

Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control

Priorities Committee Meeting
November 13, 2018

Overview

- What is the purpose of the Animal Control Bylaw (ACB)?
- How does the ACB work?
- What steps have been taking in reviewing the ACB?
- What changes are currently required to the ACB?
- What other changes could be made to the ACB?

What is the purpose of the ACB?

- All three orders of government play a part in the regulation of animal species in Canada
- There are only a few types of animals that are not included in the provincial and federal regulations, including the majority of domesticated animals
- Municipalities have a role in regulating these species



How does the ACB work?

- Regulates where domesticated livestock and poultry can live in Strathcona County
- Uses Land Use Districts as described in the Land Use Bylaw to categorize properties as described here
- 1 animal unit is equal to:
 - 1 large animal (horse)
 - 2 medium animals (sheep)
 - 20 small animals (chickens)

Category	Land Use
No Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: Future Development (AD) where a parcel of land is not within the boundary of a Hamlet • Agriculture: Future Development (AD) where a parcel of land is within the boundary of a Hamlet and the parcel is greater than or equal to 10 hectare (24.7 ac.) in area • Agriculture: General (AG) • Agriculture: River Valley (AR) • Agri-business (IA) • Heavy Industrial (IH) • Medium Industrial (IM) • Rural Residential/Agriculture (RA) where the parcel of land is greater than or equal to 8 hectares (20 ac.) in area
Some Restrictions - 1 animal unit per 0.4 ha (1 ac.) of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Residential (RC) • Rural Residential/Agriculture (RA) where the parcel is smaller than 8 hectares (20 ac.) in area
No Livestock or Poultry Allowable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 primarily urban land uses listed in Schedule "A" (Enclosure 1)

Definitions

- Livestock and poultry are defined within the bylaw as:
 - *Livestock: bison, horses, cattle, swine, donkeys, mules, oxen, Large or Medium Controlled Animals and Wildlife (as defined under the Wildlife Act), sheep and goats.*
 - *Poultry: domestic or wild birds raised for the production of eggs, meat and/or other by-products.*

What steps have been taken in reviewing the Bylaw?

Public Engagement

- Included during the development of the Urban Agriculture Strategy
- Further key stakeholder engagement was conducted when reviewing bylaw amendment possibilities

Research and Analysis

- Research was conducted on Animal Control Bylaws (or equivalent) from comparable municipalities across Canada
- Review of provincial and federal regulations governing livestock and poultry

What changes are currently required to the ACB?

- The Animal Control Bylaw is currently being reviewed. Some changes are required:
 - Various Land Use Districts listed throughout the bylaw need to be updated to reflect recent changes that have been made to the Land Use Bylaw;
 - No appeal process currently exists within the Bylaw. An appeal process needs to be created for Over-limit Permits that have been denied or revoked or for Over-limit Permits that have had terms, conditions or restrictions applied to them;
 - Clarify the allowance for animals to participate in parades, community events, or other community functions within urban areas.

What other changes could be made to the ACB?

- Strathcona County could also include an Exemption Permit to be issued when circumstances warrant it.
- Circumstances could include:
 - Emotional support animals
 - Very large urban properties
 - If a resident has recently moved from another municipality that allows urban livestock

Possible Exemption Criteria

Criteria	Examples
<p>Type, size, species of animal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How big will the animal grow to be? • Is the animal known to be invasive? • Is the animal regulated by some other level of government? • Is the animal considered dangerous?
<p>Reason for having the animal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What purpose will the animal serve? • Is the animal visiting or is the animal permanently residing with the applicant? • Is the animal an Emotional Support Animal?
<p>Property details for specific species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there adequate space for the animal to exercise and live? • Does the animal have any special fencing or containment requirements? • Does the size of the proposed accommodations for the animal meet its needs? • Are there other animals on the property?

Possible Exemption Criteria

Criteria	Examples
Animal or human health considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the animal a known carrier of a human disease?• Is there a risk that either humans or other animals could contract a disease due to the animal's presence?• How will manure/feces be handled?
Animal owner history and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the owner demonstrate knowledge regarding how to care for the animal?• Is there a history of concern regarding animal care or abuse?• Has the owner recently moved from a property or other municipality where the animal was allowed?

Next Steps

- Based on the input received from the Priorities Committee, Administration plans to bring forward a proposed bylaw in order to amend the Animal Control Bylaw in Q1 of 2019.
- Once read by Council, Administration will amend or create the associated processes for the changes accepted.