

Overview of Public Engagement for the Dog Control Bylaw Review



Strathcona County

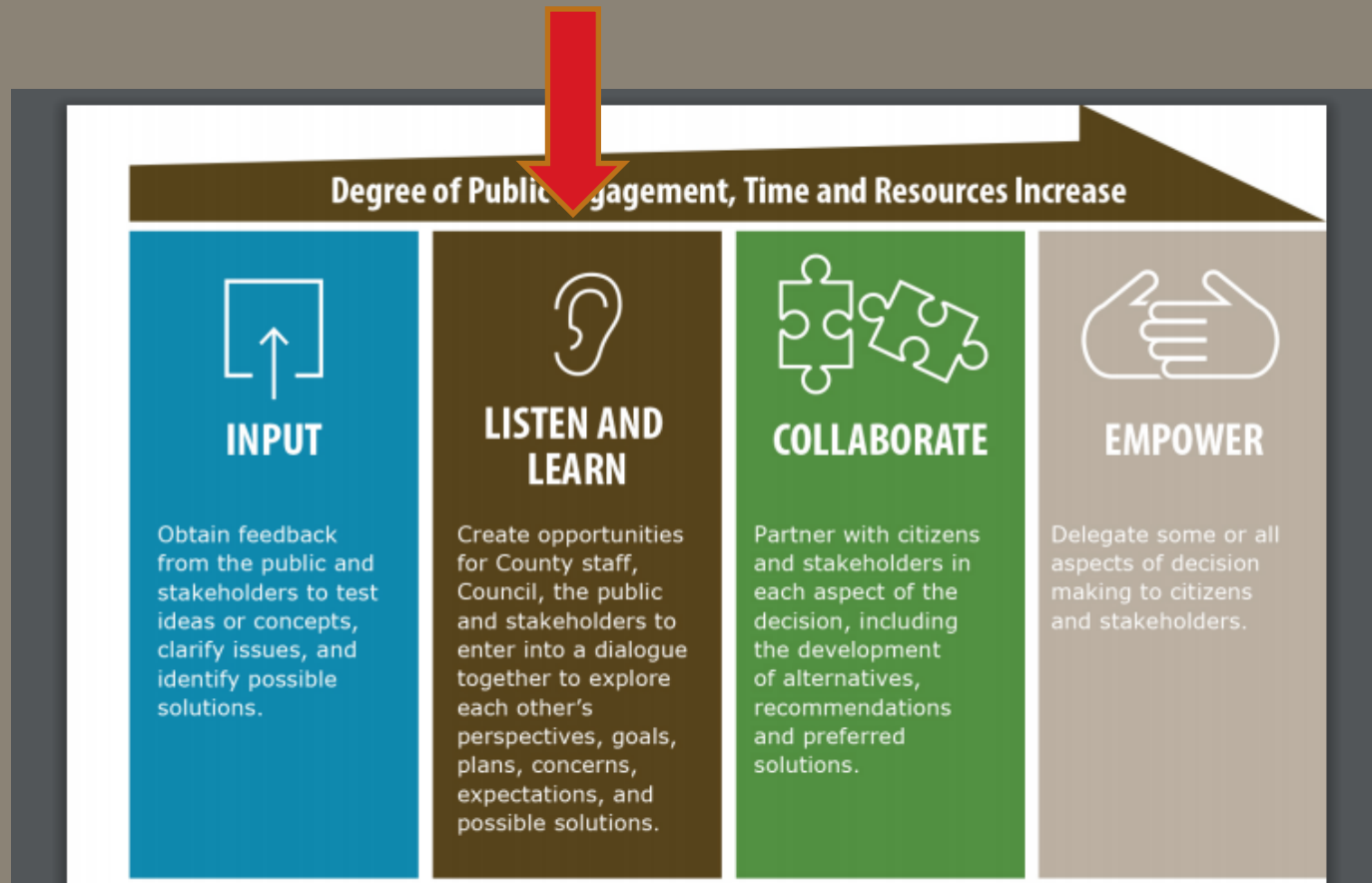
Dog Control Bylaw Review

May 16, 2017

Agenda

- **Project Overview**
- **Phase 1 Survey Results**
- **Phase 2 Workshop Results**
- **Recommendations**

Continuum of Engagement



2 Project Background

Existing bylaw (2006)

- Due for review
- Alignment with neighbouring municipalities
- Shift in focus
- More dogs than in 2006!

2 Project Background



- Engagement approach
- Project awareness campaign
 - Phase 1 survey (paper and online)
 - Phase 2 workshops
 - Summary reports



3 Phase 1 Survey Results

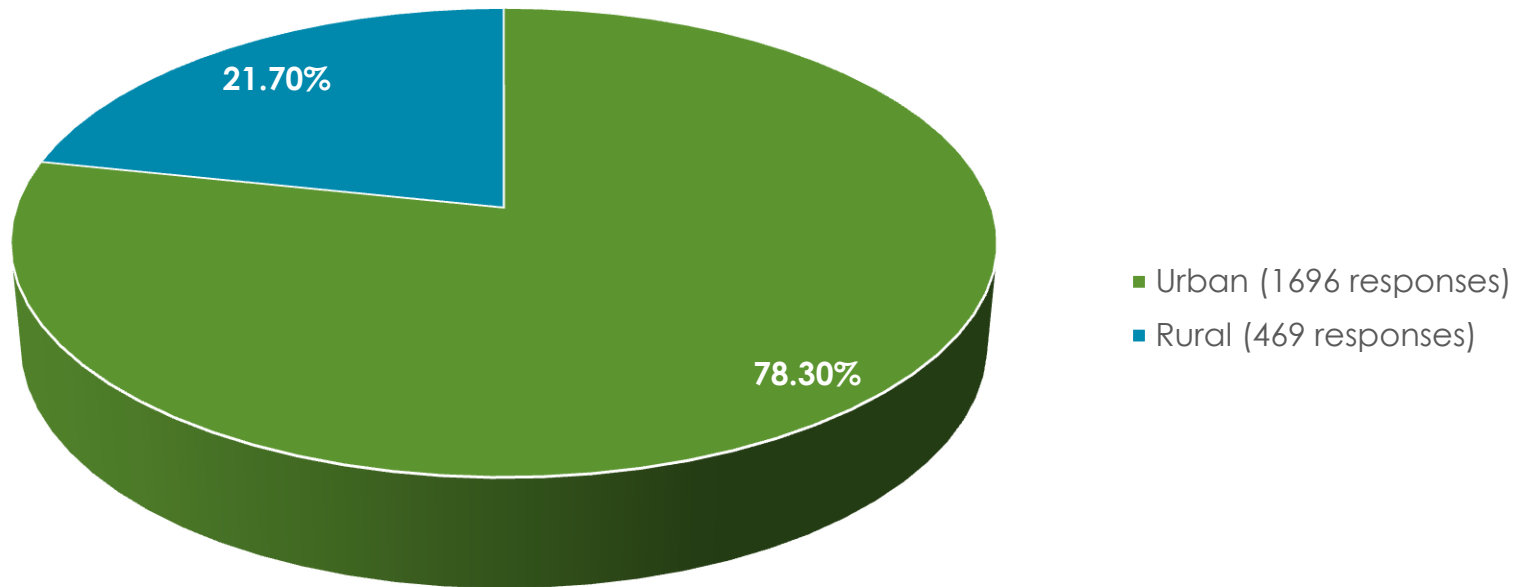
Online survey: Nov. 21 – Dec. 11, 2016

- 2,306 total responses
- 1,877 completed, 331 partially completed
- 98 rejected
(due to participant not being a resident of the County)



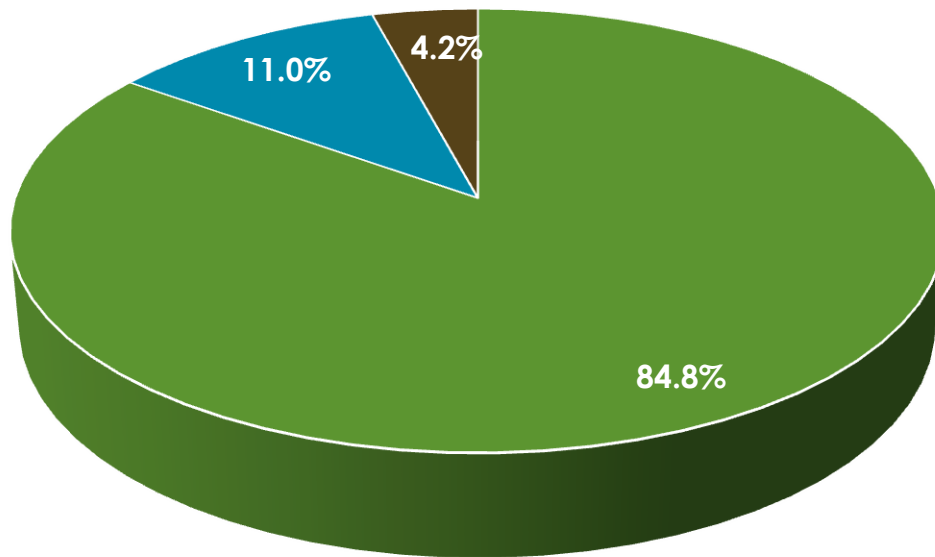
3 Survey Results

Which part of Strathcona County do you live in?



3 Survey Results

Do you, or another person in your household, own at least one dog?



■ Yes (1835 responses)

■ No (237 responses)

■ I don't own a dog right now, but I have in the last two years (91 responses)

3 Clear Direction in Survey

- No breed ban
- More online options and communication
- Keep fee structure as is
- Keep current fees

3 Clear Direction in Survey

- Only one renewal notice, deadline remains March 31
- Extend “grace period” for registering new dogs from 15 days to 30 days
- Better signage/enforcement of off-leash dogs

3 Communication

Areas requiring stronger communication:

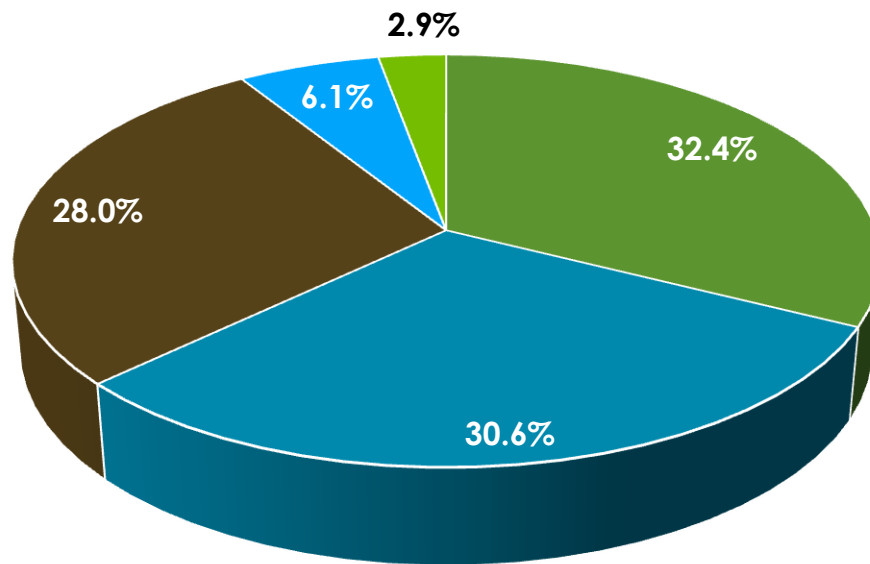
- What licence fees are used for
- How to report abuse/neglect
- How to report dog-related issues
- Expectations for responsible dog ownership

3 Areas Requiring Further Input

1. Household dog limits – urban vs. rural
2. Secondary Identification (i.e. microchips/tattoos)
3. Expiry date for dog licences
4. Dog owner training
5. Penalties for repeat infractions
6. Over-limit permits

3 Survey Results

Currently annual dog licences are valid from April 1 until March 31. Which of the following options would you prefer:



- A licence should last for the lifetime of the dog with a one time fee (596 responses)
- All licences should expire on the same date (March 31), regardless of the date it was purchased (564 responses)
- A licence should last one year from the date you registered your dog (515 responses)
- All licences should expire at the end of the calendar year (December 31), regardless of the date it was purchased (113 responses)
- I don't know (54 responses)

4 Phase 2 Workshops

Sat. Feb 4:
Sherwood Park

Tues. Feb 7:
Josephburg

Thurs. Feb 9:
Sherwood Park

Wed. Feb 15:
South Cooking Lake



4 Phase 2 Workshops

- Format
 - Sticky wall exercise
 - Brief overview presentation
 - Idea rating sheets
 - Discussion of results

5 Recommendations

- No breed ban
- Creation/adoption of a standardized owner training certificate program
- Licence term – status quo
- Single renewal reminder

5 Recommendations

- Adoption of an online renewal system
- Continued escalation of fines for consecutive offences
- Household dog limit – 3 dogs

5 Recommendations

- Over-limit permit criteria
- Investigate separate rural household limit
 - Must be > 5 acres

5 Recommendations

- Support for microchips as a secondary form of ID
 - Mandatory for dogs that have been designated as vicious
 - Voluntary for all dog owners as part of an incentive program

I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR THOUGHTS...



Questions or comments?

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