are according to preference)</p>	<p>5+ As long as a household has means to care for the dogs and the owner has the ability to control the dogs in their care, no limit should be placed on the number of dogs in a household.</p> <hr/> <p>2 The owner's ability to control the dogs is important and a second dog would be a good companion to the first dog.</p> <hr/> <p>3 While limits are not deemed necessary, three seems like a reasonable number for adequate control and proper care.</p> <hr/> <p>4 While limits are not deemed necessary, four seems like a reasonable number for adequate control and proper care.</p> <hr/> <p>1 The owner's capacity to control the dog, environmental impacts, and urban versus rural living are a concern.</p>
<p><a href="#">Reasonable number of cats rationale</a> (themes on the right are according to preference)</p>	<p>5+ No limits should be placed on the number of cats in a household as long as other criteria is met.</p> <hr/> <p>2 This theme focuses on concerns about health and behaviour problems in households with more than two cats.</p> <hr/> <p>3 This theme notes that while individual responsibility is more important than number of cats, three seems like a reasonable number to maintain proper care.</p> <hr/> <p>4 This theme highlights concerns about health and behaviour problems in households with more than four cats and suggests that four cats is reasonable to ensure they are cared for.</p>



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	<p>1 This theme highlights concerns regarding cats roaming free and negatively impacting nearby properties.</p>
<p><a href="#">Exceptions to placing limits on number of cats and dogs</a></p>	<p>If limits were placed per household, temporary homes should be exempt</p> <p>Limits are not necessary as long as the pets are cared for and their basic needs are met, including health and social needs</p> <p>Pet limits should allow for extenuating circumstances, including death in the family, pet sitting and litters</p> <p>Enforcement and monitoring should be maintained where exceptions have been allowed</p> <p>If limits were placed per household, service animals and emotional support animals should be exempt</p>
<p><a href="#">Primary reason for not licensing cats</a></p>	<p>There is no reason to license cats that are indoor only</p> <p>Cost of licensing cats is too high</p> <p>There are few benefits to licensing cats since tattoos and microchipping are often used</p> <p>Not licensing a cat is viewed by some as not being a responsible pet owner</p>
<p><a href="#">Primary reason for not licensing dogs</a></p>	<p>Cost of licensing dogs is too high</p> <p>Not licensing a dog is viewed by some as not being a responsible pet owner</p> <p>There are few benefits to licensing dogs since tattoos and microchipping are often used</p>
<p><a href="#">What would encourage owners to license more consistently (other)</a></p>	<p>Reduce fees and make better use of alternative identification methods</p> <p>Add incentives to encourage licensing</p>
<p><a href="#">Licensing</a></p> <p><a href="#">Benefits owners expect to get from licensing</a></p>	<p>Enhance customer experience by improving the reunification process and waiving fees when the pet is returned</p> <p>Increase discounts and incentives for those who license their pet</p> <p>Licensing should provide better access to services and resources, and improved amenities, including clearing paths, more garbage receptacles, etc.</p>
<p><a href="#">What other pets should be licensed, why?</a></p>	<p>License all household animals that could be outdoors or off private property</p> <p>License exotic animals, service animals and emotional support animals</p> <p>If urban agriculture is approved in the review, license livestock, bees and pigeons</p> <p>License domestic rabbits to reduce feral rabbits in city</p>
<p><a href="#">Expectations of dog-walking businesses (other)</a></p>	<p>Employees of dog-walking businesses should be in control of dogs in their care and have proper resources to care for dogs in their care</p> <p>Dog-walking businesses should be insured</p>



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<a href="#">Expectations for individual dog walkers (other)</a>	Individual dog walkers should be in control of dog(s) in their care and picking up feces Dog walkers should be educated in dog behaviour
<a href="#">Rules for retail sale of animals</a>	Put practices in place to ensure that pets being adopted or sold are in good health Ensure adequate procedures are in place for businesses involved in facilitating pet sales and/or adoptions Monitor breeding and rescue practices to ensure business accountability Retailers, breeders and rescue organizations should be monitored and inspected regularly Place restrictions on the type of animals that can be sold in retail establishments
<a href="#">Criteria for accepting imported animals in Calgary</a>	Ensure imported animals are in good health to protect people and pets Ensuring housing arrangements are secured prior to an imported animal's arrival Obtain information on type of animal and purpose for being imported in advance
<a href="#">City of Calgary's role regarding imported animals</a>	The City should track volume and type of imported animals The City should protect people and non-imported pets from health issues of imported animals The City should limit its involvement to licensing

Due to the volume of public input that was received, a more detailed summary of the public input can be found in the [Summary of Public Input](#) section.

## What we heard – City staff

Themes by topic area

Topic	Question	Theme/ summary of main responses
General	What does responsible pet ownership mean to you?	Ensuring that pets are cared for and treated well is responsible pet ownership
		Monitoring that pets are under control and not disturbing others is responsible pet ownership
		Following the bylaws and abiding by the rules is responsible pet ownership



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	Recommended changes to the existing bylaw	<p>Establish clearer distinction between levels of dog attack/threats, including reactive, aggressive, vicious</p> <p>If additional animals are added to the bylaw, ensure proper processes are also established, including care, surrendering, etc.</p> <p>Specific sections of the bylaw need updates. Suggestions have been provided directly to the project team by way of the verbatim report</p>
Cats	Roaming cats concerns	<p>Roaming cats' survival and access to basic needs are concerning</p> <p>Nuisance behavior and property damage caused by roaming cats is a concern</p> <p>Roaming cats pose a potential health and safety risk to people and pets</p>
	Recommended way to deal with roaming cats	<p>Microchip impounded cats</p> <p>Follow rules laid out in the bylaw, including keeping cats indoors and/or confined to owner's property</p>
	Feral cats concerns	<p>Feral cats pose a health and safety risk to people and pets</p> <p>Overpopulation of feral cats is a concern</p>
	Expectations of City	The City should find strategies to reduce overpopulation of feral cats
		Enhance education on benefits to licensing and accessibility/affordability of licensing
Wildlife	How can we co-exist	Access to information, such as what attracts wildlife, how to deter them from coming close to residential properties, and which organization to contact with issues should be easy to obtain and understand
Vicious dogs	Expectations of owners	<p>Owners of vicious dogs should receive additional training and work together with Community Standards so all can work towards successful pet ownership</p> <p>Owners must be more in control of the dog and follow the rules that are outlined</p>
	Improving the process	Look into further options for care of the dog pre-court and during the court process that reduces impound time and minimizes emotional stress to dog
	Additional resources needed to do the work	Clarity of the individual process and anticipated timelines so have more direction/information to provide to the owner
Urban Agriculture	Beekeeping	There were not enough comments to be able to compile themes. Verbatim comments have been provided to the project team.
	Livestock	
	Pigeons	

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<p>Administration</p>	<p>What pet owners need from Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw</p>	<p>What do you believe pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Information on how to license their pet</li> <li>■ Distinction between provincial and municipal rules</li> <li>■ Information about rules that need to be followed</li> <li>■ Education about the bylaw</li> <li>■ Information about what is considered proper dog behaviour</li> <li>■ Other</li> </ul> 
	<p>What non-pet owners need from Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw</p>	<p>What do you believe non-pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Safety rules</li> <li>■ Distinction between provincial and municipal rules</li> <li>■ Information about rules that need to be followed</li> <li>■ Rules around behaviours in public space</li> <li>■ Information about what is considered proper dog behaviour</li> </ul> 

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<p>Reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for dog owners</p>	<p>What do you consider reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for dog owners?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pickup up dog waste</li> <li>■ Dog(s) must come when called</li> <li>■ When dog(s) should be on and off leash</li> <li>■ Monitor to ensure your dog(s) interacts with other dogs appropriately</li> <li>■ Monitor to ensure your dog(s) interacts with other park patrons appropriately</li> <li>■ Monitor to ensure your dog(s) do not harass wildlife</li> <li>■ Other</li> </ul> 
<p>Reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for people without dogs</p>	<p>What do you consider reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for people without dogs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Do not approach a dog without owner consent</li> <li>■ Be aware of your surroundings (due to off-leash park designation)</li> <li>■ Other</li> </ul> 
<p>Expectations of dog behavior in other public spaces that</p>	<p>Dogs should be on-leash when outside of off-leash parks or private property          Owners should be in control of their dogs and dogs should not be jumping on, or disturbing, other people in the area</p>





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	are not off-leash areas	Owners should pick up, and dispose of, their dog's feces
	Reasonable number of dogs rationale	Most responses ranged between two to four dogs per household, with three being the most popular choice. A household should have the means to care for the dogs and the owner should have the ability to control the dogs in their care
	Reasonable number of cats rationale	Most responses ranged between two to five+ cats per household, with three and four being the most popular choices. While cats were considered less disruptive since they should be restricted to the owner's property, owners should have adequate space for multiple cats.
	Exceptions to placing limits on number of cats and dogs	If limits were placed per household, temporary homes should be exempt Square footage of the home and ability to care for the pets should be considered if limits were placed
Licensing	Primary reason for not licensing cats	Staff heard from people that as long as a cat remains indoors, licensing is not necessary
	Primary reason for not licensing dogs	Staff heard from some people that they cannot afford the cost of licensing dogs
	What would encourage owners to license more consistently	<p>Which do you believe would encourage pet owners to license their pet(s) more consistently?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Multi-year licensing option</li> <li>■ Discounts for early licensing</li> <li>■ Late fees</li> <li>■ Fines</li> <li>■ Scalable fees</li> <li>■ Other</li> </ul>

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Benefits owners expect to get from licensing

There were not enough comments to be able to compile themes. Verbatim comments have been provided to the project team.

Expectations of dog-walking business

Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?

- Yes
- No




What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses?

- Be licensed as a business
- Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
- Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
- Have a permit or identification on them
- Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
- Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
- Other



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	<p>What are your expectations for individual dog walkers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once</li> <li>■ Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once</li> <li>■ Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs</li> <li>■ Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag</li> </ul> 
Rules for retail sale of animals	<p>Put processes in place to ensure that pets being adopted or sold are in good health</p> <p>Ensure adequate procedures are in place for businesses involved in facilitating pet sales and/or adoptions</p>
Criteria for accepting imported animals in Calgary	<p>In order to protect Calgarians, set regulations to ensure imported animals are in good health</p>



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<p>Liability for imported animals during transport</p>	<p>Whom do you consider to be the owner of an imported animal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Foster home</li> <li>■ Rescue organization</li> <li>■ Person transporting the animal</li> <li>■ Other</li> </ul>
<p>City of Calgary's role regarding imported animals</p>	<p>Too few comments for compilation of themes. Verbatim comments have been provided to the project team.</p>

## What we heard – targeted stakeholders

Targeted stakeholders include invited representatives who work in the pet industry. This includes, but is not limited to, veterinary clinics, businesses, pet daycares, pet sitters, dog walkers, animal rescue organizations, academics, breeders, kennels, other nearby municipalities, etc.

Themes by topic area

Topic	Question	Theme/ summary of main responses
General	Barking Lot: a cat-alogue of ideas (additional ideas)	Retail sale of puppies, kittens and rabbits is a significant concern; prohibit their sale or set strict regulations to ensure that these animals are not from unhealthy situations and backyard breeders/mills
		Consider community education program/pilot regarding urban chickens
Cats		Cats prey on wildlife



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

	Concerns with feral, stray and roaming cats	Cats pose a potential health and safety risk to people and pets, including added stress to indoor cats
	How to deal with feral, stray and roaming cats	Increased enforcement, affordable programs, education and fines needed for owners of roaming cats; roaming cats should be trapped/neutered/released Collaborate with community organizations to support trap-spay/neuter-release programs for feral and stray cats
Wildlife	How can we co-exist	Access to education regarding what attracts wildlife and how to deter them from coming close to residential properties is needed Mindful planning; leave some natural areas for wildlife; urban sprawl is reducing available wildlife habitat
Vicious dogs	Appropriate actions for seized dogs	Owners of vicious dogs should receive additional training and education, including dog behaviour and specific training for dogs exhibiting fear/aggression Seek to understand why/how an incident occurred before labelling a dog as vicious; recognize varying reaction levels, including aggressive, vicious, tormented, reactive, etc.
	Resources to help reduce instance of dog attacks	Education for owners and public could help reduce the instance of dog attacks, this includes: teaching the public, including children about dog behaviour and risks; ensuring appropriate training opportunities are available to the owners and their dogs
Urban Agriculture	Resources needed to promote a sense of security	People choosing urban agriculture need specialized training and education, so they clearly understand the expectations and commitment of what they are undertaking
		The City should understand the risks of certain types of agriculture for the sake of the animal's wellbeing; they should also understand impacts to native species and industry in decision-making
Administration	Reasonable number of dogs rationale	This was viewed by some as out of scope for a municipality to decide
		Limits should be unnecessary as long as owners' take care of the dogs, including vet care, space, cleanliness, and noise control
	Reasonable number of cats rationale	Limits should be unnecessary as long as owners' take care of the cats, including vet care, and space
		This was viewed by some as out of scope for a municipality to decide
Exceptions to placing limits on number of cats and dogs	Limits are not necessary as long as the pets are cared for and there is no instance of pet abuse/neglect	
	If limits were placed per household, temporary homes should be exempt	



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	<p>Finder a better balance between the wants of pet owners and non-pet owners</p>	<p>A clearer delineation of spaces in public is needed; in multi-use spaces, consider separate paths and/or timed-use to minimize interaction; additional, and improved, off-leash spaces could help.</p>
	<p>What would encourage more consistent licensing for cats and dogs</p>	<p>Education regarding the value of licensing and transparency of what the fees cover</p> <p>Reduce costs to license and/or consider including incentives such as including the microchip in the licensing fee or offering multi-pet or senior pet discounts</p>
Licensing	<p>Expectations of dog-walking businesses and dog walkers</p>	<p>Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?</p> <p>■ Yes</p> <p>■ No</p>



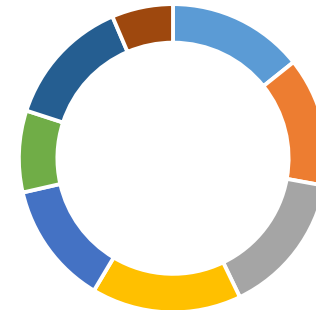
# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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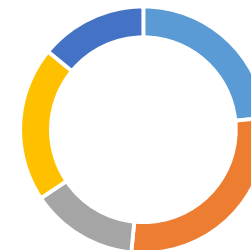
## What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses?

- Be licensed as a business
- Be qualified/trained to do the job
- Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
- Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
- Have a permit or identification on them
- Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
- Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
- Other



## What are your expectations for individual dog walkers?

- Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
- Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
- Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
- Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
- Other

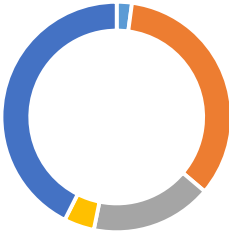




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Criteria for accepting imported animals in Calgary	Ensure imported animals are in good health to protect people and pets; this includes up to date vaccinations, recent vet examination and time in quarantine
Liability for imported animals during transport	<p style="text-align: center;">Whom do you consider to be the owner of an imported animal?</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Foster home</li> <li>■ Rescue organization</li> <li>■ Person transporting the animal</li> <li>■ None of the above</li> <li>■ Other</li> </ul>  </div> <p>'Other' included the organization contracting the transporter, the company transporting the animal, the 'forever' home as well as suggested processes for importing animals.</p>
City of Calgary's role in a pet rescue framework	<p>The City should oversee business licensing for pet rescue organizations.</p> <p>Set guidelines regarding including health standards, volume of pets within city limits, and domestic versus international rescues.</p>

## Next steps

Your input, along with internal expertise, [research](#) and best practices, including information gathered from academic sources, professional associations, other municipalities and trusted sources, will be used to develop potential amendments to the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. We will then seek your input on potential amendments in phase two engagement before presenting to the Standing Policy Committee on Community & Protective Services and Council between January and March 2021. Details regarding phase two engagement will be posted at [www.calgary.ca/petbylaw](http://www.calgary.ca/petbylaw).





# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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## Summary of Public Input

Close to 5000 Calgarians participated in phase one engagement. All comments were reviewed and used to create themes. The following charts are detailed themes for each of the public themes listed on pages 8 to 12. Each of the main themes includes an explanation and examples of verbatim comments in *italics*. To ensure we capture all responses accurately, verbatim comments have not been altered. In some cases, when only a portion of a comment was used, we used ‘...’

- [General](#)
- [Cats](#)
- [Wildlife](#)
- [Vicious Dogs](#)
- [Urban Agriculture](#)
- [Administration](#)
- [Licensing](#)

## General

The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw is in place for everyone. This includes pet owners and non-pet owners. To better understand how the bylaw can better support you, we wanted to get your input on what you think of when you hear the words ‘responsible pet ownership’.

What does responsible pet ownership mean to you?

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Responsible pet ownership is ensuring that pets are cared for and treated well	<p>This theme focuses on caring for, and treating pets well. This includes meeting pets’ basic needs by ensuring they have access to food, water, veterinary care, and exercise/play. It speaks to making time for the pet, training them, treating them with respect and ensuring they have a good quality of life.</p> <p><i>“Providing a safe, secure, comfortable and loving home for an animal and also abiding by the animal by-laws of the applicable jurisdiction”</i></p>



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	<p><i>“Caring for the physical needs of the pet (food, water, shelter, heat, sleep, exercise, medical care), social needs (pet is free from fear &amp; feels safe and secure, interacts w/humans, interacts w/other animals), maintaining safe boundaries (enclosure/fencing/etc.), &amp; appropriate enrichment activities.”</i></p> <p><i>“Licence your pet. Train, Socialize, and Ensure proper veterinary care. Ensure all needs both nutritional, comfort and care are met. Spay or neuter your pet. Ensure your pet is not roaming free around the neighbourhood. Clean up after your pet and have your pet under control in public areas.”</i></p>
<p>Responsible pet ownership is monitoring that pets are under control and not disturbing others</p>	<p>This theme focuses on being in control of pets and making sure they do not disturb other people. It addresses aspects around controlling excessive noise, exposing pets to safe situations where they will not hurt people or damage property, and picking up waste.</p> <p><i>“Ensuring 1) the safety of my pet, and 2) my pet and I don't interfere with the lifestyle of other Calgarians.”</i></p> <p><i>“...It means keeping it from disturbing others in the city in the forms of noise, damage and feces...”</i></p> <p><i>“I believe that responsible pet ownership is defined as Being responsible for the actions of your pet. Be it picking up their poop, extensive barking, and control of your pet.”</i></p> <p><i>“keep dogs on leash when off your property and keep cats on your property”</i></p>
<p>Responsible pet ownership is following the bylaws and abiding by the rules</p>	<p>This theme speaks to the value of following the bylaws and abiding by the rules in public spaces. It notes that owners should clean up after dogs and not allow cats to roam free or dogs to be off-leash in areas not designated as off-leash. This theme also reflected our collective efforts (each person's responsibility) to support the rules and The City's role to enforce them.</p> <p><i>“Primarily Cleaning up after dogs</i></p> <p><i>For dog walkers who use the park: keep dogs on leash until they've pooped, then clean up. If they can't find their dog's poop they should pick up someone else's. 12 dogs in, 12 poop bags out. "Karma poop".”</i></p> <p><i>“Knowing that just because your dog is "friendly", doesnt mean it can be off leash in a leashed area. This causes problem for other responsible owners. Owners need to be responsible for abiding by the laws.”</i></p> <p><i>“Picking up after your dog, not letting cats roam off your property. Not letting dogs bark all day/ night. Keeping dogs on a leash in areas that are not designated off leash.”</i></p> <p><i>“...I think bylaw officers need more presence at off leash parks.”</i></p>



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## Cats

A feral cat is one that lives outdoors and avoids human contact. Stray cats also live outdoors but may have at one point been owned and lived inside, and are domesticated. Roaming cats can include owned cats that are loose as well as stray and feral cats.

The current bylaw states that cats must be confined to an owner’s property. We wanted to hear your expectations of cats and the rules surrounding them in Calgary. Below are the main themes that emerged from the feedback.

### Roaming Cats

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Nuisance behavior and property damage caused by roaming cats is a concern	<p>This theme focuses on the concerns regarding nuisance behaviour and property destruction that occurs when cats roam free. Behaviours considered nuisance include defecating/spraying on private property (e.g. neighbours’ gardens, children’s sandboxes, etc.), digging up flower beds and hurting other animals.</p> <p><i>“The poop! They use my veggie garden as a litter box - it’s gross and unsanitary...”</i>  <i>“They shit in my kids sandbox. I even have a cover for it....”</i>  <i>“Predication on birds and other wildlife, using gardens and flower beds as a toilet. Lack of licences, unchecked breeding”</i></p>
Roaming cats’ survival and access to basic needs are concerning	<p>This theme focuses on roaming cats’ wellbeing. It highlights concerns over uncontrolled breeding, survival, having basic needs met and injury to the cat.</p> <p><i>“They dig up gardens, leave waste everywhere, fight with other cats, and can be run over and cause trauma to driver.”</i>  <i>“We are very concerned about the health &amp; safety of roaming cats. We would like more education of the public to how detrimental it is for the cats. Cat traps should be easier &amp; cheaper to rent.”</i>  <i>“I’m concerned about the cats’ safety - surviving our cold winters, getting enough to eat, and potential injury from running into traffic/cars. Also concerned with their ability to mate with other stray or roaming cats and have lots of kittens that end up becoming feral or strays.”</i></p>
Roaming cats prey on wildlife	<p>While in a few instances, roaming cats’ predatory behavior was viewed as a benefit to reducing the rodent population, overall this theme highlights concerns that roaming cats prey on wildlife, especially birds.</p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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	<p><i>“...They also kill hunt and kill birds, mice, etc., leaving them in our yard to clean up!”</i></p> <p><i>“the city of Calgary needs to support neuter-trap-return programs to keep the cat population down. Roaming cats are a problem to wildlife even if they have a home”</i></p> <p><i>“They can kill song birds and other small animals. They can get killed by dogs, coyotes, bobcats”</i></p> <p><i>“Minimal, they keep the mice down. Although, I don’t agree with them defecating in other people’s gardens/yards”</i></p>
<p>Roaming cats pose a potential health and safety risk to people and pets</p>	<p>This theme focuses on concerns regarding health and safety of people and pets when cats roam. It addresses concerns with roaming cats transmitting disease and illness to pets, as well as concern over the increased potential for attacks, possibly resulting in injury to people, pets or the roaming cats.</p> <p><i>“Feces, my dog being released in the backyard and unknowingly a cat is there - dangerous to both.”</i></p> <p><i>“I’m concerned because they are prey for wildlife, and catch diseases potentially harmful to other animals and humans.”</i></p> <p><i>“Attacking eachother/ infecting other cats”</i></p>

## Feral Cats

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Feral cats pose a health and safety risk to people and pets</p>	<p>This theme focused on the health and safety risks of feral cats to people and pets. It addresses concerns with feral cats attacking other pets, causing injury. It also notes concerns with transmitting disease and illness to pets and people.</p> <p><i>“Feral cats concern: overpopulation, being targeted by cruel persons and diseases like distemper and rabies.”</i></p> <p><i>“Concerns: Feral cats may have rabies, worms, or other diseases that can be transmitted to other animals or humans...”</i></p> <p><i>“Could attack children, could have rabbies, fight other cats or other animals, dogs or other pets, have more babies, need to reduce population”</i></p>
<p>Overpopulation of feral cats is a concern</p>	<p>This theme focuses on concerns around uncontrolled breeding and the potential number of feral cats. It suggests that the quantity of feral cats could exceed available resources and spread disease.</p> <p><i>“Constantly breeding increasing numbers. Spreading disease.”</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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	<p><i>“Uncontrolled breeding, making them more difficult to manage”</i></p> <p><i>“Over breeding as is not in the cats interest or the humans.”</i></p> <p><i>“Feral cats can reproduce exponentially in a short time, which means they could be perpetuating problems.”</i></p>
<p>Wellbeing of feral cats is a concern</p>	<p>While many respondents were not generally concerned with feral cats and did not see them as commonplace or a significant issue in Calgary, this theme focuses on concern for the cat’s wellbeing. It highlights concern for the cat’s ability to survive, and injury to the cat, which in turn is upsetting for people.</p> <p><i>“I am concerned about their health and safety. I am also concerned that without ownership they will not have their vaccinations.”</i></p> <p><i>“I am concerned for their welfare but don’t have other issues with them.”</i></p> <p><i>“My concerns for these cats are the weather conditions in winter and the risk of being killed by the wildlife in our area.”</i></p> <p><i>“Sadness that they don’t have a loving home.”</i></p>

## Expectations of City

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>The City should find strategies to reduce overpopulation of feral cats</p>	<p>This theme focuses on concerns about uncontrolled breeding and strategies to reduce the feral cat population. This includes trap/neuter/release programs as well as suggestions to adopt where possible. Other suggestions included relocating feral cats to farm land, acreages or wilderness areas. In some cases where other measures are not possible, euthanizing was recommended.</p> <p><i>“Feral cats are a major problem from a humane perspective. They often live short, malnourished, difficult lives and have the capacity to breed rapidly and spike the population far beyond what is sustainable.”</i></p> <p><i>“None other than population control. They are essentially a wild animal too and so the same rules should apply to these cats as they do to mice/pigeons/coyotes etc.”</i></p> <p><i>“They should all be spay, neutered and vaccinated and released”</i></p> <p><i>“Do not have experience with feral cats. They should be trapped and adopted out if possible if not euthanized.”</i></p> <p><i>“Feral cats should be collected, neutered and released in a wilderness park.”</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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<p>The City should increase enforcement and hold owners more accountable for roaming cats</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the role that The City could take to address feral, stray and roaming cats. This includes increasing enforcement, communicating/educating more clearly, actively issuing fines, holding owners more accountable to roaming cats and taking on more strategies to reduce the instance of feral, stray and roaming cats.</p> <p><i>“I think that the bylaws surrounding cat trapping can be clearer and more streamlined. As it is, it is a long and difficult process to trap and bring a nuisance cat to animal control. I would also like the city to give more fines and more strictly enforce the bylaws against having roaming cats.”</i></p> <p><i>“To capture or take in the animals and return them home, find a new home, or euthanasia for the ones who should not be homed(extremely sick) also the collection of deceased cats with the photo book for owners is a great service.”</i></p> <p><i>“Make the penalties stiffer for roaming cats that are caught and brought to Animal Services...repeat offenders should be fined more.”</i></p> <p><i>“Assume every cat brought in is an indoor cat who escaped. Get 1 "get out of jail free" pass along with educational materials on indoor vs outdoor cats and spay/neuter stats, require microchip to go home, if the City ever gets that cat back fine the crap out of their owners.”</i></p>
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## Wildlife

The Government of Alberta ensures that wildlife are protected and conserved through the Wildlife Act. While wildlife is provincially regulated, we wanted to understand your ideas to improve our ability to coexist with wildlife in Calgary.

### Co-exist

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Access to information, such as where there are concentrations of wildlife and ways to deal with them,</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring there is easy and widespread access to information and education to better co-exist with wildlife. Some focus areas include breeding season for different animals, behaviours during and outside of breeding season, how to deal with them if they are nearby, how to discourage them from coming close to homes or people and pets when out walking, who to call if help is needed, their ecological role, etc.</p>



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<p>should be widespread and easy to obtain and understand</p>	<p><i>“There needs to be more education on how to deal with wildlife. People need to know to stay away. Growing up next to Nose Hill, we saw coyotes &amp; never had an issue. Keep animals out of garbage. Secure it properly. Stop feeding peanuts. There should be a bylaw that people shouldn't be allowed to feed peanuts to wildlife.”</i></p> <p><i>“First of all, remove the designation of 'nuisance' from wildlife. Attitude changes are a good place to start when wanting to co-exist with anything, including wildlife. Then practical information and strategies on how to co-exist better should be communicated by the City.”</i></p> <p><i>“Maybe tips on how to deal with them and how to discourage them from becoming a threat or problem. Ex. How do I deal with skunks?? Is there anything to discourage magpies coming around? Who can we call to help? Etc.”</i></p> <p><i>“None of these are nuisance animals any more than we are! All except pigeons are native species in a healthy biodiverse ecological system. People must be educated to understand the ecological role each animal plays and learn to live alongside wildlife. Bats control mosquitoes, coyotes control rodents”</i></p>
<p>Wildlife were here first and we should find ways to share the land with them</p>	<p>This theme focuses on exploring ways to share land with wildlife. It notes strong sentiment that the animals were here first and we must find ways to share their land. It identifies further strategies including creating additional barriers to limit interaction with wildlife, designating further land and creating more corridors so wildlife are protected.</p> <p><i>“Signs to alert calgarians in areas of higher density wildlife. They live here too, encourage the idea that we could coexist well. And protect greenspaces and wild areas in the city where many of these creatures call home.”</i></p> <p><i>“It could be better for everyone to keep more nature intact, to preserve the environment.”</i></p> <p><i>“More corridors for said wildlife and education to the public regarding how best to manage interactions with wild life.”</i></p> <p><i>“secure a fence where they're often seen to prevent accidents or incidents from happening.”</i></p>
<p>People can take actions that reduce the chances of drawing wildlife closer to residential areas</p>	<p>This theme focuses on strategies for dealing with wildlife. It notes that while some people may be frustrated by wildlife, it is often human actions that are causing the problem. Human actions that were identified as problematic include letting cats roam free which draws some wildlife closer to residential areas; not controlling pets when in areas that are likely populated with more wildlife; and, not disposing of waste properly which attracts some wildlife. This theme also suggested that dealing with rodents and other small animals would potentially deter larger wildlife from more densely populated areas.</p> <p><i>“Maintained feeders in popular areas for certain species to encourage their population to remain in certain acceptable areas in safety.”</i></p>





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	<p><i>“Bats and Bobbcats are not a nuisance! 1) Control pets 2) keep garbage in proper containers 3) Understand that these animals were here first and taking precautions to stay out of their way would help.”</i></p> <p><i>“Humane trapping and release when they are in harms way or a harm to others”</i></p> <p><i>“I do think that, if more effort was made to control the population of smaller animals, eg, rabbits, squirrels, skunks, there would be less of an issue of larger animals coming into the city.”</i></p> <p><i>“I think that people should be aware of the wildlife in their area and take proper precautions with their pets. This means not walking your dog off leash in a area know to have coyotes or bobcats. Not letting your cats roam the neighborhood.”</i></p> <p><i>“ensuring garbage/waste is contained; picking up and disposing of pet waste. Not allowing house cats out to roam free!”</i></p>
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## Vicious dogs

Vicious dogs (as deemed by the courts) have rules applied to them that other dogs in Calgary do not. We wanted to understand if the current rules for owners of vicious dogs was sufficient or if there were additional safety measures or processes that you feel are needed. We also wanted to understand what other expectations you have of us in dealing with vicious dogs. For a list of the current rules for vicious dogs on private and public property, see [Appendix C](#).

### Expectations of owners

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Owners of vicious dogs should receive additional education and formal training, including techniques to properly manage the dog</p>	<p>This theme focuses on education and formal training for people who own vicious dogs. Education ideas include canine behavior, body language, and techniques to manage the dog. This theme also addressed training as important, noting that training should be formal and from a qualified professional. Other suggestions include ensuring that training and education includes all caregivers of the dog, training or some certification is annual, etc.</p> <p><i>“I think they should be expected to work with an animal behaviourist to work on the root cause of the aggression. Often it's the lack of training and socialization that results in aggressive dogs.”</i></p> <p><i>“They must do training courses held by certified professional dog trainers. With refreshers completed every year.”</i></p>





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	<p><i>“Professional training help. Not just to train the dog but for the owner to better understand the situation and take responsibility for their dog in an informed way.”</i></p> <p><i>“Perhaps they could attend training sessions for reactive dogs or other types of remedial classes”</i></p> <p><i>“The owners should take canine behaviour training( breed specific if applicable) as well as participate in behaviour training with their pet. Education is key to solving most problems.”</i></p> <p><i>“Mandatory dog training including participation and completion by owner and all adults and caregivers of animal.”</i></p>
<p>Owners should take actions to be more in control of the dog and be more accountable when an incident occurs involving the dog(s)</p>	<p>This theme focuses on owner accountability and control of the dog. It highlights a desire for owners to be held more accountable when an incident occurs involving their dog. In addition to existing rules around vicious dogs, this theme also notes the use of non-extendable leashes to enhance control as well as forms of notification of the dog’s designation as a warning to others.</p> <p><i>“If their animal harms another animal they should be responsible for the vet bill and the city should enforce this instead of having to sue the individual”</i></p> <p><i>“Owners should be 100% responsible for the safety of the community an aggressive dog lives in. Aggressive animals can coexist peacefully but exceptional due diligence should be expected of the owner.”</i></p> <p><i>“Owners need to be educated about how to handle their vicious dogs. As an owner of an aggressive dog, I see it as MY responsibility to keep him and others safe by always having control over him and never putting him in a situation where he could harm others or be harmed.”</i></p> <p><i>“I believe that owners of vicious animals are 100% responsible for the animal's behaviour. If an animal is found to be vicious, the owner should be required to and have to provide evidence that he/she is actively working to change the animals behaviour through training.”</i></p>

## Expectations of City

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Further enforcement, including harsher consequences and increased</p>	<p>This theme focuses on further enforcement, including harsher consequences and increased monitoring of vicious dogs and their owners. Some suggestions include additional cameras, patrols, and random check-ins. This theme also highlights enhanced communications and increased fines, especially for repeat offenders.</p>



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<p>monitoring is expected</p>	<p><i>"I think there should be more wildlife cameras in the parks all over Calgary. Owners need to be fined if they are in a park they shouldn't be in. The City needs to take action. The response is always the 'education' of the owner. Make the fines steeper and actually fine people."</i></p> <p><i>"I think there needs to be more investigation into what prompted the animal to be vicious. There are more and more instances where people/kids are tormenting animals through fences. I had kids in my back alley throwing rocks and yelling at my dogs while they were in the yard."</i></p> <p><i>"Sporadic checks to ensure owner is following specific rules given to them. Ensure compliance"</i></p> <p><i>"1) Set up cameras at the entrances - free run areas</i></p> <p><i>2) a "patrol" drop in to show police presence.</i></p> <p><i>3) Have large signs at Every entrance with: Absolutely NO Vicious dogs allowed, Dogs that have attacked people or dogs in the past also not allowed! Dogs must be under control and must recall!"</i></p> <p><i>"Enforce the bylaws. Higher fines for repeat offenders."</i></p> <p><i>"Better way for those attacked or have an incident to report. When an owner chooses to leave there's isn't much one can do. Too many off leash pets not under control . Be more present and fine"</i></p>
<p>Support efforts to reduce aggressive behavior in dogs, including dog assessments and public education</p>	<p>This theme focuses on The City's potential role to support strategies to reduce aggression in dogs. It indicates that some would like to see more investigation into the root causes of the dog's aggression and enhanced assessment measures. This theme highlights a desire for programs to reduce aggression in dogs and education programs for the public on how to interact with dogs that are not their own.</p> <p><i>"I'm a bit concerned with the process of seizing an animal and having it assessed. That sounds like a very stressful situation for the animal and would likely cause aggression in any dog. Maybe it's the case already but having the guardian there might allow for a more reliable assessment."</i></p> <p><i>"Do not kill these animals instead invest in rehabilitation and training programs for these vicious dogs</i></p> <p><i>"Often dogs are vicious due to poor training and can be trained properly"</i></p> <p><i>"That the public be educated on how to approach and act around dogs. A lot of bites are triggered because the victim has no idea how to act around an animal."</i></p>



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## Urban Agriculture

Currently, the bylaw states that livestock are not allowed unless the owner has a *Livestock as Emotional Support Animal Permit*. There are no regulations regarding beekeeping in an urban setting in the current bylaw. Regulations for pigeons in an urban setting is covered in section 27.1 of the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. It states that any person who keeps pigeons must be a member in good standing of either the Canadian Racing Pigeon Club or the Canadian Pigeon Fanciers Association and the pigeon wears appropriate identification.

We wanted your input to understand potential safety concerns to ensure positive community experiences.

### Beekeeping

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Ensure appropriate setup for urban beekeeping, including number and hives, location on property, type of bees	<p>This theme focuses on expectations around setup for urban beekeeping. It highlights restrictions on the number of hives on a property and number of properties with hives within an area. This theme also addresses the type of bees so as not to impact the native bee species in the region. It notes that the hive setup is important, including things like netting, access to water and plant types and amounts to reduce bees from travelling beyond the property.</p> <p><i>“Some minimum standards in terms of location and number of bee hives on a property. Afford the owner the ability to site them in a way that makes sense, but not to overrun a property.”</i></p> <p><i>“Netting, proper hives. Limitations on bee types (ie: don’t bring foreign, dangerous Bees to our ecosystem)...”</i></p> <p><i>“The homeowner MUST have a large yard AND plenty of trees, shrubs, flowers, water source.”</i></p> <p><i>“True beekeeping improves plant pollination and honey harvest. But think of surrounding, anyone allergic to bees, is area large enough to accommodate hives without interfering with surrounding area to be able to enjoy their own outdoor living.”</i></p> <p><i>“Must be in a enclosed area with proper procedures in place to protect the public</i></p> <p><i>“Registration, mandatory education, hive parameters and limits on the number of hives in a square kilometre. Notification in the neighbourhood and regular inspections. There should be consideration to impacts to native bumblebees in Alberta as well - most species are at risk.”</i></p>
Provide access to education for	<p>This theme focuses on adequate education for beekeepers and neighbours. It highlights training for beekeepers, including how to handle swarms. Education for beekeepers includes accountability through proof of training,</p>



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<p>beekeepers and neighbours</p>	<p>mentoring, and registration. This theme also notes the importance of providing information to neighbours in areas where there is urban beekeeping.</p> <p><i>“I have no concerns for my safety. However, bees swarm occasionally, and while docile the swarm must be dealt with by a professional apiarist within 12 hours.”</i></p> <p><i>“I do not have personal safety concerns with the backyard keeping of bees. Education about bees and their habits would be helpful if we had neighbours who had bees.”</i></p> <p><i>“Urban beekeeping is great for the city as long as people know what they’re doing and they have someone to guide and direct them. Having some kind of registration and an inspector would be a good idea.”</i></p> <p><i>“...Keepers should have to provide some proof that they are knowledgeable about bee keeping.”</i></p>
<p>Neighbours should be aware of nearby beekeeping</p>	<p>This theme focuses on public communication of beekeeping in the area. It suggests that advising neighbours promotes a learning opportunity for those nearby to support the initiative and learn about proper behavior near a hive. This theme also addresses the importance of allowing neighbours to be involved in the decision to set up urban beekeeping in the area is an important strategy, especially for those with severe allergies.</p> <p><i>“...Prior to setting up beekeeping advise neighbours first because many people are very allergic to stings.”</i></p> <p><i>“There should be an ability for neighbors to notify authorities if the hive becomes a problem. Neighbours should be able to veto a hive (e.g. because of allergies, small children). Keepers could be asked to change the queen.”</i></p> <p><i>“It’s bees. I wish we had more bees in my neighborhood. I would expect, if I had a neighbour with hives, to be advised by that neighbour and provided with more information on how to help the hive thrive”</i></p> <p><i>“As long as neighbours know what you have so that proper precautions can be taken if allergies to bee stings. A license and consensus by neighbours might be helpful?”</i></p> <p><i>“Plenty of signage to indicate proximity and location of hives and guidance on proper behaviour near bee activity.”</i></p>
<p>Ensure that urban beekeeping addresses health concerns, especially life-threatening allergies</p>	<p>Similar to the theme around communication of nearby beekeeping, this theme focuses more specifically on health concerns and a strong desire for preventative measures that ensure public safety.</p> <p><i>“Beekeeper has taken a course from accredited training centre and is a member of a beekeeping guild. If there is an incident, like swarming, then the beekeeper and/or guild is responsible for responding.”</i></p> <p><i>“why is this being considered in the responsible pet bylaw? Bees are not pets. I don't think beekeeping has any place in the city. it poses a risk to people with allergies”</i></p>



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*“How can anyone with serious allergies to bee stings ever feel safe with large numbers of bees in their neighborhood. Beekeeping cannot occur in areas where someone has a life-threatening allergy, and they must be removed or prevented if someone with that condition possesses it in an neighborhood.”*

## Livestock

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Establish and enforce criteria for keeping livestock including property size, enclosures, type of livestock, etc.</p>	<p>This theme focuses on implementing parameters for keeping urban livestock, including property size, size and build of enclosures for livestock, type of livestock, location on property, etc. Some additional highlights in this theme include expectations around waste management, the living conditions for livestock, and cleanliness of the space. It also addresses concerns around on-site slaughtering.</p> <p><i>“Regulations as to what species of livestock are allowed and how many and in what size space. Licencing. Regulations about waste management.”</i></p> <p><i>“As someone who is interested in keeping chickens in their backyard if the bylaws were to change. I would like to see a limit placed on the number of chickens per household/enclosure for the chickens. Also if bylaw officers should be able to check on the cleanliness/welfare of outdoor urban livestock”</i></p> <p><i>“All livestock needs to be kept humanely with adequate room to run and roam, adequate and species specific food and clean water. No slaughter within city limits. Has to be done by someone licenced to do it...”</i></p> <p><i>“Poultry, mini pigs, goats, donkeys - would need min. requirements for space, enclosures, cleanliness &amp; quantity. Too many could be noisy, smelly, disruptive, may attract additional wildlife. I'd be concerned about quality of life for large animals, and safety of others if got out (they'd be scared).”</i></p> <p><i>“Proper land for the type. limitations on the number of animals per square foot. Proper caging or housing where appropriate. Must maintain a proper standard of care. Must treat them humanely. If raised for slaughter, slaughter cannot be done where the public could reasonably see. Must be clean.”</i></p>
<p>Establish guidelines that reduce the potential negative impact of urban</p>	<p>This theme focuses on concerns around impact of urban livestock on neighbours. It addresses measures to reduce the impact that livestock could have on neighbours, including those that address noise, smell, negative environmental impacts or the potential to attract wildlife to the area.</p>



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<p>livestock on neighbours</p>	<p><i>“Enforcement of proper disposal of waste so that water isn’t impacted nor are there flies and diseases being spread. Enforcement of noise bylaws. A plan to address the likely influx of wild animals that will want to eat the livestock. Number of livestock per home guidelines.”</i></p> <p><i>“To me, it’s more of a noise issue. Do I really want to hear a bunch of chickens/goats/pigs whatever in all hours of the day? hard to relax on my deck while I listen to animals squawking all day long....Keep it small or move to a farm!”</i></p> <p><i>“Not noisy/smelly/roaming”</i></p> <p><i>“This is a catch 22 I would love to have a few chickens but they are messy and roosters are noisy and if the cages are not kept very clean then you can expect smell and other "problem" wildlife. I am responsible and understand the work that goes into having them but my concern is so many don’t get it”</i></p>
<p>City enforcement, including permits and processes for monitoring urban livestock is important</p>	<p>This theme focuses on expectations of The City with regard to urban livestock, including permits, licensing or possibly registration as an alternative to licensing. It includes establishing processes for potential animal seizures, establishing criteria for owners to reduce the impact on neighbours, such as smells and noise from livestock. It further suggests implementing practices such as inspections to ensure that criteria is being met and rules will be followed.</p> <p><i>“Permit-based (low cost!), Limit on number of animals (eg. 4-6 hens/ducks) per house, no roosters.”</i></p> <p><i>“Realistic ability for an urban property to meet needs of livestock.</i></p> <p><i>License/permit - should include consent from neighbours.</i></p> <p><i>City would have to take on the responsibility of accepting surrenders &amp;/or seizures of these animals. Effective control of nuisance smell &amp; noise.”</i></p> <p><i>“Yes, please! I’d like to see an education/licensing requirement though, and maybe a maximum number of animals based on yard size.”</i></p> <p><i>“Permit required. Clear definition of what can and can not be kept and space requirements. Proper housing/equipment in place before permit is given”</i></p> <p><i>“Animals should be registered, and potentially housing requirements should be inspected before licensing is issued. Keeping livestock is a lot of work and preparation to provide enough space for the animals. Many animals also cannot be kept alone - they need companions.”</i></p>





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## Pigeons

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Ensure smell, noise and droppings from urban pigeons do not negatively impact neighbours</p>	<p>This theme focuses on concerns regarding potential negative impact of pigeons on neighbours. It addresses expectations to implement criteria to limit impacts to neighbours and their property, including smell, noise and mess from feces.</p> <p><i>“Limited number, I don’t want to see property get messed or damaged due to an unruly number of pigeons.”</i></p> <p><i>“Pigeons need to be under control, their coop must be kept very clean and cleaned regularly. Any smell or noise must be highly limited. I expect the birds are not free to roam and will not defecate on surrounding property. They must be properly housed and limited to a small amount.”</i></p> <p><i>“Keep them penned on their property and not pooping on their neighbors. Keep the pens clean so they don’t smell for the neighbours.”</i></p> <p><i>“No, this should not be a thing. Pigeons are pests everywhere else and they can’t be contained to an owners house or yard. Hard no”</i></p> <p><i>“Clean coop regularly so there isn’t a smell. Not a huge concern.”</i></p>
<p>Establish criteria for safely keeping pigeons, including property size, number of pigeons, etc.</p>	<p>Building on reducing the impact to neighbours and similar to beekeeping and urban livestock, this theme focuses on parameters that are expected for the setup of pigeons in an urban setting. These include limitations on the number of pigeons, the size of the property, and the use of flyaways.</p> <p><i>“Limit amount &amp; not allowed to fly in neighbourhoods- poop! Again smell or poor maintaining a fine with strike 3 in effect!”</i></p> <p><i>“Limit the number of livestock per square footage of lot size. Current requirements to keep pigeons are fine, in the past I’ve hardly noticed when a neighbour keeps pigeons.”</i></p> <p><i>“The current guidelines sound reasonable as long as there is also a size requirement of the yard so there is an appropriate offset from neighbours.”</i></p> <p><i>“Again a limit and flyways that are not directly over neighbours’ yards or vehicles, their excrement is very acidic and causes body damage over time to vehicles,”</i></p> <p><i>“bylaw or guidelines regarding best practices, public education and limits to project sizing for personal livestock i.e., need a property of X size for X number of pigeons etc.”</i></p>



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## Administration

This section focused on understanding what pet owners and non-pet owners need from the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. We wanted to dig deeper into the conversation regarding potentially limiting cats and dogs in households.

Your experiences and preferred behaviour in on- and off-leash spaces was another important discussion and a sentiment that appears to capture the delicate balance between what dog owners and non-dog owners would like is summed up by this verbatim comment in the engagement. *"1) If you pass a person without a dog: call your dog, leash it up 2) If you pass a person with a leashed dog: call your dog, leash it up 3) If you pass a person with off-leash dogs, feel free to leave yours off-leash"*

Something important to note that was observed in the input that was received in this section (as well as other sections), is that vicious, aggressive and reactive dogs are viewed differently by some and the same by others; more distinction between each of these would be useful.





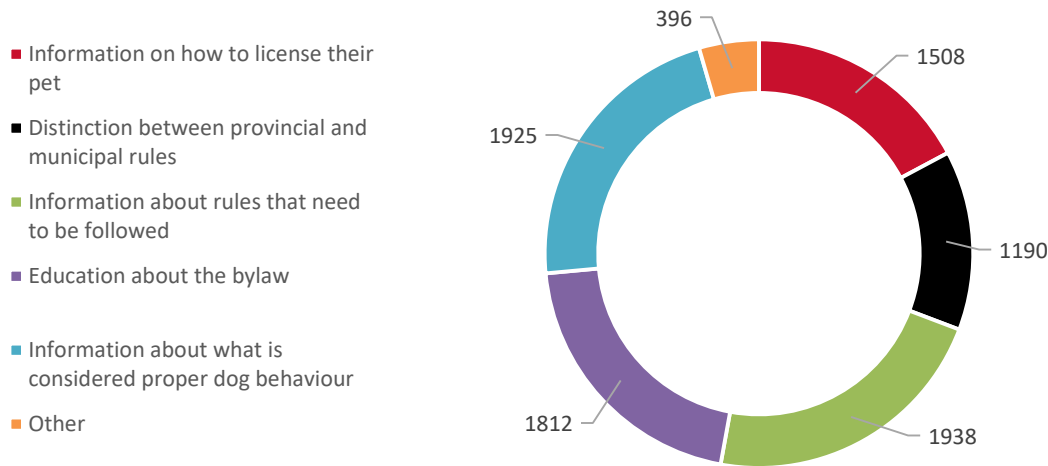
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What pet owners need from the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

What do you believe pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership?



Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Pet owners expect enhanced enforcement, communication and customer service	<p>This theme focuses on the desire for enhanced enforcement, communication and customer service. It highlights the need for further information on rules and expectations for pet owners and improved methods for reporting and dealing with infractions.</p> <p><i>"I think there needs to be more signage and enforcement of leash laws in Calgary. Too many times have I been walking and run into an off leash dog. The owner does not realize that the area is off leash, or argues that they are allowed to have their dog off leash because it is well trained."</i></p> <p><i>"Rules need to be ENFORCED."</i></p> <p><i>"Better ways to report events with action."</i></p>



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	<p><i>“Concise information that is timely and easily understood. Less fines and more teaching. Involvement in design, maintenance of off-leash areas; incentives to be involved. Partner with vets, dog trainers etc at off-leash areas to help people learn.”</i></p> <p><i>“Information about what is considered proper ownership behaviour such as proper waste disposal”</i></p> <p><i>“Options other than a physical tag that will be accepted as proof of registration...”</i></p> <p><i>“compulsory education and community service when charged with bylaw offence”</i></p> <p><i>“Reminders that cats are no permitted to roam freely”</i></p> <p><i>“How to find support!! what does the license really do!!...”</i></p> <p><i>“Estimated costs of ownership so people can make informed decisions when getting a new animal.”</i></p>
<p>Pet owners expect further clarity on expected pet behaviours on private and public property</p>	<p>This theme focuses on expected pet behavior on public and private property. It addresses the desire for additional information regarding what areas are considered off-leash and on-leash, including expected behaviours for each and why the rules exist. This theme also highlights concerns around pet behaviours on private property where the property is not the pet owner’s.</p> <p><i>“Signage at off leash parks with a list of rules”</i></p> <p><i>“Enforcement of bylaws, specifically where the off leash areas areas are and aren’t, and manners in off leash parks”</i></p> <p><i>“Pet friendly places, events or parks information”</i></p> <p><i>“More education on why there are off leash areas and why it is important to keep them on leash in other public areas.”</i></p> <p><i>“our properties are NOT to be used as a bathroom spot, even if owners pick up..pet owners MUST understand even urine can burn the grass...stay off our properties!”</i></p> <p><i>“Display general rules when entering off-leash parks. For example, you must stay with your animal while in the park, you must pick up and remove feces, you must be in control of your animal at all times, your dog must have it’s license on...”</i></p>
<p>Pet owners expect more accessible training opportunities and resources be available,</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the desire for more accessible training opportunities and resources. It suggests that additional training that teaches owners how to read their dogs body language, etc. and respond appropriately will improve dog behaviour and interactions when in public. Additional training suggestions include ways to prevent dog bites, proper pet etiquette in public spaces, rules that need to be followed and how to train the pet to ensure these are adhered to.</p> <p><i>“Access to affordable dog training so everyone can be educated on responsible dog ownership.”</i></p>



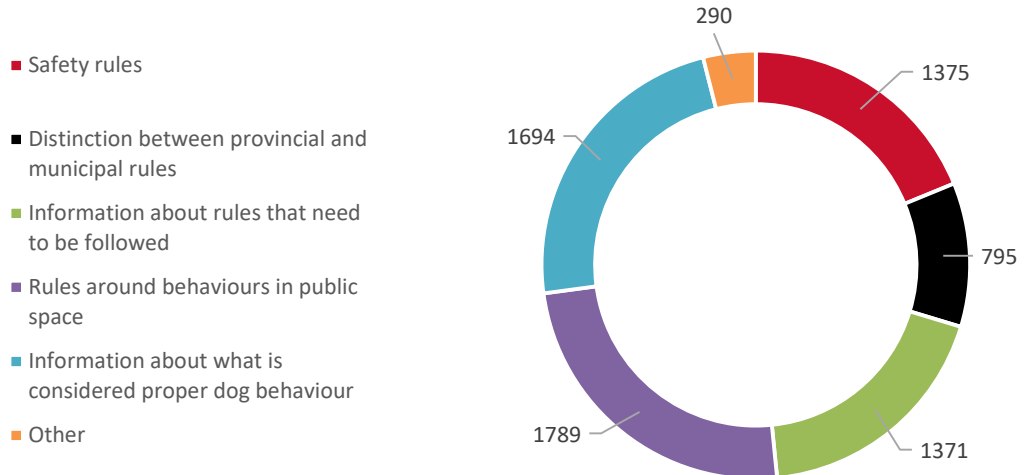
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<p>including pet management and rules that need to be followed</p>	<p><i>“How to read your dogs behaviour, mood and actions to prevent outbursts”</i>  <i>“Information on where to get appropriate behaviour help for their dog. Stop the blame game of shaming the owner. Dog behaviour is more complex than “it’s all how they’re raised””</i>  <i>“List of suggested etiquette in public and education about how to properly train these animals.”</i>  <i>“Easy access to community programs about training/obedience”</i>  <i>“Fully fenced off leash parks, to allow for training”</i></p>
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What non-pet owners need from the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

What do you believe non-pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership?





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Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>It is believed that non-pet owners should be educated not to approach pets without the owner's consent</p>	<p>This theme focuses on information that would educate non-pet owners how to act around pets and how to interact with them. It addresses concerns that in instances where a non-pet owner encounters a pet and acts afraid or intimidated, this can stress the animal who then reacts in a more threatening manner. This theme also highlights that non-pet owners, especially children, will often approach a pet, primarily dogs, without the owner's consent, which sometimes causes the dog to react negatively.</p> <p><i>"Do not approach dog without asking owners."</i>  <i>"Education on how to interact with pets in public. Often people do not know how to approach a pet and can stress it and the result can be a negative experience for both the pet, the pet owner and the non pet owner."</i>  <i>"How to approach a person with a dog ask to pet. Don't just release your kids to go see the dog."</i>  <i>"Information about how kids are to interact around dogs: never run towards a dog, watch for stress signals such as turning away and lip licking and give the dog space."</i></p>
<p>Non-pet owners want resources to address conflicts as they arise, including reporting incidents and conveying pet fears to pet owners</p>	<p>This theme focuses on non-pet owners' need for additional information and support to handle issues that come up with pets and pet owners. It notes a desire for details on how to better report situations that arise and clearer understanding of what rules exist and when they are in effect. This theme also highlights an expectation for efficient and effective enforcement.</p> <p><i>"Who to contact when there is a problem and a quick response!"</i>  <i>"Rules about what is permitted by responsible pet owners and rules public should follow to respect the animals."</i>  <i>"Enforcement of rules to protect us from irresponsible pet owners."</i>  <i>"We need monitoring and a way to ensure non-compliant owners are held accountable."</i>  <i>"An information line to assess complaints and offer education where misunderstanding is encountered."</i></p>



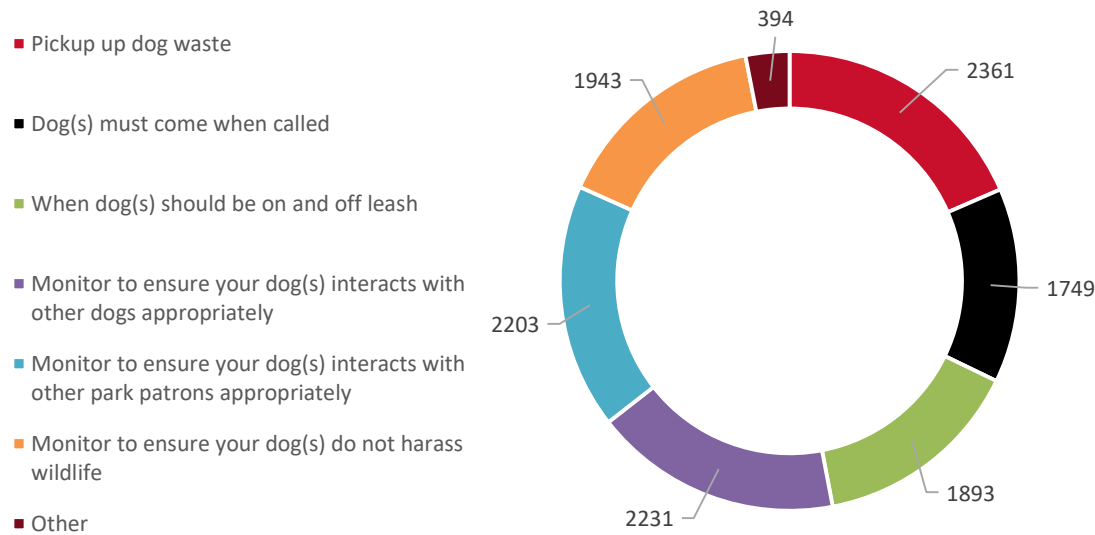
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## Reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for dog owners

What do you consider reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for dog owners?



Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Monitor behaviour of reactive and	This theme focuses on expected behaviours from owners and dog walkers, including increased accountability in off-leash areas. Expectations include not bringing reactive or aggressive dogs to off-leash parks, paying close



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<p>aggressive dogs and take steps to ensure the safety of the dog, other pets and people</p>	<p>attention to the dog and its behaviour while in public, try to avoid interactions between the dog and others in the area, not using dog toys when others are around, etc.</p> <p><i>“Knowing when to NOT take their dog to an off leash park. Most owners are unaware of their dogs inappropriate behaviour. Perhaps all dogs must pass an off leash “test” to be able to use the parks offleash”</i></p> <p><i>“It needs to be about socializing your dog, and not yourself, at least not so that you are distracted from what your dog is doing.”</i></p> <p><i>“When walking your dog and approaching people with dogs keep yourself between them and your dog.”</i></p> <p><i>“Monitor that dog stays within sight, monitor that dog stays within bounds of off-leash area (lots of these areas aren’t fenced - they ALL should be), control barking, ensure dog does not interfere with cyclists on pathways.”</i></p> <p><i>“No food other than treats, only play fetch when other dogs are not around, carry your leash with you at all times”</i></p> <p><i>“Leashes can trigger an aggressive reaction in other dogs that are offleash. Dog owners that walk their dog ‘on-leash’ in an offleash zone should be more aware that they are putting everyone at risk with a potential trigger.”</i></p>
<p>Non-pet owners and children should be mindful in their interactions with dogs in or near off-leash parks, including not approaching without consent or participating in activities that would interest or scare dogs</p>	<p>This theme focuses on non-pet owners interactions with dogs in and near off-leash parks. It addresses concerns regarding behaviour of non-pet owners including approaching dogs without owners’ consent and loud, bicyclists through the off-leash area and playful movement from children. Concerns raised include, scaring dogs, unintentionally upsetting dogs and potentially inciting aggression.</p> <p><i>“People with children must educate them on how to approach dogs. There also needs to be regulations on the dog park being for dogs and is not a playground for children to run around wildly.”</i></p> <p><i>“I don’t believe bikes should be allowed in off leach areas. There are a ton of parka and pathways and only certain areas for dogs to be free and soooooo many are fearful. Off leash parks should not be treated as playgrounds”</i></p> <p><i>“No small children allowed in the offleash parks for safety reasons. Dogs are running around and playing and may injure them unintentionally. Kids also do not know how to react to all dogs. Saw a kid waving a stick around and a dog tried to get the stick and jumped up on him to get it. Parents blamed the dog owner when all it wants do is play with the stick.”</i></p>
<p>Pet owners and non-pet owners should speak more directly with one another</p>	<p>This theme focuses on pet owners and non-pet owners addressing issues and communicating more with one another. It highlights concerns regarding how to raise concerns with one another and feel heard. It suggests tone and the way a question is posed are important and adds that strategies for how to deal with non-compliance is needed.</p>



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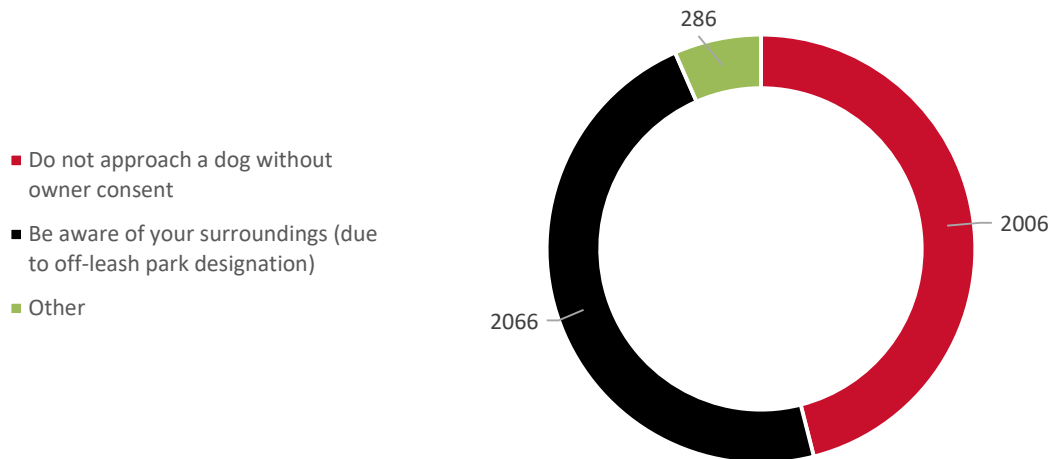
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<p>regarding what they need [same as addressing issues in next section]</p>	<p><i>“Conflict resolution steps. When to say something and how to say something.”</i>  <i>“How to properly interact with other owners. How your tone and actions can play into a dog’s behaviour or reactions”</i>  <i>“Listen when others ask to leash pet or remove it from the park...”</i>  <i>“Let people know if their dog did something wrong in a polite way”</i>  <i>“Ask for what they need from the owner when approaching”</i>  <i>“Information on how to communicate with non-compliant pet owners.”</i></p>
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Reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for people without dogs

What do you consider reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks for people without dogs?





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Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>If frequenting areas where there are lots of dogs, people should learn how to interact with dogs safely</p>	<p>This theme focuses on further education about dog behaviour and how to interact with them. It highlights the importance of teaching children safety when around dogs as well. In addition to identifying a few behaviours to consider, including not bringing food to an off-leash park, this theme also notes the value in learning suggested ways to react around a dog if an individual feels uncomfortable or nervous.</p> <p><i>“Teach kids basic dog safety rules if you choose to bring them to off leash park.”</i>  <i>“If you are afraid of dogs do NOT scream and run. Do not be in an off leash area.”</i>  <i>“Don’t be aggressive to animals. Knowing how to react properly when feel in an unsafe situation with a dog as your movements and actions will determine theirs”</i>  <i>“Instructions on how to respond when being attacked or faced with aggressive dogs”</i>  <i>“Don’t judge a dog by the way it looks”</i>  <i>“Do not bring open food in to dog parks. Do not allow unattended children at dog parks.”</i></p>
<p>Locations of off-leash parks, use, set up and activities within off-leash parks sets a tone for dog behaviour</p>	<p>This theme focuses on off-leash park locations, their use, how they are set up and activities that occur within them. It addresses concerns around pet owners’ and non-pet owners’ expectations in multi-use areas and how off-leash design and park use plays a role in dog behaviour.</p> <p><i>“Many areas where dogs are allowed off leash are not dog parks. They are multi-use areas.”</i>  <i>“In off leash specific parks, citizens with or without dogs should not be tobogganing, have kids on bikes, or having picnics”</i>  <i>“Dog parks should be fenced off entirely with no access to public parks or bike paths. People without dogs should not have to try and avoid dogs.”</i>  <i>“Be cautious when riding bikes through off-leash areas, do not have picnics in off leash park, do not set up temporary camps in off-leash park, do not leave food, be cautious about young children running around, do not use off-leash parks for fitness classes”</i>  <i>“there needs to be very obvious and clear signage and there needs to be ways for people to manouver through parks WITHOUT having to go through off leash areas and encounter other people’s dogs.”</i>  <i>“If you choose to sled, bike, run, play in an off leash park you must be comfortable with dogs approaching you and being interested din your activity, if not then do these activities at a park not designated as off leash”</i></p>
<p>Pet owners and non-pet owners should speak</p>	<p>This theme focuses on pet owners and non-pet owners addressing issues and communicating more with one another. It highlights concerns regarding how to raise concerns with one another and feel heard. It suggests</p>





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<p>more directly with one another regarding what they need [same as addressing issues in previous section]</p>	<p>tone and the way a question is posed are important and adds that strategies for how to deal with non-compliance is needed.</p> <p><i>“Conflict resolution steps. When to say something and how to say something.”</i></p> <p><i>“How to properly interact with other owners. How your tone and actions can play into a dog’s behaviour or reactions”</i></p> <p><i>“Listen when others ask to leash pet or remove it from the park...”</i></p> <p><i>“Let people know if their dog did something wrong in a polite way”</i></p> <p><i>“Ask for what they need from the owner when approaching”</i></p> <p><i>“Information on how to communicate with non-compliant pet owners.”</i></p>
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## Expectations of dog behavior in other public spaces that are not off-leash areas

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Dogs should be on-leash when outside of off-leash parks or private property</p>	<p>This theme focuses on expectations that dogs be leashed at all times when not in an off-leash area or confined to the owners’ private property. It also addresses concerns with flexible leashes and questions the owner’s ability to control the dog when these are used.</p> <p><i>“Owners always have animal on a leash unless in a dog park area”</i></p> <p><i>“dogs must be on a short leash, not those extendable leashes, the dogs might as well not be on a leash then..dogs must have proper behaviour training so the owner(s) will have better control of their dogs..the owner(s) must lead their dog(s) not the other way around!!”</i></p> <p><i>“That owners keep dogs on leash at all times when outside of off-leash areas. No exceptions, even when dogs are “well behaved.””</i></p> <p><i>“Maximum 6’ leash. Flexies are often improperly used.”</i></p> <p><i>“Flexi-leashes in public sidewalk/pathway areas are a hazard. A person does NOT have control of their dog if that dog is 20’ away. Standard leashes are 6’ and even that is difficult to keep out of the way of a dog/owner on a walking path”</i></p>
<p>Owners should be in control of their dogs</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the importance of the owner being in control of the dog. It suggests that when a dog is not easily controlled, other measures, including leashes and/or muzzles should be used. It also highlights that being in control includes the dog having good recall and being non-reactive and the owner having a firm grip on the leash so the dog is unable to interact with people and other pets.</p>



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	<p><i>“An animal that is under control or that can be put into control quickly. Keen owners that are well versed in dog body language and have the proper training tools necessary to manage their dog”</i></p> <p><i>“Controlled on a leash or reliable re-call, non-reactive behavior in all circumstances”</i></p> <p><i>“Calm controlled behaviour in public places. If the owner can not control their dog, other measures such as muzzles or gentle leaders should be used to protect other dogs and people.”</i></p> <p><i>“None from the dog. But the owner needs to have it on a leash and be able to hold that leash and not let go. If it barks or growls I don’t care. But do not let it get near another dog or human if it isn’t friendly, just keep a safe distance and hold the leash and dog firm”</i></p>
<p>Owners should be paying close attention to their dogs so behaviours are not missed and negative incidents are decreased</p>	<p>This theme focuses on specific actions that owners should take when in public spaces with their dogs, including picking up waste, having a good understanding and awareness of their dog's behaviour and reactions, and generally paying attention to their dog so cues and behaviours are not missed. This theme addresses some people’s frustration with dog owners/handlers being on their phones or visiting with others and missing what their dog is doing.</p> <p><i>“”Pickup dog waste; do NOT have your dog off-leash on the pathway; if you use one of those leashes with retractable cords, give your dog a short leash so it does not impact walkers, runners, and cyclists. Do NOT all your dog to jump up on people and then smile and say "Don't worry, he's friendly!"</i></p> <p><i>“I have expectations of the dog *owner* -- complete control of the animal, pick up waste, be respectful of other people's (and pets') personal space.”</i></p> <p><i>“People do not pick up after their dogs....I’d like to see more waste bins and free doggy bag stations”</i></p> <p><i>“...Owner is paying attention to the dog (not on cell phone or otherwise distracted)”</i></p>
<p>Owner discretion should be trusted, and flexibility should be allowed, especially during training</p>	<p>This theme focuses on training and owner discretion when owners have their dogs in public. It highlights trusting owners to make decisions in the best interest of their dog and the general public. It also notes that while control is important, a certain level of discretion and flexibility is needed during training.</p> <p><i>“if near people, they should be leashed; if away from people, I don't see leashing as an issue”</i></p> <p><i>“I have no issues with pets being off leash as long as the owners are in full control, responsible and they return when called.”</i></p> <p><i>“Come when called, drop things it’s picked up. Socialized. No barking constantly”</i></p> <p><i>“As there are not enough fenced off-leash areas, properly trained and controlled dogs should be allowed to be walked off-leash by their handlers, wherever it can reasonably and safely be done.”</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

	<p><i>"If a dog cannot be recalled from any distraction while off leash - it should not be off leash. Too many pet owners do not understand what true control is and education needs to be given with what constitutes control."</i></p>
<p>Dogs should not be in the way of other users in multi-use areas, such as pathways</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring that dogs are not in the way of other users in multi-use areas. Concerns that were highlighted included extendible leashes that cut across paths and become a hazard for other users including cyclists. It noted expectations including keeping dogs on the right of the pathway and on the right on the owner to reduce potential interaction with other users.</p> <p><i>"...Dogs should always be on the owners right hand side on paths, sidewalks etc. so the human is the barrier between their dog and oncoming joggers, bikers, etc."</i></p> <p><i>"People and animals can share the pathways. Both need to be respectful. Move off tot he side when needed. No flexi leashes on pathways/sidewalks as they are hard to control."</i></p> <p><i>"On leash, under complete control walking on the far side of the owner from me to minimize risk of interactions unwanted by another citizen..."</i></p>
<p>Mutual respect is expected between pet owners and non-pet owners</p>	<p>This theme focuses on mutual respect between non-pet owners and pet owners. It addresses concerns from both and highlights suggestions regarding better communication and understanding of each other's needs and concerns. Some suggestions that were raised include better awareness by non-pet owners of the environment, especially if in or near an off-leash area and attempts to be less reactive towards dogs which makes dogs feel threatened and results in more aggressive behaviour. Other suggestions include not approaching a dog without the owner's consent to reduce the possibility of dog aggression.</p> <p><i>"Dogs should be Behaved. Humans should not have to be afraid for their safety. That said, non pet owners need to be aware. Dogs sense fear immediately &amp; can behave in response to that. Owners should be aware &amp; ready to respond. Rescue dogs can also be unpredictable. We can all coexist."</i></p> <p><i>"I don't have any expectations, every animal is different and should not be approached without the consent of the owner."</i></p> <p><i>"That current rules and regulations are respected by pet owners and non-pet owners."</i></p> <p><i>"If the dog is on leash on a pathway, the all have the same right to the pathway when it comes to accessibility. Dogs however shouldn't be jumping up on people. People should also react in a calm manner as pets will sniff people. If people are nervous, they should make it known in advance."</i></p>



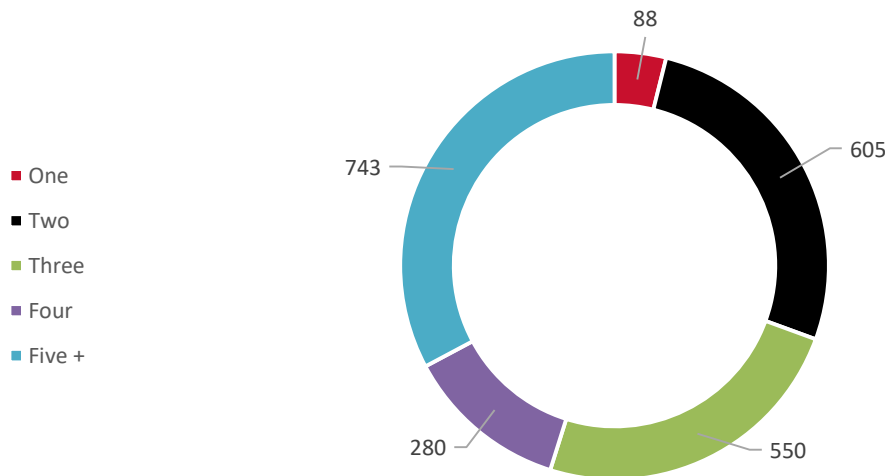
# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

What do you consider a reasonable number of dogs per household?

What do you consider a reasonable number of dogs per household?



## Reasonable number of dogs' rationale

Preferred selection	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
5+	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for those that selected five or more dogs per household. It suggests that as long as a household has means to care for the dogs and the owner has the ability to control the dogs in their care, no limit should be placed on the number of dogs in a household. It suggests that no limits should be placed as long as the other criteria is met. This includes financial circumstances, limiting impact to neighbours, access to proper medical care, training, etc.</p> <p><i>"I believe if your dogs are under your control and you are able to properly care for them and your property, it shouldn't matter how many there are. I would just want to see all dogs in a residence licensed"</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

	<p><i>“Any number ok as long as they are well cared for, kept under control, and don't disturb neighbours. Restrictions should only apply to those who have abused dogs or allowed them to disturb neighbors (ongoing).”</i></p>
2	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for selecting two dogs per household. It suggests that the owner's ability to control the dogs is important and that a second dog would be a good companion to the first dog.</p> <p><i>“2 is manageable &amp; provide adequate companionship for each other &amp; their humans.”</i></p> <p><i>“I just don't think people need to collect animals like some kind of hobby. Two pets can keep each other company, and it's not too much work/time for the owners. It's manageable. Anything more can lead to hoarding with some people, as we have seen time and time again. Very sad.”</i></p> <p><i>“Two is reasonable for a person to keep under control, pick up their feces, and can keep each other company.”</i></p>
3	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for selecting three dogs per household. It suggests that the owner's capacity to control the dogs and also have the means to care for the dog are vital. Many responses to this theme noted that while limits are not deemed necessary, three seems like a reasonable number for adequate control and proper care.</p> <p><i>“Beyond 3 dogs it becomes difficult to monitor dogs welfare, as well as control nuisance issues”</i></p> <p><i>“I feel that dogs are very costly to care for properly (food, vet care), and also take a lot of work and time. Many dogs on one property in the city could lead to excessive barking, smell from feces, and could lead to poor neighbour relations.”</i></p> <p><i>“I believe that three dogs are easy for a single person to take care of and control, and most houses have enough space for each animal. I don't believe in putting a limit of three dogs per household. Pet limits should be put in place on a case by case basis based on quality of care.”</i></p>
4	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for selecting four dogs per household. It suggests that the owner's capacity to control the dogs and also have the means to care for the dog, including finances, available space, regular exercise, etc. are important. Many responses to this theme noted that while limits are not deemed necessary, four seems like a reasonable number for adequate control and proper care.</p> <p><i>“I have 3 large dogs, 2 of them are working dogs and getting older. It was out Vet's advice to introduce a puppy to help with playing and exercise for the 2 older ones. If you can afford your pets food, shelter &amp; welfare, keep them trained (friendly) &amp; respect noise bylaws there should be no problem”</i></p>



## Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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	<p><i>“Depends on the home and the reason for all the animals and whether or not the owner/s have the capacity to care for this number of animals in a clean and healthy environment and that the animals are not neglected or suffering in any way”</i></p> <p><i>“I think 4 dogs is reasonable if a person wishes to own more than perhaps a special license could be made available after a home visit is conducted in which it can be proven that the person has the means (financially, emotionally, and mentally) to provide proper care for that many animals”</i></p>
1	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for selecting one dog per household. It suggests that the owner’s capacity to control the dog and also have available space is important. In addition to environmental impacts, it highlights urban versus rural living as a space concern.</p> <p><i>“That is a reasonable number considering that every household could have a dog. The amount of dog feces in the city should be considered in this question. There is a large amount that is not picked up. Environmental concerns rise with the increase of dogs in the city.”</i></p> <p><i>“One MAXIMUM in the city and then only small quiet dogs. Big dogs deserve a full home and yard to roam in. Two, maybe three in a rural area...more if on a farm *with enough people to take care of them!”</i></p> <p><i>“We are an urban area and the dogs deserve appropriate space,”</i></p>



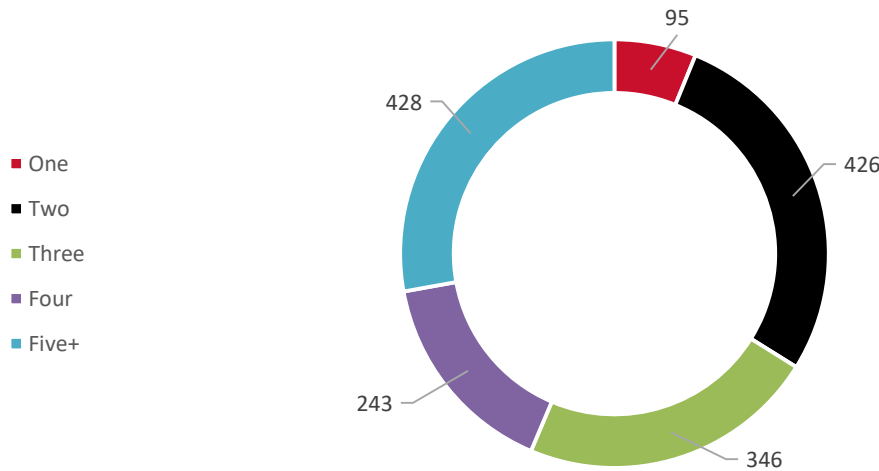
# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

What do you consider a reasonable number of cats per household?

What do you consider to be a reasonable number of cats per household?



## Reasonable number of cats' rationale

Preferred selection	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
5+	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for those that selected five or more cats per household. It suggests that no limits should be placed on the number of cats in a household as long as other criteria is met, including financial circumstances, limiting impact to neighbours, access to proper medical care, ensuring basic needs are met, etc.</p> <p><i>"I don't believe there should be a limit on cats either. People with 1 cat can be more irresponsible than those with 5+. Hoarding situations won't be stopped by restricting number of pets. It shouldn't be able how many pets but how responsible the owner is."</i></p>





# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

	<p><i>“Cats are much easier to care for. They do not need to go outside for walks. As long as the owner is providing food, shelter, vet care, and love, the number should not matter. Possibly do home inspections if a household has more than a certain number of cats.”</i></p> <p><i>“I think a person should be allowed to have any amount of cats if they have the means to take care of their needs (feed, walk, spend time, train and socialize)...”</i></p>
<p>2</p>	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for those that selected two cats per household. It highlights concerns about health and behaviour problems in households with more than two cats. Alternatively, it suggests that number of cats is less concerning when cats are indoors which reduces negative impact to neighbours when cats roam free. In addition, it also suggests that two cats is reasonable to ensure they are cared for, including, having the finances, owner capacity, etc. This theme also notes cats are social and therefore two is appropriate for companionship.</p> <p><i>“2 allows the cat to have a cat companion, while ensuring proper time and attention can be given to both animals”</i></p> <p><i>“An owner can typically afford the feeding/grooming/veterinary care &amp; licensing fees.”</i></p> <p><i>“Since cats use a litter box, more than 2 cats create unhygienic conditions.”</i></p> <p><i>“More than 2 cats, may be unmanageable of one dwelling. Can get messy, and unsanitary.”</i></p> <p><i>“More than 2 can increase risk of noise and smell impact on others”</i></p> <p><i>“Two max if allowed to roam (despite bylaws). If the cats are kept strictly indoors or only allowed access to the outdoors via "catios", the number of cats kept may correspond to the owners financial ability to keep them properly, e.g. provide food, sanitation and regular and incidental vet care).”</i></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for those that selected three cats per household. It suggests that means to care for the cats and ensuring that cats and household occupants are healthy. It addressed concerns with health risks associated with the increased volume of litter boxes to accommodate more than three cats. This theme noted that while individual responsibility is more important than number of cats, three seems like a reasonable number to maintain proper care.</p> <p><i>“Unless it is a large house, this is an appropriate number of cats to allow them to socialise, and have appropriate eating and litter box areas. One litter box per 1.5 cats. 3 cats, 4 litter boxes.”</i></p> <p><i>“I do not see how a family can care for more than 3 cats at a time. This means by maintaining and keeping a safe, proper living environment for both cats and humans in the house.”</i></p>





# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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	<p><i>"I chose this amount because again it balances the ability to control and provide care, with ownership. If people can't care for their animals it burdens the City and other agencies with that care. By having a numbers limit it reduces both public and private liabilities."</i></p> <p><i>"While there are always exceptions to the rule - my observation is that much more than three cats in an average household creates compromised sanitary conditions and or management of the cats' behaviour."</i></p>
4	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for those that selected four cats per household. It highlights concerns about health and behaviour problems in households with more than four cats. In addition, it also suggests that four cats is reasonable to ensure they are cared for, including, having the finances, owner capacity, meeting basic needs, etc. This theme speaks to the balance between the cats' desire for independence and companionship.</p> <p><i>"Cats are smaller &amp; don't require that much space. If indoor only they provide good company for each other. I feel the cost of ownership of 4 cats is probably the same as 2 dogs."</i></p> <p><i>"I believe 4 cats can be cared for adequately with some effort and planning. More than 4 would be challenging for many households and unfair and stressful to individual cats within a household as cats are not pack animals and can be territorial."</i></p> <p><i>"Cats are quite easy to care for as they do most of it themselves. Just remember to feed, water, and change litter and you're set. As long as cats get along well and it's not stressful for them."</i></p>
1	<p>This theme focuses on rationales for selecting one cat per household. It highlights concerns regarding cats roaming free and negatively impacting nearby properties. Some responses supported more than one cat, if cats were restricted to their own property and not allowed to roam.</p> <p><i>"Too many cats on a property can cause problems for adjoining property owners when the cats stray off their residential property to defecate in other people's yards, or dig up other people's gardens. Also there have been too many cases of large numbers of cats living in filthy conditions in homes."</i></p> <p><i>"People don't seem to keep them indoors."</i></p> <p><i>"I don't care on amount. I care on how they are housed. Keep them on your property or on leash and stop the free roaming as it's costing me dearly health and money wise and I don't even own a cat."</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

## Exceptions to placing limits on number of cats and dogs

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>If limits were placed per household, temporary homes should be exempt</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring that temporary homes, including breeders, foster homes, daycares, pet sitters, etc. are exempt, if limits on the number of pets was added to the bylaw. It notes that even in these situations, these groups should be licensed, monitored and inspected to ensure compliance and health and safety standards are being met.</p> <p><i>“Fostering situation where there are frequent check ins on health and safety”</i></p> <p><i>“Responsible breeders should be knowledgeable and capable of handling a larger number of animals. If an animal had a litter of kittens/puppies there should also be an exception to allow the babies to be properly socialized, but they should be re-homed before adulthood.”</i></p> <p><i>“If you are a breeder, or a trainer, or if you are fostering animals until they can be adopted. But most importantly, the household must still be able to care of them fully.”</i></p> <p><i>“I think there could be short-term exceptions such as caring for foster animals or supporting in a short term but not long-term”</i></p> <p><i>“By special license, such as dog sitters, trainers, etc. Accompanied by bylaw inspections.”</i></p> <p><i>“Proven ability to handle difficult behaviours (or willingness to learn), temporary foster homes for pets, or day homes (kennels, short term boarding) where the amount of pets is down to 2 or 3 each night.”</i></p>
<p>Limits are not necessary as long as the pets are cared for and their basic needs are met, including health and social needs</p>	<p>This theme addressed concerns for pets in a household, and focused on limits as not necessary as long as pet is cared for. This included receiving proper vaccines and care. It also suggests that owners need to have adequate resources, including space and finances to care for the pet. This theme further noted that history of abuse or neglect negates any limits and that no animals should be placed in these circumstances.</p> <p><i>“I do not feel there needs to be a limit. Responsible pet owners will care for their dogs no matter what the city decides and the irresponsible people will do the same. The number of pets shouldn't be the issue, the level of care the household can provide should be appropriate for the number of pets.”</i></p> <p><i>“You should be able to have as many as you can properly care for.”</i></p> <p><i>“dont think there should be a limit, as long as animals are cared for and in good health. Calgary is known for being a dog friendly city and imposing a limit for people who generally take care or a large number of pets very well is unfair.”</i></p> <p><i>“The ability to house, care for (feed, veterinary care, proper socialization, exercise etc) should all be factors.”</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

	<p><i>“Property type, living arrangements(like have a big lot, on a farm, or dogs used for a job and taken care of properly) community, persons age, money that can feed and care for them properly and fully. Should enforce animals to be insured. if accident happen in public there is accident coverage”</i></p> <p><i>“...2)land size- acreage vs, condo”</i></p> <p><i>“To those who have a greater square footage of their property. Those who have enough time and resources to properly provide for additional animals.”</i></p>
<p>Pet limits should allow for extenuating circumstances, including death in the family, pet sitting and litters</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the need to allow for extensions on limits in extenuating circumstances, including; litters, pet sitting, a death in the family, working dogs, and show dogs.</p> <p><i>“Puppies born or an owner with 3 dogs may be minding a family member's dog that doesn't live there full time due to travel, illness etc”</i></p> <p><i>“1. If a cat or dog gives birth to a litter.</i></p> <p><i>2. If someone is fostering puppies or kittens.</i></p> <p><i>3. You have a bonded sibling group who would be better off all living together.”</i></p> <p><i>“Litters, temporary pet sitting, family members pass away and best people to take animals already have the max”</i></p> <p><i>“If the rules are to be changed, those who already have more pets than allowed should be grandfathered in. Also foster animals should be exempted from the household limit”</i></p> <p><i>“As far as more dogs- a responsible show breeder could be allowed more animals. The optimum word is Responsible! The majority of show breeders fall into this category. There does need to be rules in place to prevent backyard and puppy/kitten mills.”</i></p>
<p>Enforcement and monitoring should be maintained where exceptions have been allowed</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring enforcement, including licensing, management of complaints and reducing impact on neighbours is maintained in circumstances where exceptions have been allowed.</p> <p><i>“I am not sure. Being a shelter animal foster home probably. Breeding I suppose, but they would have to be a licensed and inspected breeder.”</i></p> <p><i>“If a household is operating a registered, licensed animal care business.”</i></p> <p><i>“Licensed pet related businesses that have specific rules and regulations that must be followed”</i></p> <p><i>“...impose a limit when problems occur, eg complaints that there appear to be pets that are in distress. then upon investigation, then limits can be placed...”</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 29, 2020

	<p><i>"It would be beneficial if animal homes were inspected if there are more than 5 pet household to ensure there isn't a hoarding or breeding situation, or mental illness related to hoarding because those situations are unacceptable and either the animals or humans need help"</i></p>
<p>If limits were placed per household, service animals and emotional support animals should be exempt</p>	<p>This theme focuses on making sure that service animal or emotional support animal are exempt from any limits placed on the number of pets in a household.</p> <p><i>"Medical assisting dog (not therapy dog) should be excluded from the count."</i></p> <p><i>"Service animals shouldn't count against the total number of animals in the home as they are medically necessary equipment, not a pet."</i></p> <p><i>"If a number is going to be approved for bylaws, responsible owners over the limit should be grandfathered in. Also, animals that are assistance/service animals should not count in the tally."</i></p> <p><i>"If the animals were there already before a limit was placed. Service animals should also not be counted if a limit is given as well as emotional support animals"</i></p> <p><i>"...if the animal is a service animal, registered pet therapy animal, or emotional support animal"</i></p>

## Licensing

In this section, we wanted to understand why people choose not to license dogs and cats and what owners expect to receive in return for licensing. We also wanted to get your input on your expectations for dog-walking services, whether by an individual or business. Other things in this section that were important for us to get input on include; rules for the retail sale of animals, and considerations for importing animals to Calgary.

### Primary reason for not licensing cats

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>There is no reason to license cats that are indoor only</p>	<p>This theme focuses on cats being indoors as a reason to not license them. It claims that since cats either do not go outdoors or do not leave their owners' property, there is no reason to license them.</p> <p><i>"Cats are indoor pets. Those who don't are probably responsible enough to know this. Also, have you ever collared a cat? Some just WON'T wear one no matter how much you try..."</i></p> <p><i>"If the cat is inside all the time you shouldn't have to license it"</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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	<i>"my cats are indoor pets and have chips in their ears which provides owner information. if they are outside, they are on a leash and under supervision"</i>
Cost of licensing cats is too high	<p>This theme focuses on owners not licensing cats due to perceived high cost of licensing or their personal financial situation. It suggests that with other costs associated with pet ownership, licensing is an unnecessary fee.</p> <p><i>"they do not want to give the government more money. Pets already cost money to take care of, paying a yearly fee just so the government is aware that you have an animal is not ideal for most owners"</i></p> <p><i>"It could be cost. I know it may seem low but it may have an impact if the owner has a few to register. It's cheaper for neutered animals - great but spaying and neutering is not! Make this as cheap as possible and I guarantee more owners will licence!"</i></p>
There are few benefits to licensing cats since tattoos and microchipping are often used	<p>This theme focuses on the overall lack of value of licensing cats, especially when alternative measures exist, including tattoos and microchipping. It suggests that there are limited benefits to licensing cats.</p> <p><i>"Expensive and pointless. What is the city giving in return? No off leash parks to fund like you do with dogs, and the people who actually care about their cat being returned microchip already, a vet office can return the pet without city involvement."</i></p> <p><i>"Indoor only cats are a real possibility. I licensed my indoor only cat anyway, but it felt totally ridiculous. An unnecessary financial and administrative burden."</i></p>
Not licensing a cat is viewed by some as not being a responsible pet owner	<p>This theme suggests that owners who do not license their cats are not responsible pet owners. It notes that a reason for not licensing the cat is to avoid a penalty if the cat does something wrong.</p> <p><i>"They don't want to pay licensing fees or be held responsible for what their pet does when loose."</i></p> <p><i>"They are not responsible pet owners and do not want to take the time/money to do so."</i></p>

## Primary reason for not licensing dogs

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
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# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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<p>Cost of licensing dogs is too high</p>	<p>This theme focuses on owners not licensing dogs due to perceived high cost of licensing or their personal financial situation. It suggests that with the costs associated with other measures, including tagging and microchipping, licensing is an unnecessary extra fee. Additionally, it highlights some sentiment that fees are viewed as biased.</p> <p><i>“Probably money. I've lived in many cities in this country and Calgary was the only one where I've had to renew my pets license annually.”</i></p> <p><i>“Cost. And the fact that if their licensed dog is picked up by animal services, they are still paying hundreds of dollars in fees to redeem their dog from the city pound. If these fees were lessened then people would pay for the service.”</i></p> <p><i>“It's too expensive and should cost about half as much. Again, my dogs are chipped, tattooed and have a tag with my contact information, so reunification is not a big selling point for me.”</i></p> <p><i>“Unfair biased to responsible owners who have intact pets”</i></p>
<p>Not licensing a dog is viewed by some as not being a responsible pet owner</p>	<p>This theme suggests that owners who do not license their dogs are not responsible pet owners. It notes that a reason for not licensing the dog is perceived lack of consequences. This theme highlights that dog owners will not license if they do not feel there will be repercussions or benefits.</p> <p><i>“Above the rules and don't want to get caught when incident happens”</i></p> <p><i>“...Also the City wont do anything , the fines are so low they will take the risk... make the fines high and people wont take the chance at being caught!!!”</i></p> <p><i>“I am shocked by the choice. The people I have known who do not licence think that they are an exception to the rule, or that rules don't apply to them.”</i></p> <p><i>“irresponsibility. Dog licensing is a well established thing and helps ensure responsible ownership.”</i></p>
<p>There are few benefits to licensing dogs since tattoos and microchipping are often used</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the overall lack of value of licensing dogs, especially when alternative measures exist, including tattoos and microchipping. It suggests that there are limited benefits to licensing dogs and that more information on what licensing pays for, and how fees are used, is needed.</p> <p><i>“Same reason as cats, annual licenses fees are a cash grab that doesn't benefit the pet owner in any way after your animal is entered into the system.”</i></p> <p><i>“They do not see why it's necessary, seems like a money grab. For most, pets are family members, not an owned object.”</i></p>



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

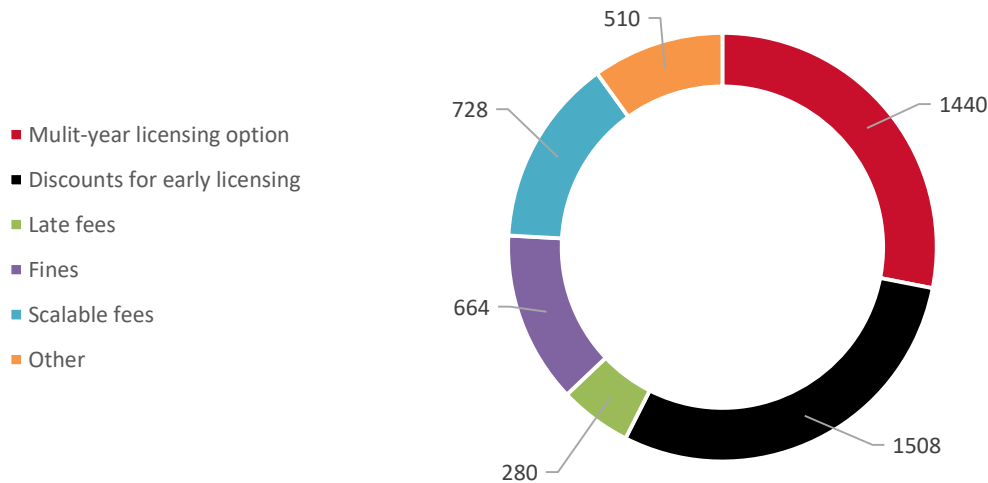
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*"I think all animals should be licensed. I also think the public needs to know where the funds are going and how they are being used. This may increase compliance. Why are intact dogs costing more than spayed and neutered dogs? Intact dogs don't bark or poop more!"*  
*"Lazy; don't want to. Plenty of the ones I have seen can afford it, but don't think it's something that they should have to do, nor do they want to pay for."*

What would encourage pet owners to license more consistently

Which do you believe would encourage pet owners to license their pet(s) more consistently?



Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
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# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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<p>Reduce fees and make better use of alternative identification methods</p>	<p>This theme focuses on reducing fees to encourage licensing. It addresses concerns over personal circumstances and suggests that making licensing free or low cost will increase owners' likelihood of licensing. It also speaks to lack of clarity around the value of licensing when tattoos and microchips are being used for reunification.</p> <p><i>"Some municipalities offer a no cost registration if their dog is a 'good citizen'. Meaning they pass behaviour tests that show excellent socialization skills and recall ability. In turn the city waives the registration fees or reduces them. Another idea is reduced fees for producing yearly proof of immunization"</i></p> <p><i>"Similar to the neuter/spay program ... fee should reflect to the fair entry guidelines"</i></p> <p><i>"No charge on fees - but a service charge upon discovery/return. Waivable in the event that the owner is impoverished."</i></p> <p><i>"When a pet has a microchip, and has been fixed, the license should be free."</i></p> <p><i>"Why isnt tattooing and micro chips enough!? Can't the micro ship information be sent to the city or registered with the city when the pet is adopted? Are 3 forms of identification really necessary for animals?"</i></p>
<p>Add incentives to encourage licensing</p>	<p>This theme focuses on adding benefits, including financial incentives, discounts with The City and partner organizations. It also suggests that special access to facilities and resources would be an added incentive to license a pet.</p> <p><i>"Discounts are nice too but access to highly desirable off leash areas. Or lie a register your dog and bring to a brewery event."</i></p> <p><i>"Discount on vet bills or pet supplies or a small tax write off. Or access to free or inexpensive training."</i></p> <p><i>"Give the responsible dog owner who never loses his pet something for the tax. Give it more value. Most vets put chips in the ears or similar. They have identification."</i></p> <p><i>"Discounts for licensing more than 1 pet for the same household."</i></p>

## Benefits that owners expect to get from licensing

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Enhance customer experience by</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the desire for improved reunification without added penalties for owners whose pets are licensed. It highlights that when lost pets are returned, there is a penalty charge and owners would like this fee to be waived when pets are licensed. It also speaks to a desire for quicker and more direct contact with licensed</p>





# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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<p>improving the reunification process and waiving fees when the pet is returned</p>	<p>owners when their pet is found. This theme addresses some concerns that current processes feel more like seeking to punish rather than reunite.</p> <p><i>“Reuniting without penalty if the licence is paid in good standing. Sometimes dogs just get out from a failure to properly close the gate, which can be the fault of someone like meter reader/beyond owner control.”</i></p> <p><i>“Calls if their pet is found and not big penalties if a pet accidentally gets loose...”</i></p> <p><i>“If I license my dog I expect a hassle free experience and don't believe I should be fined upon the return of my dog. Unless of course the dog has caused damage or something like that”</i></p> <p><i>“Quick return if by chance your pet is lost and picked up by bylaw”</i></p> <p><i>“If the licensed dog or cat is found and calls the city, it would be wonderful to be able to return the dog or cat to their owner rather than stress the animal further by impounding. Accidents happen. We could have a check box indicating our contact information could be shared to the finder.”</i></p>
<p>Increase discounts and incentives for those who license their pet</p>	<p>This theme focuses on a desire for increased discounts for licensing, and added incentives, including special access to pet spaces, subsidies with partner organizations, access to training, etc.</p> <p><i>“The previous 'discount' program was a nice touch. Access to city-owned dog parks is also another nice touch...”</i></p> <p><i>“...access to discounted programs for pet training or educational sessions; access to using offleash parks”</i></p> <p><i>“...City had a good discount program for a long time with local pet businesses for licensing your pet, and I'm not sure why this ended, it was a fantastic, successful program.”</i></p> <p><i>“discounts are pet stores/grooming places. Play days, free basic training lessons, on-line training manual, vet perks.”</i></p>
<p>Licensing should provide better access to services and resources, and improved amenities, including clearing paths, more</p>	<p>This theme focuses on what owners would like license fees to cover. It highlights that owners would like better access to services, resources and amenities. These include clearing the paths in winter, allowing indoor access during inclement weather, public education programs, microchipping, more garbage receptacles and poop bags in off-leash parks, off-leash park maintenance, etc. Additionally, this theme focuses on giving special access to off-leash parks to dog owners who license, thereby making off-leash parks a bonus for licensing dogs.</p> <p><i>“For dog owners who use off-leash areas, why doesn't the City provide poop bags at the parks? Other cities in Canada do this. Dog owners should have access to off-leash areas that are well-maintained (i.e. parking lots), with garbage bins and benches.”</i></p>



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garbage receptacles, etc.	<p><i>“Abundance of dog-waste bins, emptied before over-flowing. Safe apprehension and return of lost pets. Safe, off-leash areas, away from roads and bikepaths and well-lit”</i></p> <p><i>“Money collected from licensing should be spent on community education programs, maintenance and restoration of dog parks, and new technology tools like wildlife sighting apps. This should all be very transparent to the public.”</i></p> <p><i>“...Dog parks need fences, benches, Shade, path clearing and interesting features for the dogs to explore....”</i></p>
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What other pets should be licensed, why?

While not considered a theme, a unique perspective was around licensing/registering pets for use in emergency planning.

*“Perhaps all pets should at least be registered. This will help us better plan emergency evacuation requirements by understanding what types of animals may need to be evacuated.”*

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
License all household animals that could be outdoors or off private property	<p>This theme focuses on licensing any animal that may be outdoors or off private property. It highlights a need to license any pet in a household that poses a risk of escaping. Additionally, it addresses concerns with pets that could escape that have the potential to become invasive species and negatively impact native species.</p> <p><i>“All pets that go outside, or potentially go outside so if there is an issue, there is a record of an animal in a household.”</i></p> <p><i>“All pets that can be let outside a dwelling, not limited to but including birds of all types, and rabbits. Especially rabbits holy crap so many of those are set free without a tattoo or a chip and then they ruin the ecosystem.”</i></p> <p><i>“I believe any pet that is able to get out of the home should be licensed.”</i></p> <p><i>“any that could escape and people would want them back, or could be an invasive species if left to multiply”</i></p>
License exotic animals, service animals and emotional support animals	<p>This theme focuses on licensing exotic pets, service animals and emotional support animals. It suggests that licensing exotic animals provides more assurance for their care.</p> <p><i>“Exotics like snakes, reptiles, spiders. Anything that if it escapes, could potentially cause harm.”</i></p> <p><i>“Any service animal”</i></p> <p><i>“Any other animal, besides dog and cat, that is consider an emotional support animal.”</i></p> <p><i>“Any exotic animal or reptile that could be a danger if it got out”</i></p>



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	<p><i>"I believe licensing should be extended to exotic pet ownership as a means of improving the pets' living conditions , owners' education, and the realities around the illegal pet trade."</i></p>
<p>If urban agriculture is approved in the review, license livestock, bees and pigeons</p>	<p>This theme focuses on licensing urban agriculture, including livestock, bees and pigeons. It suggests that at minimum, a registry should be maintained with the number and type of urban agriculture.</p> <p><i>"Urban farm animals, bee hives. If pigeons, leg tags. Statistical info for policy and future plans. How many dogs, cats, bees, chickens can a city have? The number shouldn't determined by random."</i></p> <p><i>"If urban farms like chickens or goats come thru they should be. Also there should be a max on how many pets one home can own."</i></p> <p><i>"If urban livestock / bees / pigeons are allowed, they should also be licensed. How else do you know how many are in a neighbourhood &amp; if challenges (too many, communicable disease) crops up, how do you track / get in touch with people?"</i></p>
<p>License domestic rabbits to reduce feral rabbits in city</p>	<p>This theme focuses on concerns with domestic rabbits who are not licensed and released. It addresses concerns with feral rabbits in the city and notes that licensing may encourage more accountability for their care.</p> <p><i>"Rabbits - To discourage release of domesticated rabbits. They should be licensed at the point of sale in pet stores, that would eliminate a much larger issue later on."</i></p> <p><i>"Domestic rabbits should require a license. Like cats, people purchase without understanding the care they require then neglect and release them. They die from predation, starvation and vehicular death and breed causing nuisance populations that destroy property and require municipal intervention."</i></p> <p><i>"Rabbits. Calgary has an enormous problem with people dumping rabbits and creating feral communities, This may help dissuade irresponsible people from getting them."</i></p>



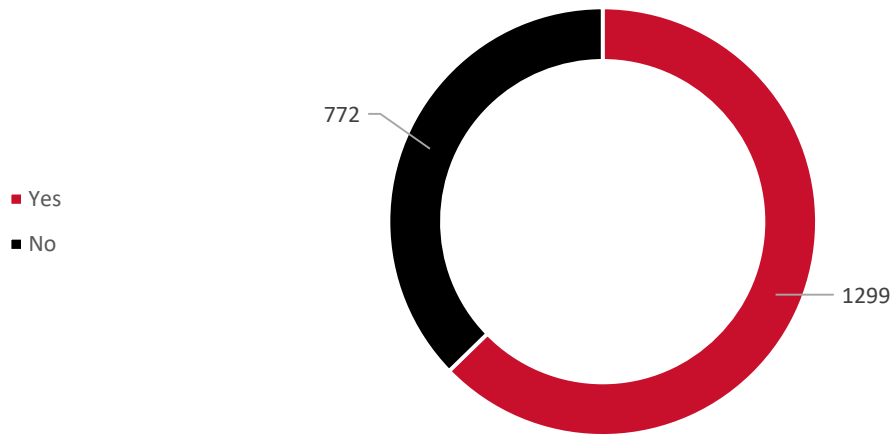
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Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?

Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?





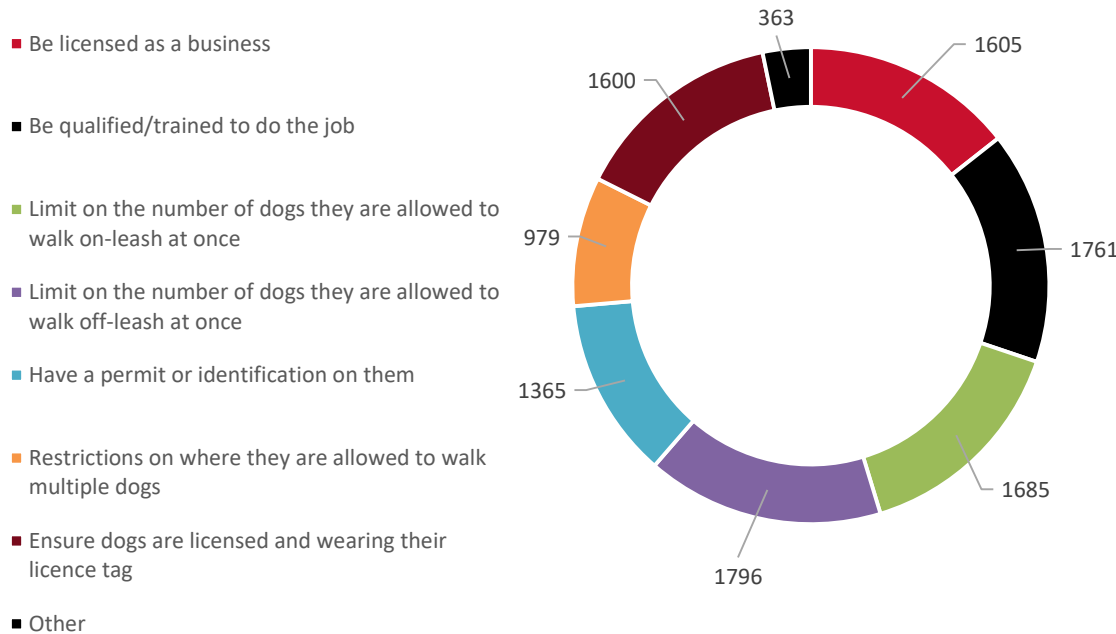
# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses?

What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses?



Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Be in control of dogs in their care and have proper resources to care	This theme focuses on dog walkers employed by a dog-walking business be in control of all dogs in care at all times. This includes paying attention to where dogs poop and picking up all feces. This theme also highlights that dog walkers employed by a dog-walking business have the proper resources for the animals in their care. This includes adequate and safe transportation, water, and poop bags.



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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<p>for dogs in their care</p>	<p><i>“Increased responsibility for care and control and interactions with other dogs especially with more than one dog.”</i></p> <p><i>“That they can control the dog(s) they are walking. Its not abut how many dogs, more on behaviour and control.”</i></p> <p><i>“Fined for not picking up poop. Some dog walkers release their packs on nosehill and are not able to watch multiple dogs and where they are pooping.”</i></p> <p><i>“They must pick up the poop of every dog they are responsible for at the off leash parks.</i></p> <p><i>“Have adequate waste bags &amp; not allowing dog to defacate on sidewalks”</i></p> <p><i>“Safely transport dogs to and from off leash locations”</i></p> <p><i>“Restrictions around how dogs/how many dogs are transported in vehicle. Have insurance to cover dog clients as well as dogs they may encounter.”</i></p>
<p>Dog-walking business should be insured</p>	<p>This theme focuses on an expectation that dog-walking business will have liability coverage for all their dog walkers if an incident occurred with any dogs while in their care. It also adds that their employees should be trained in animal first aid.</p> <p><i>“Be insured and first aid certified.”</i></p> <p><i>“Specific regulations about liability for dogs under their care, should those dogs attack a person or animal.”</i></p> <p><i>“Insurance to cover incidents involving animals in their care.”</i></p>



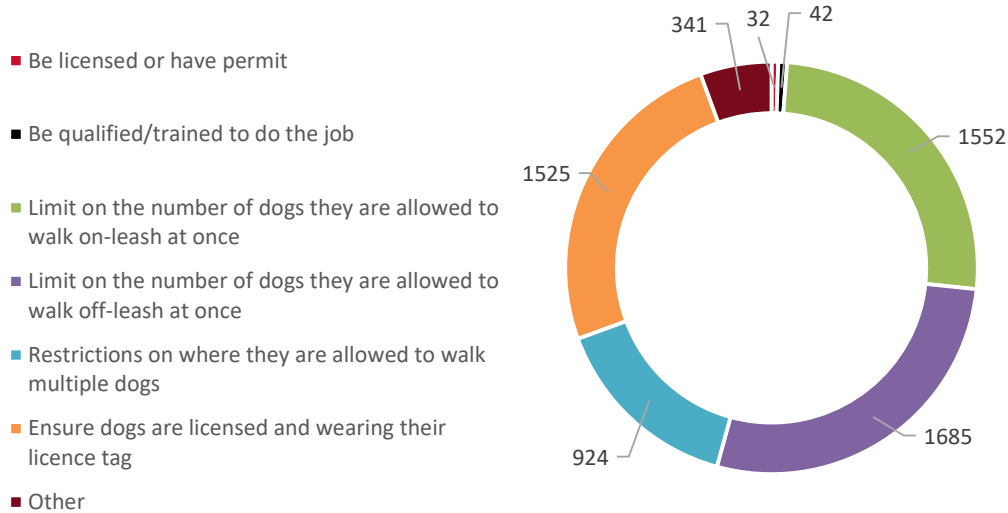
# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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What are your expectations for individual dog walkers?

What are your expectations for individual dog walkers?



Themes for 'other'	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Individual dog walkers should be in control of dog(s) in their care and picking up feces	<p>This theme focuses on individual dog walkers being in control of all dogs in their care and ensuring they are monitoring where the dog(s) poops picking up and properly disposing feces.</p> <p><i>"Have control of the animals at all times. This includes being able to call the animal and have it return to them when in an off leash situation."</i></p> <p><i>"Pick up after their dogs and have the dog under control"</i></p> <p><i>"Knowledge of training and able to control all dogs under their care"</i></p> <p><i>"Whether on or off leash, no person or business should walk more dogs than they can control."</i></p> <p><i>"Make sure they are able to pick up after dogs in their care and have control at all times."</i></p>



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	<i>"Pick up and properly dispose of poop"</i>
Dog walkers should be educated in dog behaviour	<p>This theme focuses on suggested training or education for dog walkers. It notes that dog walkers should have a good understanding of dog behaviour if they needed to diffuse a situation involving the dog(s) they are walking.</p> <p><i>"Have understanding of dog behaviors with ability to take control of a situation if it were to get out of hand (bolting, fights, ignoring commands etc.)"</i></p> <p><i>"Individual dog walkers should also have some type of training in canine behaviour. Situations can arise when walking groups of dogs, or even single dogs and the walker should have the training to properly de-escalate these situations."</i></p>

## Rules for retail sale of animals

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
Put practices in place to ensure that pets being adopted or sold are in good health	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring that animals are in good health, including up to date vaccines, care of the pet prior to going to its forever home, and spaying/neutering. There were differing opinions on when cats and dogs should be spayed/neutered. Some responses suggest that this should be when the pet is adopted or sold which reduces the possibilities of unwanted litters and overpopulation. Others suggest that holding off on these procedures until the pet is more mature is better for the pet's overall health, including bone development and hormone balance. This theme highlights the importance of working more closely with veterinarians suggesting that pets being put up for adoption or sold are under the direct care of a vet.</p> <p><i>"Pet health, incl. vaccines, spay/ neuter (eg. also views that spay/neuter before 12 months is cruel)"</i></p> <p><i>"Definitely do NOT require the animal to be spayed or neutered as this early neutering is now known to be detrimental to the health of animal. You could require sterilization techniques that leave hormones intact such as vasectomy or hysterectomy of puppies. No sale of dogs in pet stores. Cats sold need to have a City licence before being purchased. Any place, including cat/Dpg breeders and non profits in the City, should require the purchase of a City licence as part of the adoption agreement unless the owner's address is outside of Calgary."</i></p> <p><i>"Strict rules and penalties on puppy/kitten-mills, ban tail/ear cropping and other breed manipulations"</i></p> <p><i>"...I do not want to see spay/neuter restrictions put on as these animals are often young and I do not support too early of spaying or neutering for the good of the animal; I would rather see spay/neuter contracts that are actually followed up on (as they often aren't)...."</i></p>





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	<p><i>“...No in tact pets to be sold, they're not money making machines, they're family members.”</i></p> <p><i>“All must have a current veterinary exam. All must be microchipped. All should be sold a city license at time of purchase.”</i></p> <p><i>“...Animals sold or waiting to be sold should have regular veterinary care on a schedule dictated by species care best practices (ie. minimum annually for most species). Animals for sale should be in good condition, without obvious medical issues. Animals for sale with medical concerns/conditions should be addressed immediately and an ongoing treatment plan adopted....”</i></p>
<p>Ensure adequate procedures are in place for businesses involved in facilitating pet sales and/or adoptions</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring adequate procedures are in place for any business involved in facilitating sales or adoptions of pets. Some suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a record of how the pet was obtained and the contact information of where animal came from, including rescue organizations and breeder.</li> <li>• Provide proof that the organization from which the pet originally came from is licensed and provides humane care of the pets.</li> <li>• A process for surrendering pet(s) should be incorporated into all sales/adoptions.</li> <li>• Establish a waiting time between the decision to adopt/buy and when can the new owner can take pet home.</li> <li>• Establish a process to screen new potential owners to ensure they are prepared to, and in a position to, care for the pet and meet all their needs.</li> <li>• Build a process into the sale/adoption of pets that trains new owners on how to care for their specific pet/breed.</li> <li>• If a business is going to sell/adopt puppies or kittens (or other animals that need constant care), ensure the pets have access to care 24 hours a day.</li> <li>• Pets should be registered or licensed when born and when sold/adopted, the license should be transferred to the new owner.</li> </ul> <p><i>“I think these business should be monitored of where they source animals from as well as how they care for animals while in their care....”</i></p> <p><i>“...They should not be allowed to sell to minors, or during specific seasons of the year (Christmas) without some plan in place for returned animals.”</i></p> <p><i>“They must follow strict care regulations, uphold high standards of animal welfare, ensure that all needs of each animal in care is met, including mental stimulation. Animals should be habituated to the public to ensure they are used to being handled and cared for by humans, and they should be kept in enclosures that provide enough</i></p>



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	<p><i>space for the species and breed to thrive. Terrestrial animals and birds should be provided with sunlight daily, and should always have access to sufficient food and water, as well as medical care if needed. When selling animals, businesses should interview potential adopters to determine whether the animal will have a good home and the person is aware of and capable of performing the responsibilities and duties of owning a pet of the species they are interested in. Similarly, animals should not be permitted to be sold as gifts for another person, as that contributes to the population of animals that have been surrendered to animal services and the humane society, so there should be regulations in place preventing that. Businesses should ensure that they are attaining their animals from a reputable source, and they should not contribute to the illegal pet trade, or exotic pet trade. An information pamphlet on care of your new pet should be provided to each member of the public, and they should be aware of all approximate costs of owning said pet prior to adopting. Lastly, businesses should not be permitted to attempt to cut costs on quality of care to maximize quantity of animals in care (ie. Puppy mills)."</i></p> <p><i>"...evidence of ability to care...not sure how this would be done but maybe a screening process"</i></p> <p><i>"Must register to sell and transfer licensing at time of sale."</i></p> <p><i>"If a retail store or broker is selling animals they must have to specify publicly where they are sourcing their animals from so that buyers can educate themselves on the breeder to prevent unwanted back yard breeding and puppy mills. Transparency is key."</i></p>
<p>Monitor breeding and rescue practices to ensure business accountability</p>	<p>This theme focuses on the roles and expectations of breeders and rescue organizations. While some input suggests a preference for one or the other, the overall focus of this theme suggests there are shared expectations of each and that both have a role in long-term pet placement. It suggests that anyone involved in the sale or adoption of pets should be licensed and/or registered and be subject to inspections/wellness visits to ensure that pets are being adequately cared for. This theme also suggests that breeders and rescue organizations provide contact information and pet records if selling/adopting through a third party, including a retail store, so prospective pet owners can connect with them directly if they desire.</p> <p><i>"Retail sale of animals should not be allowed, as it dramatically contributes to the existence of puppy mills. Joint programs with local rescues to adopt animals should be expanded. Selling pets of any kind should require a license that guarantees ethical breeding practices."</i></p> <p><i>"Registered breeder. Dogs and cats for sale must be spayed or neutered unless sale to another breeder. Pet stores should not sell dogs or cats, only adoption. No sale of pets on social media (they monitor this I believe)"</i></p> <p><i>"Pet stores should work with rescues when possible. They should not be able to sell cats and dogs. Stores should require a special license to have any other live animals and be inspected at least annually to retain the license."</i></p>



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	<p><i>“Only rescues. No more breeding animals when so many are put down...”</i></p> <p><i>“I don't think animals should be sold in Pet Stores. Only through a licensed breeder. No puppy mills ever@”</i></p> <p><i>“Cats and dogs should never be retail sold. Breeders or rescues only. All other animals being sold should be regularly seen by outside vets and the premises inspected regularly by the city.”</i></p>
<p>Retailers, breeders and rescue organizations should be monitored and inspected regularly</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring that retailers, breeders and rescue organizations are monitored and inspected regularly to ensure humane care of pets being sold or placed for adoption. It highlights a desire to monitor the frequency of breeding a dog or cat within a specific timeframe; ensuring enclosures are adequate and offer enough space; making sure basic needs are being met, including socialization; monitoring and restricting intent for pets if being sold or adopted (e.g. being sold intact if for breeding purposes), etc.</p> <p><i>“They should follow the same general guidelines as for Responsible Pet Ownership, including caring for the animals appropriately, social interactions, maintaining boundaries, and providing enrichment activities (new environments, toys, etc.) Animals sold or waiting to be sold should have all adequate living conditions as required by the species....Animal retail businesses should be inspected by the City at least twice annually.”</i></p> <p><i>“That the care and health of the animal are first and foremost. The business and management require licensing via education for each type of animal that is sold, and have to prove at any given time there is adequate space provided for the health and safety of every animal present.”</i></p> <p><i>“businesses selling and caring for animals need to be inspected regularly, to provide safe and adequate support. the city should set detailed regulations. when, where, and the type of animals..”</i></p> <p><i>“Adherence to health and safety requirements for rearing, housing, selling, etc., of animals. Record of periodic inspections. Follow good business practices. Accreditation if possible with an organization with oversight...”</i></p> <p><i>“Traceable animals so that they are not using puppy mills. Regular humane checks. Once sold, information should be passed onto Animal Control for license follow up.”</i></p> <p><i>“...The biggest thing for me is ensuring that animals are not being sourced from places such as puppy mills.”</i></p> <p><i>“Ethically raised, verified breeders, or rescues- in an effort to curb puppy mills or backyard breeders”</i></p>
<p>Place restrictions on the type of animals that can be sold in retail establishments</p>	<p>This theme focuses on a desire to see restrictions placed on the type of animal that can be sold in retail establishments. It highlights that dogs and cats should be sold/adopted through registered breeders and rescue organizations. Other considerations include not selling exotic pets and ensuring that the care for other pets in a retail establishment meet strict guidelines for their care and humane treatment.</p> <p><i>“no exotic pets should be sold. pet store should be more strictly controlled”</i></p>



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*“\*It should be illegal for pet stores to sell UNALTERED rabbits. Pet stores should be only allowed to sell altered rabbits so this population is not a problem. better yet they shouldn't be allowed to sell rabbits they should only be able to adopt out altered rabbits. \*Pet stores should be BANNED from SELLING (rescued altered cats/dogs okay) cats and dogs (they are puppy/cat mill animals not responsible breeders) Most pet stores have stopped selling dogs and cats on their own there is a only a select few who do and they are supporting horrible puppy mills to get the puppies [removed]”*

*“Exotic animals biz needs to be reduced. Too many are mistreated when entered in the pet trade from foreign locations. How many, like gold fish are released into rivers and become a huge problem?”*

*“They should not sell cat dogs rabbits and Guinea pigs unless They are spayed or neutered and from reputable breeders”*

*“Businesses that sell animals (birds, reptiles, bunnies and hamsters, etc.) should be required to not only meet, but to exceed the expectations of animal welfare. They should be exemplars in pet care and pet ownership. They should be required to work with only accredited rescues and reputable breeders. Absolutely NO business should be selling puppies and kittens that are bred to be sold at a retail business. Puppies and kittens should only be available for purchase from reputable breeders and accredited rescue organizations.”*

## Criteria for accepting imported animals in Calgary

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
<p>Ensure imported animals are in good health to protect people and pets</p>	<p>This theme focuses on expectations for ensuring overall good health of imported animals. It highlights that vaccines should be up to date and confirmed within a short time of importing them. It recommends behaviour assessments by qualified professionals. Additionally, this theme suggests a period of quarantine for imported animals to ensure that local animals and people are kept safe. This theme also notes the importance of background checks to ensure that imported animals were obtained legally and humanely.</p> <p><i>“All required vaccinations. Mandatory quarantined period. And with thoughts around rescue groups which focus on high risk animals such as those from dog fighting rings a mandatory behavioural review from a trained expert.”</i></p> <p><i>“Veterinary health certificate within 10 days of importation with appropriate vaccination records. A letter stating the reason for importation of these animals for sale which needs to be pre-approved prior to shipping.”</i></p>



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	<p><i>“Immunizations should be up to date, animal should be neutered or spayed and in good health to ensure they are not transmitting any illness or disease. They should be checked to verify they are not aggressive or dangerous in any way. They should require licensing.”</i></p> <p><i>“Medical and behavioral assessment by a qualified person(s)”</i></p> <p><i>“Health check. Background information from where the animal came from. License/certified.”</i></p> <p><i>“Proof that it was humanely aquired. Vet checks and vaccinations”</i></p> <p><i>“This would be difficult to enforce since they can go to another community then CALGARY. Impossible to trace. Work needs to be done with border patrol to put in controls (aggression assessment, health checks and traceable background)”</i></p>
<p>Ensuring housing arrangements are secured prior to an imported animal’s arrival</p>	<p>This theme focuses on ensuring there are arrangements in place to house/shelter imported animals prior to their arrival. Suggestions for this theme include accepting imported animals that are coming with, or going directly to, an owner or accepting those for whom a plan for adoption is already in place. It also highlights concerns for animal wellbeing and suggests working with rescue organizations to ensure housing for imported animals has been secured before their arrival.</p> <p><i>“Existence of a health certificate, plan for care that is possible and appropriate qualification for the owner.”</i></p> <p><i>“Fully vaccinated healthy animals must be licensed by non profit until adopted ( to keep track of). access to where animals are held ie conditions of home/shelter.”</i></p> <p><i>“Vaccinations should be up to date, and a home/foster should already have been arranged.”</i></p> <p><i>“Animals deemed as "rescue" should be non-profit only. They should be screened more to protect the local pop. fr foreign disease...”</i></p>
<p>Obtain information on type of animal and purpose for being imported in advance</p>	<p>This theme focuses on obtaining information regarding the type of animal being imported and the purpose for being imported in advance of its arrival. It addresses concerns with animal wellbeing as well as risks to native species if the animal escaped once in Calgary.</p> <p><i>“Ensure they are not being used for entertainment purposes and that they will be treated well by those importing them. Do not allow exotic animals, or animals that would not normally experience Alberta's climate to be imported.”</i></p> <p><i>“Commercial imports also include animals for exhibition/breeding purposes. These should be allowed easier access to encourage quality breeding and outsourcing.”</i></p> <p><i>“No animals taken from the wild - - ever. ---only domesticated pets like cats or dogs - - maybe a pet rabbit.’</i></p> <p><i>“Shots are up to date and the animals are not considered dangerous”</i></p>



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	<i>“Consideration of the impact to local animals and environment. Is this a suitable climate for the animal”</i>
Adopt local rather than import pets	<p>This theme addresses concerns from those who would rather that Calgary not allow imported animals. It focuses on taking care of the animals currently residing in Calgary rather than importing from elsewhere. This theme also highlights concerns over existing pet overpopulation. It suggests that with an abundance of animals in shelters, pet adoption should be local rather than importing more pets.</p> <p><i>“I am actually horrified by the amount of animals that are imported illegally and without proper care. We have a crisis in this province and there is no shortage of animals for adoption locally or even within our own country. There should not be ANY reason to import dogs for adoption.”</i></p> <p><i>“Why are we importing animals when we have plenty to rescue locally.”</i></p> <p><i>“If we already have them in shelters they shouldn’t be allowed. We need to take care of our own first.”</i></p> <p><i>“I don’t think cats dogs are rabbits should be imported into Calgary. Alberta has a huge animal overpopulation problem and this only makes it worse.”</i></p>

## City of Calgary role regarding imported animals

Theme	Detailed theme and supporting verbatim comments
The City should track volume and type of imported animals	<p>This theme focuses on The City’s potential role to track and limit imported animals. It suggests that The City should ensure that imported animals are tracked through licensing and/or registration. Additionally, this theme suggests that The City should be involved in placing restrictions on the number of imported animals as well as type.</p> <p><i>“Maintain database of imported animals and their owners. Licensing.”</i></p> <p><i>“Limit volume”</i></p> <p><i>“License them, require health testing.”</i></p> <p><i>“Involved in the inspection and monitoring of who owns the animals and where they are.”</i></p> <p><i>“Free short term license for rescues that lasts until the animal is adopted. A program to ensure it is being done”</i></p> <p><i>“...I feel the city should be able to restrict the types of imported animals and/or require all animals that come into the province to be registered and in accordance with our spay, neuter and vaccine requirements.”</i></p>





# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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<p>The City should protect people and non-imported pets from health issues of imported animals</p>	<p>This theme focuses on The City’s role in ensuring the health and safety of people and non-imported pets. It addresses concerns of imported animals arriving with illnesses that could harm people and pets. This theme suggests that The City has a role in obtaining health records and ensuring that imported animals are quarantined in some capacity.</p> <p><i>“Verifying certification of shots and quarantine.”</i></p> <p><i>“Verification of their health and vaccination record...”</i></p> <p><i>“Require health records and quarantine of animals coming from high disease areas. It is better for the animals and for our public safety to have stricter rules about these imports.”</i></p> <p><i>“I know rescue groups have good intentions for these animals. As Calgarians we need to know that our animals domestic or wild are safe. If the city is going to accept imports there should be paper work proving where the animal comes from and that it is of no danger to us.”</i></p>
<p>The City should limit its involvement to licensing</p>	<p>This theme focuses on limiting municipal involvement to ensuring organizations who import are licensed and animals are licensed once in the city.</p> <p><i>“The only things that the City of Calgary should do regarding imported animals is ensure that the businesses importing them are licensed, and that the animal is licensed as required.”</i></p> <p><i>“Strict licensing and regulation of businesses and/or individuals involved in importing animals from another country to be sold and/or adopted out in Canada. Those looking to make a quick buck adopting out sick or dangerous imported animals for hundreds of dollars would hopefully stop.”</i></p> <p><i>“The City can stop the operation of a business by not granting zoning permission to run a "rescue" operation within its limits. It cannot regulate the acquisition of personal property. Dogs are, by common law, personal property; not within the City's legal jurisdiction.”</i></p> <p><i>“None, unless the animal is to remain within the city. Then follow proper licensing requirements as with other dogs and cats....”</i></p>

Verbatim comments will be included in a separate report and will be posted to [www.calgary.ca/petbylaw](http://www.calgary.ca/petbylaw) when available.



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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## Appendix A

### Engagement Background

At the City of Calgary engagement means, purposeful dialogue between The City and stakeholders to gather information to influence decision making. Engagement is:

- **Citizen-centric** focusing on hearing the needs and voices of both directly impacted and indirectly impacted citizens;
- **Accountable** upholding the commitments that The City makes to its citizens and stakeholders by demonstrating that the results and outcomes of the engagement processes are consistent with the approved plans for engagement;
- **Inclusive** making best efforts to reach, involve and hear from those who are impacted directly or indirectly;
- **Committed** allocating sufficient time and resources for effective engagement of citizens and stakeholders;
- **Responsive** acknowledging citizen and stakeholder concerns;
- **Transparent** providing clear and complete information around decision processes, procedures and constraints.

The City's commitment to transparent and inclusive engagement processes is outlined in the *engage!* Policy (CS009).





# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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## Appendix B

### Public engagement questions

1. What does responsible pet ownership mean to you?

### Wildlife

1. Based on your experiences, what do you think would improve Calgarians' ability to co-exist with these wildlife?

### Feral, stray and roaming cats

1. What concerns do you have regarding cats roaming free?
2. What concerns do you have regarding feral cats?
3. What expectations do you have of The City of Calgary when dealing with feral, stray and roaming cats?

### Urban Agriculture

1. What do you need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is Urban Beekeeping?
2. What do you need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is Urban Livestock?
3. What do you need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is Urban Pigeons?

### Vicious Dogs

When on private property, a vicious animal:

- Must either be confined indoors under the control of a person over age 18, or
- Be locked in a secure structure outdoors, or
- Muzzled and on a leash, under the control of a person over age 18.

When on public property, a vicious animal:

- Must be muzzled and harnessed/leashed, and
- Be under the control of the person over age 18



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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1. What other, if any, expectations do you have of owners of vicious animals?
2. What other, if any, expectations do you have of The City of Calgary in dealing with vicious animals?

## Licensing

1. For those that choose not to license their cats, what do you think is a primary reason for this choice?
2. For those that choose not to license their dogs, what do you think is a primary reason for this choice?
3. One of the biggest challenges when pet owners do not license their pets is that it hinders re-unification between the owner and their pet if the pet is lost. Which do you believe would encourage pet owners to license their pet(s) more consistently? Select all that apply.
  - Multi-year licensing option
  - Discounts for early licensing
  - Late fees
  - Fines
  - Scalable fees
  - Other (please specify)
4. What benefit(s) do you believe pet owners should expect to get from licensing their pet(s)?
5. Currently, the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw states that dogs and cats must be licensed. When you think about other pets, which, if any, do you believe should be licensed, and why?
6. Dog-walking is a service that may be conducted by an individual or someone employed with a dog-walking business. Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?
7. What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses? Check all that apply.
  - Be licensed as a business
  - Be qualified/trained to do the job
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
  - Have a permit or identification on them
  - Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
  - Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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- Other (please specify)
8. What are your expectations for individual dog walkers? Check all that apply.
    - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
    - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
    - Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
    - Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
    - Other (please specify)
  9. What rule(s) do you believe are important for a business to follow for the retail sale of animals?
  10. What criteria do you believe should be used when accepting imported animals in Calgary?
  11. What do you believe The City of Calgary's role should be regarding imported animals?
  12. If a framework were to be developed that governs how rescue organizations operate in The City of Calgary, what key elements do you believe the framework should oversee?

## Administration

1. What do you believe pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership? Check all that apply.
  - Information on how to license their pet
  - Distinction between provincial and municipal rules
  - Information about rules that need to be followed
  - Education about the bylaw
  - Information about what is considered proper dog behaviour
  - Other (please specify)
2. What do you believe non-pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership? Check all that apply.
  - Safety rules
  - Distinction between provincial and municipal rules
  - Information about rules that need to be followed
  - Rules around behaviours in public space



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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- Information about what is considered proper dog behaviour
  - Other (please specify)
3. What do you consider reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks? Check all that apply.

For dog-owners?

- Pickup up dog waste
- Dog(s) must come when called
- When dog(s) should be on and off leash
- Monitor to ensure your dog(s) interacts with other dogs appropriately
- Monitor to ensure your dog(s) interacts with other park patrons appropriately
- Monitor to ensure your dog(s) do not harass wildlife
- Other (please specify)

For other people without dogs?

- Do not approach a dog without owner consent
  - Be aware of your surroundings (due to off-leash park designation)
  - Other (please specify)
4. What expectations do you have of dog behaviour in other common/public spaces that is not an off-leash park (e.g. pathways, etc.)?
5. What do you consider to be a reasonable number of dogs per household? Select one.
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5+

Please explain your choice

6. What do you consider to be a reasonable number of cats per household? Select one.
- 1
  - 2



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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- 3
- 4
- 5+

Please explain your choice:

7. Under what circumstances should there be an exception to a limit on the number of cats and/or dogs in a household?

## City staff engagement questions

1. What does responsible pet ownership mean to you?
2. What else, if anything would you like to see changed, added or removed from the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw? Please explain your answer.

## Wildlife

1. Based on your experiences, what do you think would improve Calgarians' ability to co-exist with these wildlife?

## Feral, stray and roaming cats

1. What concerns do you have regarding cats roaming free?
2. What is your recommended way to deal with cats roaming free?
3. What concerns do you have regarding feral cats?
4. What expectations do you have of The City of Calgary when dealing with feral, stray and roaming cats?

## Urban Agriculture

1. What do you think Calgarians need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is Urban Beekeeping?
2. What do you think Calgarians need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is Urban Livestock?
3. What do you think Calgarians need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is Urban Pigeons?

## Vicious Dogs



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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When on private property, a vicious animal:

- Must either be confined indoors under the control of a person over age 18, or
- Be locked in a secure structure outdoors, or
- Muzzled and on a leash, under the control of a person over age 18.

When on public property, a vicious animal:

- Must be muzzled and harnessed/leashed, and
  - Be under the control of the person over age 18
1. Do you believe the rules above are sufficient?
  2. If no, what other rules should be added?

The process to declare a vicious animal is:

- The Owner is provided a Notice of Hearing by the Provincial Court
  - The owner must surrender the animal to Calgary Community Standards pending the outcome of the Hearing and any Appeals
  - The Justice will make an order declaring the animal as vicious or order the animal destroyed
  - If declared vicious, the owner must comply with multiple regulations (Section 31 of The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw)
3. What, if anything, do you think is needed to simplify/improve this process?

## Licensing

1. For those that choose not to license their cats, what do you think is a primary reason for this choice?
2. For those that choose not to license their dogs, what do you think is a primary reason for this choice?



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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3. One of the biggest challenges when pet owners do not license their pets is that it hinders re-unification between the owner and their pet if the pet is lost. Which do you believe would encourage pet owners to license their pet(s) more consistently? Select all that apply.
  - Multi-year licensing option
  - Discounts for early licensing
  - Late fees
  - Fines
  - Scalable fees
  - Other (please specify)
4. Currently, the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw states that dogs and cats must be licensed. When you think about other pets, which, if any, do you believe should be licensed, and why?
5. Dog-walking is a service that may be conducted by an individual or someone employed with a dog-walking business. Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?
6. What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses? Check all that apply.
  - Be licensed as a business
  - Be qualified/trained to do the job
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
  - Have a permit or identification on them
  - Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
  - Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
  - Other (please specify)
7. What are your expectations for individual dog walkers? Check all that apply.
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
  - Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
  - Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
  - Other (please specify)



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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8. What do you believe The City of Calgary's role should be regarding imported animals?
9. Who do you consider to be the owner of an imported animal?
  - Foster home
  - Rescue organization
  - Person transporting the animal
  - Other (please specify)
10. What benefit(s) do you believe pet owners should expect to get from licensing their pet(s)?
11. What rule(s) do you believe are important for a business to follow for the retail sale of animals?
12. What criteria do you believe should be used when accepting imported animals in Calgary?
13. If a framework were to be developed that governs how rescue organizations operate in The City of Calgary, what key elements do you believe the framework should oversee?

## Administration

1. What do you believe pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership? Check all that apply.
  - Information on how to license their pet
  - Distinction between provincial and municipal rules
  - Information about rules that need to be followed
  - Education about the bylaw
  - Information about what is considered proper dog behaviour
  - Other (please specify)
2. What do you believe non-pet owners need from The City of Calgary regarding responsible pet ownership? Check all that apply.
  - Safety rules
  - Distinction between provincial and municipal rules
  - Information about rules that need to be followed
  - Rules around behaviours in public space
  - Information about what is considered proper dog behaviour





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- Other (please specify)

3. What do you consider reasonable expectations in or near off-leash parks? Check all that apply.

For dog-owners?

- Pickup up dog waste
- Dog(s) must come when called
- When dog(s) should be on and off leash
- Monitor to ensure your dog(s) interacts with other dogs appropriately
- Monitor to ensure your dog(s) interacts with other park patrons appropriately
- Monitor to ensure your dog(s) do not harass wildlife
- Other (please specify)

For other people without dogs?

- Do not approach a dog without owner consent
- Be aware of your surroundings (due to off-leash park designation)
- Other (please specify)

4. What expectations do you have of dog behaviour in other common/public spaces that is not an off-leash park (e.g. pathways, etc.)?

5. What do you consider to be a reasonable number of dogs per household? Select one.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

Please explain your choice

6. What do you consider to be a reasonable number of cats per household? Select one.

- 1
- 2
- 3



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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- 4
- 5+

Please explain your choice:

7. Under what circumstances should there be an exception to a limit on the number of cats and/or dogs in a household?

## Targeted stakeholders engagement questions

1. Please tell us which sector of the pet industry you are primarily affiliated with? Select one.
  - Veterinary clinic
  - Sell products for animals
  - Pet Daycare/Kennel
  - Pet Sitter
  - Dog Walker
  - Breeder
  - Animal Rescue Organization
  - Other (please specify)
2. What is the name of the organization you are primarily affiliated with?

### Wildlife

1. Based on your experiences, what do you think would improve Calgarians' ability to co-exist with these wildlife?

### Feral, Stray and Roaming cats

1. What concerns do you have regarding feral, stray and/or roaming cats?
2. What do you believe is a recommended way to deal with feral (F), stray (S) and/or roaming (R) cats?



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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## Urban Agriculture

1. In addition to urban beekeeping and pigeons, we also heard during the public engagement that people are interested in exploring urban chickens, pigs (small), geese, goats, ducks, sheep, rabbits, pheasants, horses (small) and donkeys. What supports and/or resources do you believe would be necessary to promote a sense of security for people in areas where there is urban agriculture?

## Vicious Dogs

When on private property, a vicious animal:

- Must either be confined indoors under the control of a person over age 18, or
- Be locked in a secure structure outdoors, or
- Muzzled and on a leash, under the control of a person over age 18.

When on public property, a vicious animal:

- Must be muzzled and harnessed/leashed, and
- Be under the control of the person over age 18

1. In addition to the current regulations, what else, if anything, do you believe is an appropriate course of action for dogs seized for vicious behaviour?
2. What supports and/or resources do you believe are needed to reduce instances of dog attacks?

## Licensing

1. a. Some individuals and organizations import animals to Calgary. Whom do you consider to be the owner of an imported animal? In other words, whom would you consider liable during transport?
1. b. What other suggestion(s), if any, do you have of whom you would consider the owner of an imported animal?
2. What additional criteria, if any, do you believe should be used when accepting imported animals to Calgary?
3. If a pet rescue framework were developed, how would you envision The City of Calgary's role?
4. What do you believe would encourage more pet owners to license their cat(s)?
5. What do you believe would encourage more pet owners to license their dog(s)?



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6. Dog-walking is a service that may be conducted by an individual or someone employed with a dog-walking business. Should the expectations/criteria for individual dog-walkers and dog-walking businesses be the same?
7. What are your expectations for dog-walking businesses? Check all that apply.
  - Be licensed as a business
  - Be qualified/trained to do the job
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
  - Have a permit or identification on them
  - Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
  - Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
8. Do you have another suggestion (not listed above) of an expectation for a dog-walking business?
9. What are your expectations for individual dog walkers? Check all that apply.
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk on-leash at once
  - Limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk off-leash at once
  - Restrictions on where they are allowed to walk multiple dogs
  - Ensure dogs are licensed and wearing their licence tag
10. Do you have another suggestion (not listed above) of an expectation for individual dog walkers?

## Administration

1. What suggestion(s) do you have to find better balance between the wants of pet owners and non-pet owners in public spaces and private property?
2. If guidelines were established, what criteria would you recommend be used to determine the appropriate number of dogs in a household?
3. If guidelines were established, what criteria would you recommend be used to determine the appropriate number of cats in a household?
4. Under what circumstances should there be, or not be, restrictions on the number of pets in a household?



# Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

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## Appendix C – Current Vicious Dog rules

The owner must follow specific rules to protect people from their pet.

When on *private property*, a vicious animal:

- Must either be confined indoors under the control of a person over age 18, or
- Be locked in a secure structure outdoors, or
- Muzzled and on a leash, under the control of a person over age 18.

When on *public property*, a vicious animal:

- Must be *muzzled* and *harnessed/leashed*, and
- Be under the control of the person over age 18