

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP BYLAW

BYLAW 37-2017

Background

- Existing bylaw (2006)
 - Due for review
- Need for alignment with neighbouring municipalities
 - Shift in focus to responsible dog ownership



Engagement approach



- Project awareness campaign
- Phase One: survey (Nov–Dec 2016)
 - 2,306 responses
- Phase Two: Four workshops (Feb 2017)
 - Sherwood Park (x2)
 - Josephburg
 - South Cooking Lake
- Recommendations presented to Priorities Committee (May 2017)

What we heard

- No breed ban
- More online options and communication
- Keep current fees
- Only one renewal notice, keep March 31 deadline
- Extend “grace period” for registering new dogs from 15 days to 30 days
- Better signage/enforcement of off-leash dogs

What we heard

- No breed ban
- Creation/adoption of a standardized owner training certificate program
- Licence term – status quo
- Single renewal reminder
- Adoption of an online renewal system
- Continued escalation of fines for consecutive offences
- Household dog limit – 3 dogs; separate rural household limit
- Over-limit permit criteria
- 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

What is responsible dog ownership?

Owning a pet is a privilege and comes with responsibilities, such as:

- Lifelong care of the pet.
- Selecting a pet that is suited to your home and lifestyle and avoiding impulsive decisions
- Recognizing that owning a pet(s) requires an investment of time and money
- Ensuring pets are properly identified (i.e., tags, microchips, or tattoos) and that their registration information in associated databases is kept up-to-date
- Preventing your pet(s) from negatively impacting other people, animals and the environment.

Purpose of a Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw

The Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw is legislation passed by Council under the authority of the *Municipal Government Act* to:

1. Establish standards for the conduct of people residing in this community who own dogs
2. Describe which conduct offends against community standards for conduct
3. Empower officials to enforce those standards of conduct through proceedings leading to fines and potentially other penalties

Components of the Draft Bylaw

- Part I – Purpose, Definitions, and Interpretation
- Part II – Licensing
- Part III – Over-Limit Permits
- Part IV – Responsible Dog Ownership Conduct Requirements
- Part V – Dangerous Dog Provisions
- Part VI – Disease Control
- Part VII – Penalties and Offences
- Part VIII – Impoundment and Enforcement Powers
- Part IX – Decisions and Appeals
- Part X – General
- Schedule A – Fines



Questions?