

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

Did you know the Town of Ponoka has a new Animal Control Bylaw that regulates both cats and dogs? Today we are bringing you Part 5 in a series of 'What's New' articles that explore the new Bylaw. This week, we'll look at new cat trapping regulations.

In response to a consultation process that invited public feedback on the new Animal Control Bylaw in late 2019 and 2020, the Town added new cat trapping regulations that must be followed under the Bylaw.

Renting a Cat Trap

If a stray cat comes onto your property, you can report a complaint to the Town's Animal Control Contractor and request a cat trap from the Contractor. You must sign an agreement stating that you will treat the cat humanely if it is caught. You must also pay a deposit, which you will get back when the cat trap is returned in good condition. The Contractor may visit your property to ensure the cat trap has been properly set and to confirm if a cat has been caught.

New Cat Trapping Regulations

Under the new Bylaw, cat traps can only be set from April 1 to September 30 and must be:

- Set when the temperature is above 0 degrees Celsius and below 25 degrees Celsius for a 72-hour period;
- Checked every three hours;



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- Set on weekdays to ensure the Contractor can come;
- Set in a shaded area, away from the sun;
- Closed and inoperable from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily; and
- Set on a property where the person is living and present to regularly check the trap.

Capturing animals using a poisonous substance, leg-hold trap, killing trap or a snare is prohibited under the Bylaw. Any person who abuses, teases or pokes an animal in a cat trap or is causing pain, suffering or injury to the caught animal may be charged with an offence under Section 446 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

The Town of Ponoka is only responsible for traps owned by the Town Contractor and will not assume custody of any cat caught in a trap that was not provided by the Town Contractor. The Contractor will try to contact the pet's owners if the cat is found with an identifying tattoo, tag or microchip.

Questions?

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

Cat Licences & Grandfathering Licences Available for Purchase

You can now purchase cat licences and Grandfathering Licences under the Town of Ponoka's new Animal Control Bylaw. Under the new Bylaw, annual licensing is required for all dogs and cats aged six months and older.



To purchase a cat licence or Grandfathering Licence, please contact the Town at pets@ponoka.ca or 403-783-4431 to request a copy of the animal licensing form.

You can then send the completed form along with documented proof of spay or neuter, such as an official letter from a veterinarian or a receipt from the procedure, with payment by mail to the Town Office (#200, 5604-50 Street, Ponoka, AB, T4J 1G5), by email at pets@ponoka.ca or by placing the completed form and payment in the drop box in the west vestibule at the Town Office between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Grandfathering Licences

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

June 30 Deadline

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

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

The Town's new Animal Control Bylaw takes effect immediately, but cat licensing and the five-animal-per-residence limit will not be enforced until **July 1, 2021** in order to give citizens time to become familiar with the new Bylaw and to purchase cat licences and Grandfathering Licences.

~ TOWN NEWS ~

- **Grey Carts and Green Carts** should be placed at the curb for pick up on April 7, 8 and 9 – depending on your Zone.
- **Recyclable Materials** bundled in clear or blue transparent plastic bags should be placed at the curb for pick up April 14, 15 and 16 – depending on what Zone you live in.
- **Missed Pickups** – If your curbside waste, recycling or compost is not picked up on your designated collection day, please file an Online Service Request at www.ponoka.ca to report the missed pick up, or call the Town at 403-783-0159 for assistance filling out the form.

~ UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ~

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



Hometown Weekly
Town of Ponoka News & Events

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