



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: Development & Planning Services Committee

Title: Director of Planning & Community Services – Draft Animal Control Bylaw No. 4728

Date: July 21, 2025

Executive Summary / Purpose

To present a new Animal Control Bylaw to replace the current Pound and Animal Control Bylaw, along with associated amendments to the Municipal Ticket Utilization Bylaw and the Fee for Service Bylaw.

Motion for Consideration:

THAT: the Committee recommends that Council give first reading to Animal Control Bylaw No. 4728;

AND THAT: the Committee recommends that Council direct staff to undertake appropriate public engagement regarding Animal Control Bylaw No. 4728, including referral to and discussion with the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Background:

The existing Pound and Animal Control Bylaw No. 2398 was adopted by Council in 1995 and as such is quite dated. There are a number of obsolete provisions, and some of the sections dealing with dogs do not address the changes that resulted from the adoption of the Community Charter in 2003. With the recent assumption of animal control services by the City (from a contractor), it became timely to update the bylaw and address some issues that have arisen in recent years, particularly backyard chickens and urban beekeeping.

Animal Control Bylaw No. 4728 modernizes the approach to dealing with animals, abandons obsolete provisions that were never used, attempts to address new issues, and more clearly authorizes backyard chicken and beekeeping. The bylaw is modelled extensively on those from the City of Calgary and the Central Okanagan Regional District but also reflects input from a few other municipal bylaws from across the Province.

An overview of draft Animal Control Bylaw No. 4728 is as follows:

Section 4 – Items (a) – (c)

Outline that the keeping of livestock is limited only to agricultural areas, that livestock must be contained and cannot be at large in the community.

Section 4 – Item (d)(i)-(v)

Allows for the keeping of poultry and rabbits in residential areas, with the allowable number of animals increasing with the size of the property. Roosters are not permitted due to the potential for noise related nuisance.

Item (e) requires that the health of poultry in back yards is monitored and managed to address the risk of disease and the potential spread to commercial farms and producers.

Item (h) provides for standards for the location and setbacks relating to pens and enclosures for poultry and rabbits. These include setbacks from homes on adjacent properties.

Item (i) makes it clear that backyard poultry cannot create noise and nuisance for neighbours (there are consequent penalties in draft Bylaw 4730).

Item (j) prohibits the slaughter of animals outdoors.

Item (k) provides setback standards for any manure storage areas. This will only be relevant when there are larger numbers of animals.

Items (l) and (m) provide limits on the number of bee hives allowed in residential areas, requirements for beekeeping and for standards on setbacks and fencing.

Items (p) – (s) provide limits on pigeons in residential areas, the size of property required and setbacks to pens and enclosures.

Item (t) provides a prohibition on feeding wildlife or leaving out wildlife attractants but allows for bird feeders.

Sections 5 through 11 deal almost exclusively with issues related to dogs. Staff note that there are no limits or requirements related to cats, due to the difficulty of enforcing any requirements outside of a licencing provision. Additional staff resources would be needed to deal with licencing of cats.

Items (a) – (g) outline the licencing and tag requirements for dogs. They are essentially the same as the current bylaw.

Items (h) – (j) set the limit of number of dogs at four (4) [current bylaw states that 4 dogs constitutes a “kennel”], and excludes guide dogs and RCMP dogs from those limits.

Sections 6 – Items (a) – (b) require that a dog owner maintain control of their dogs at all times and kept on a leash (the exception being when in a designated off leash area).

Item (c) allows for a Bylaw Enforcement Officer to require that a dog owner construct a pen or enclosure if the dog is chronically found at large (3 times in a year).

Items (e) – (g) provide some limitations on the tethering of dogs and prohibits riding / skateboarding in public with a tethered dog (for safety reasons).

Section 7 Items (a) – (c) provide for limitations about dogs being off leash in parks and open spaces, where there are signed restrictions on dogs. The ability to designate these areas was delegated to the Parks Manager in the Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw in 2024.

Section 8 (a) outlines that owners should not allow their dogs to bark and create noise nuisances, either continuously for more than 10 minutes or sporadically for more than 20 minutes.

Section 8 Items (b) and (c) make clear the requirements for picking up after your dog (essentially unchanged from the current bylaw).

Section 8 Item (d) requires that owners don't leave dogs in cars or enclosures in either extremely hot or extremely cold weather.

Section 9 Item (d) prohibits owners from taking dangerous or aggressive dogs to public parks and open spaces.

Section 9 Items (e) and (f) outline the process for designating a nuisance dog and how that designation is then removed.

Sections 9 Items (g) – (i) outline the process for designating an aggressive dog and how that designation is then removed, as well as additional requirements for when an aggressive dog is in public.

Sections 8 Items (j) – (m) deal with dangerous dogs, and these provisions run in tandem with the provisions for this issue in *the Community Charter* (Division 6, s.s. 47-49). There is a requirement to microchip so that if a dangerous dog is sold, then there is a mechanism to alert other people and jurisdictions.

Sections 10 and 11 address the issue of impoundment of dogs at a pound (currently the City uses a pound at the City of Enderby), and how dogs can be retrieved, and when the City can make available for adoption or euthanize animals left at the pound. Euthanization would be an absolute last resort.

Section 12 allows for fines to be issued either under the Municipal Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw No. 2760 or a fine under the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act if a bylaw notice is issued (should the City adopt a bylaw notice bylaw in the near future).

Section 14 allows for Council to consider variances to the limitations on numbers of animals (e.g. poultry, rabbits, dogs, pigeons) upon a written request and a motion of Council. This would allow some flexibility if an owner's circumstances warranted a different number from that prescribed, and provides a process that would not require a site specific amendment to the bylaw. The variance option is only with respect to animal numbers.

Bylaw No. 4729 Fee for Services Amendment Bylaw

The main updates contained in this bylaw are that the dog licence fee increases from \$17 to \$30 (decreased to \$20 if paid in January of each year) and from \$35 to \$50 for unneutered/unspayed dogs. There are small increases in the repeated impoundment fees, and significant increases for repeated impoundment fees for aggressive and dangerous dogs.

Bylaw No. 4730 Ticket Information Utilization Amendment Bylaw

The schedule has been updated to reflect all of the new provisions and requirements contained in the Animal Control Bylaw No. 4728. The fines are generally set high enough to have a punitive impact but not to be extraordinary. The fine related to dogs in prohibited areas (e.g. parks, beaches) is set at \$500 to be a significant discouragement. Fines related to noise / nuisance increase as there is repetition and there are significant fines related to un-controlled / off leash aggressive and dangerous dogs, topping out at \$2,500 for dangerous dogs.

Legislative authority / plans / reports:

	Official Community Plan		Master Plan
X	Community Charter/LGA		Other
X	Pound & Animal Control Bylaw 2398, Fee for Services Bylaw 2498, Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw 2760		Corporate Strategic Plan
	Zoning Bylaw		2025-2029 Financial Plan
			Long Term Financial Plan

Financial Considerations:

There are no direct financial implications related to approving or adopting the bylaw. There may be some modest increases to revenues related to both dog licences and fine collection.

Alternatives & Implications:

The Committee could refer this back to staff for further development and review prior to undertaking any public engagement.

Communication:

Staff intend to consult on the draft bylaw with both the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). Both have previously discussed issues related to backyard chicken/poultry and beekeeping, and the issue of cats in the community has come up at the EAC in the past. Staff will also post the draft bylaw with a summary to the website, and allow for comment via email. If there is sufficient interest, then a public meeting could also be held.

Prepared by: Director of Planning & Community Services

Approved by: Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- Bylaw No. 4728 Animal Control Bylaw
- Bylaw No. 4729 Fee for Services Amendment Bylaw
- Bylaw No. 4730 Ticket Information Utilization Amendment Bylaw