



Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Passed by Wetaskiwin City Council

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw (2000-21) received its third and final reading during the September 27, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and is now in effect.

The [Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw](#) moves from one-time licensing to a yearly licensing fee for pet ownership within City limits. This structure allows for regular updating of owner contact information, providing officers with a higher chance of reuniting animals found at-large with their owners. Additionally, the revenue collected from annual licensing will aid in offsetting departmental expenses related to animal control.

Those who purchased a lifetime license for their pet prior to 4:30 p.m. on September 27 are grandfathered into the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw—meaning they will not need to purchase annual licenses for existing pets; only new ones.

“The changes this bylaw brings will create efficiencies for both City staff and pet owners,” stated Trent Jager, Enforcement Services Sergeant for the City of Wetaskiwin.

The bylaw also limits the number of animals permitted per house to four (4)—providing officers with an additional tool when dealing with animal neglect and nuisance animal complaints relating to excessive animals within the household, which was lacking in the previous bylaw. Current owners who exceed the new limit can [contact Enforcement Services](#) to obtain an over-limit permit at no cost.

As part of reviewing the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, Enforcement Services engaged the community through an online survey and met virtually with a local group of animal owners to obtain feedback. Administration also reviewed the animal control bylaws of nineteen (19) other Alberta municipalities. All proposed changes were largely made in response to a formal request from City Council in 2020 regarding department expenses related to animal control.

Anyone with questions about the new Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw can contact the City's Enforcement Services department at 780.361.4401.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

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