

- Golf courses
- Cemeteries
- Water or wading/swimming areas in public spaces and parks (except in a river that runs through or adjacent to a park)
- Prince's Island Park on Canada Day (July 1) or Heritage Day (first Monday of August)



### Ethical pet ownership

Having a pet means making a commitment to care for your pet for its lifetime. Do your research and make an informed decision before getting a pet and ensure your pet comes from an ethical source. Ask yourself these questions:

- Can I afford the food and health care that this dog or cat will need throughout its life?
- Am I prepared to take on the necessary training, exercise and socialization this pet will need?
- Is the source of this dog or cat a rescue organization or a reputable breeder?

### City of Calgary Animal Services Centre

Did you know The City of Calgary has dogs and cats available for adoption? Impounded dogs and cats that are not claimed after a waiting period are available for adoption.

For more on our adoption procedures, and to view adoptable animals, do the following:

- Visit [Calgary.ca/animalservices](http://Calgary.ca/animalservices) – description of procedures and photos of adoptable animals
- Visit the Animal Services Centre, 2201 Portland Street SE for information and to meet adoptable animals
- Contact 311 for information

All animals adopted from Animal Services are spayed/neutered, licensed and microchipped, checked by a veterinarian, vaccinated and come with a bag of food.

### Lost dogs and cats

If you lose your dog or cat, do the following:

- Call 311 immediately to file a lost animal report
- Go to [Calgary.ca/animalservices](http://Calgary.ca/animalservices) to view photos of impounded dogs and cats or visit the shelter in person
- Check with the local vet clinics and animal rescue organizations (Calgary Humane Society, Animal Rescue Foundation, MEOW Foundation, Calgary Animal Rescue Society, AARCS (Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society), Calgary Animal Rescue Society, Animal Rescue Foundation and others)
- Make sure your report stays on file in case your pet is found as all lost dog or cat reports are checked each time an animal is brought into our shelter

### Complaints

To file a complaint or report a concern about a dog or cat, contact 311.



The City of Calgary  
Community Standards, Animal Services  
2201 Portland Street SE  
[calgary.ca/animalservices](http://calgary.ca/animalservices)  
Contact 311

**Responsible**  
pet ownership

The City of Calgary advocates for pet owners to act responsibly so all citizens can live together safely and in harmony. The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw sets up regulations to help define what responsible pet ownership looks like. The bylaw applies only to cats and dogs and not other domestic animals often kept as pets.

## Dogs and cats must be licensed annually

A cat or dog licence is your pet's ticket home if it strays off your property or is lost. The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw states that your dog or cat must be licensed at three months of age. Dog and cat owners should also be aware of the following:

- Your pet must wear a licence when off your property
- Your pet must be on leash when off your property or not in a secured fenced yard (dogs may be off leash in a designated off-leash dog park)
- The licence fee is reduced for spayed/neutered dogs and cats, or a puppy or kitten younger than six months old

The City also recommends that all cats and dogs have some sort of permanent identification such as a microchip as tattoos can fade over time and licence tags can be lost. Every year, dog and cat owners must update their contact information with The City as it changes.

## Spaying and neutering

Responsible pet owners spay or neuter their dogs and cats.

- It is the best way to prevent over population
- It will make your pet happier
- Your pet will enjoy better health
- Your pet may have an improved disposition



## Proper care, training and socialization

### Dogs

Different breeds of dogs need different levels of exercise to be happy, healthy and well socialized. Also, some breeds may require specific training to ensure you have proper control over your dog. Research your dog's breed and find out what is appropriate for training and exercise.

A responsible owner ensures their dog does not bite, bark at or chase other animals, bicycles, vehicles or people. In an off-leash park, the dog must be on leash in the parking lot to protect it from vehicles, and must be under the handler's control at all times in the park. This means the dog:

- Responds to voice commands
- Comes when called
- Is always in sight of the handler so the dog can respond

### Cats

Despite popular belief, cats do not need to go outside to be happy. Our animal behaviour specialists strongly recommend keeping cats indoors as they live longer, healthier lives. While indoor cats can live up to 20 years, the lifespan of an outdoor cat is two to five years. If you do want your cat to go outside, use a harness and light leash or cat enclosure. The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw prohibits cats from roaming off your property.

Consider these steps for having a healthy, happy cat:

- Play with your cat, give him exercise and establish a loving bond
- Provide safe cat toys, scratching post and cat tree
- Groom your cat and trim her claws regularly
- Set up a place where your cat can perch and look out a window
- Some cats may be happier with a cat companion

### Dogs and cats

Both dogs and cats require care, feeding, fresh water and exercise every day to be happy and healthy. Veterinarians also recommend regular grooming, annual checkups and a vaccination schedule—these steps are an important part of being a responsible pet owner and for maintaining your pet's health.

## No one likes nuisance pets

Any dog or cat off the owner's property without the owner (or handler) and not under the owner's control is 'at large' under the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. This also applies to dogs that cause damage to a person, property or other animal. Here are some important things to remember:

- Ensure your fence or dog/cat run is intact and that gates are secure
- Don't leave your pet unsupervised while tethered in the yard or in a public space
- Pick up your pet's waste both on and off your property (feces poses a health risk; dog feces have parasites that can be transmitted to people and animals)
- Carry a suitable means of picking up waste
- A fine can be imposed for not picking up pet waste and not having a suitable means for picking up waste
- Barking is instinctive to dogs—ensure barking does not become a nuisance to neighbours, and help

reduce barking by supervising your dog and providing proper exercise to stimulate your dog and prevent boredom

- When in vehicles, secure your dog or cat in a way that is suitable for your pet (kennel, harness or dog safety belt)
- Dogs cannot be transported in the back of a pickup truck unless in an enclosed trailer, covered truck bed, ventilated kennel or securely tethered—dogs cannot be on bare metal
- NEVER leave a dog or cat in a car in warm or cool weather as even moderate temperatures can heat up or cool off a vehicle to dangerous levels—in moderate temperatures, ensure the vehicle is properly ventilated.

## Dogs in public

### Pathways

All pathways are on-leash areas even in an off-leash park. Here are some regulations to be aware of:

- Stay on the right-hand side of the pathway, unless moving away from other pathway users
- Ensure your dog does not interfere with other pathway users
- Your dog's leash must be no longer than two meters
- Do not attach your dog to a leash on your bike or other wheeled conveyance

### Prohibited areas

Dogs are not permitted in the following places:

- School grounds
- Sports fields

