



Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review

Verbatim Report: Internal engagement
June 29, 2020

Verbatim Comments

Verbatim comments presented here include all of the suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online from the staff webpage. They are reflective of the individual staff experiences and in addition to public and targeted stakeholders feedback, will help the City update the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

Comments that state 'see above' or some version of this are referencing the previous survey question that was answered. All comments were reviewed by the question that was asked.

Questions that had very low responses are not included here for privacy. Graphs that were included in the What we Heard Report are also not included here to avoid duplication. All responses have been provided to the project team, including those not included here.

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What does responsible pet ownership mean to you?

- It means being accountable for your pets within the City of Calgary.
- If you own a pet then to be responsible and respectful. Keep your dog on leash, pick up feces, training, spay or neuter if you are not a breeder, don't allow your dog to be a nuisance to other people. Be responsible for your pets safety as well as the public.
- People who take care of their pets and ensure that they are well trained, understand their animals' behavior, comply with the bylaw, and act quickly (or proactively) to address concerns.
- Ensuring that your pet is properly cared for - food, vet care, shots/vaccinations, and that you follow bylaws - keeping your pet on a leash where it states, picking up after waste etc
- Caring for the physical and mental health of an animal and providing basic needs such as food, water, shelter, adhering to bylaws set out by municipalities. Being responsible for how the animal engages with the environment, community, and other animals (ie. their actions and behaviours).
- Being responsible over your pet.
- Responsible pet ownership means holding owners accountable for the actions of their animals. Ensuring communities are safe from dangerous or aggressive dogs and addressing community concerns at a grassroot level by providing a bylaw that allows a good mix of enforcement and education.
- Responsible pet ownership means prioritizing your pets' health and safety at all times - taking them to the vet regularly, exercising them daily, providing proper training and socialization, stimulating them mentally, feeding them high quality food, etc. A responsible pet owner makes a commitment to their animal the minute that they adopt them and recognizes that they are a permanent member of the family and not something that be discarded if they become inconvenient or challenging.
- Being a responsible pet owner.
- It's about holding owners accountable for their animal's misbehavior, whether its neglectful ownership or ignorance. We should be encouraging people to be the best owners for both their neighbours and their pet. Its about encouraging good husbandry practices, training, exercise and companionship. Holding those who fail to do these things accountable for the impacts to other citizens -whether it be an animal running loose defecating or tearing open garbage, or overt aggression. We should strive to create an environment where animals and people can live peacefully together. This should start with good behaviour practices



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- Good Husbandry practices, safety of the animal and the public, recognizing abilities and limitations of animal and people interaction
- One which ensure welfare of pets and safety for the community.

What else, if anything would you like to see changed, added or removed from the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw? Please explain your answer.

- 1. Most cat owners don't understand that cats are required to be licensed, even if they are indoor - additional education as to WHY indoor cats require a license. 2. Additional education for cat owners so they are aware pets off their property are considered at large.
 - [Response: Agreed. I also think that there needs to be more communication between the City and the citizens as to the impact created by the implementation of these bylaws. I.e. percentage of animals reunited with their owners, how many days it took to reunite (licensed vs unlicensed), the cost of licensing vs the potential costs of having an unlicensed animal (fines), etc.]
- I think its really important to open up pet ownership to include certain livestock, specifically chickens. In these uncertain times, with disruption in global supply chains and grocery stores with empty shelves, people need to have alternate methods of ensuring they have food. A backyard can provide everything that a chicken needs to live a happy, healthy productive life, and can provide the household with a reliable direct source of protein in the form of eggs. Sure chickens may make a bit of a mess but I really don't see it being any worse than what could be created by a dog of the owners are not being diligent about cleaning up after their pet.
 - [Response: I agree. Chicken owners may be more responsible because they know how good they have it and do not want to let the priveledge go. The smell from dog feces is just as bad or worse. If someone doesn't pick up or clean after their chicken that can still be enforced. As for eating the eggs, that liability can 'lay' with the chicken owner.]
 - [Response: Backyard chickens does provide alternate source of food supply. Though it comes at a risk. Only a biosecurity risk analysis by experts can provide an answer. There is zoonotic risk of salmonella, avian influenza, listeriosis and external parasites. Some citizens can abandon these pets after some time. Lots of dogs and cats end up at animal control pound and SPCA every year. Same can happen for backyard chickens. Welfare of these bird will be another issues, specially in our harsh cold weather, who will ensure that birds are being provided for all the necessities, are kept comfortable and medical care is given when required.]
- 1. a more in depth section for pigeon and livestock bylaws. State what happens when someone does not adhere to our 30 day warning notice we give for livestock in the city. Ensure coops and home made cages for animals are adequate for pigeons and for that 30 day period if we have given a warning. Information on being a member in good standing with a Canadian pigeon club/union. 2. I have quite a few complaints over the years about using chuck its or other means to throw balls to dogs in off leash parks. Many dogs are ball toy driven so owners cannot control their dogs in parks



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when others throw balls for their dogs. Ball throwers become very agitated and upset that dogs don't know the difference in that the ball is only being thrown for the dog they are with and no other dogs may touch it. Ball throwers then put the thrower and ball over their head and try to wave it around to get it away from the dog that is jumping on them thinking they are playing with the dog. That is impossible for dogs. I compare it to throwing around treats at a park. Dogs are treat and ball driven so any dog would not know treats aren't for them. I think we should have a bylaw in place to not allow chuck its or other means to throw a ball in a park for dogs. This is frustrating for both the dog owners around as well as the ball thrower. 3. Have better definitions between 'attack' and 'attack a person causing severe injury'. Be more specific in the difference between the two. 4. Section 25.1 Direct animal to attack, chase, harass or threaten a person should be a harsher fine. Animals can be trained essentially as weapons, and depending the circumstances, can do a lot of damage if directed to attack. These are not common calls but I feel these should be mandatory court because of the severity of them. Accused can explain the situation within the court system. 5. Section 18. Add in a bylaw and fine for not leaving animal with water while in a vehicle. In some cases, when hot outside, would be a good bylaw to have.

- If chickens become part of the RPO then we need to revisit LESA and remove the process for Chickens as this is the most common LESA request we have.
- When identifying a citizen who wants to retrieve their animal at the animal shelter, Under section 6 of the RPO or a condition of licensing a pet within the bylaw can it be mandatory that a photograph of the pet owner be taken at the Animal shelter and a copy of the photo stay at the animal shelter ? This will make it easier for the admin officer to ID a person who doesn't have or forgot their photo ID to get their animal. Failure to comply may result in not being able to license a pet within the COC.
 - [Response: Someone might argue Human Rights for this. We can still ID a person through CPIC, Moves, Chameleon. They should have some form of ID whether they have an ABDL or not.]
- Instead of having a dedicated Peace Officer in Admin all day, every day, remove the requirement for the PO to be there. Instead, have the release be a fee based in the bylaw as opposed to a fine for whatever the offence(s) are/were. If required, shelter staff can contact the Duty Sergeant to make a determination on whether or not an officer need attend for any given situation/release.
 - [Response: Having an officer is VITAL. Granted, some days might be slower in the office, however, having no training, and no authority - licensing/FC staff should NOT be the 'ruling' authority to deem if a citizen owns an animal, if a cat trap is humane or what do to in unusual circumstances. In addition, having an officer allows 1. transfer and movement of difficult pets, 2. helps front counter with difficult citizens and 3. is able to assist with other law enforcement as needed. That being said, good officers are actively involved in the daily operations. ie; checking in with staff, checking building, getting to know the staff at Portland, engaging with citizens, providing education on the RPO and act as the authority regarding unusual circumstances.]



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- 1. Add a schedule to define animal bite/attack scale, such as the Ian Dunbar Bite Scale for easier articulation in court, summons, and violations. 2. However, either do not add bite levels in the specific offences. Doing this could restrict the officers discretion, should they feel a need to escalate a concern due to the totality of the circumstances. Alternatively, if bite levels are added in specific offences, add a clause in the bylaw that allows an officer to exercise their judgment over the outlined parameters set by the bite levels in collaboration with the applicable sections.
- RPO messaging needs to have more emphasis on WHY cats and dogs (especially indoor cats) are required to be licenced. Even I struggle with understanding this and explaining it to people. The current messaging is so focused on how a pet licence can reunite a lost animal with its owner, but honestly no more so than a personalized name tag can. If someone finds my dog wearing only the City tag, they are likely to call the City and I will be charged an impound fee and possibly get a fine for my animal running at large. If my dog is wearing a personalized tag, chances are the finder is going to call me directly - which option seems preferential for a pet owner? I am a dedicated CCS employee and to be honest the only reason I licence my animals is to avoid the potential fines, and I never put the City tag on their collars (even though I know there is a risk of receiving a fine for this as well).
- Remove section 37(3) - Cats have not been allowed at large for a long enough time that we should be able to go straight to an At large ticket rather than have to give a warning within the licensing period. Better definition for Chase/threat - Chase is self explanatory but need threat properly defined as is not clear what constitutes an actual threat rather than relying on complainants interpretation of what 'aggressive barking' constitutes.
 - [Response: I agree 'threat' is a broad term, very subjective and a person's fear of dogs is inappropriately captured by this section. Threat should be defined in the bylaw as behavior exhibited by an animal that includes a combination of barking, growling, baring teeth, lunging, jumping up, knocking over, grabbing clothing or any behavior that could be seen to pose risk of a bite, attack, injury or severe injury due to contact with a person. The definition must be careful to address only what has happened (like a near miss) and not be punitive of a 'what if' or potential outcome in order to stick with proper law enforcement and not sanctioning against offences that have not occurred. A dog's vocalizations on their own should not be captured as sufficient for a charge under threat. The animal is communicating and id their is no risk of injury (example a dog with reactivity issues growling and lunging but on a leash and harness being walked by an adult and across the street is different than the same dog on an extendable leash on the same side of the street being walked by a child)]
- There should be more educational information for cat owners. A lot of them don't understand that their cat should be licensed and contained within their property.
 - [Response: I see someone already brought this up, so nvm.]
- I would like to see the aggression section updated to include better definitions. I would like it to include implementing the Ian Dunbar scale with a level for the incidents that have one L4 and one L3



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(for example), currently it would be classified as L5 and I feel that is a misclassification. I think we should remove the automatic Vicious Animal designation for animal causing death to another animal. I think our Vicious section needs to be upgraded to include behaviour modification. The idea of owning a vicious animal is to manage the animal. Training will go a long way to assist. Vicious designation that can be done at the Inspector level. A new damage to animal charge for Level 4/5 Damages. Perhaps include the scale and different fine amount on damage to animal charges. Right now one fine for all levels of damage is not ok. Goes from \$250 (damage) to \$1000 for death, nothing in between. I believe we should offer long term licenses (5, 10 years), more people will buy this and officers will spend less time chasing licensed. Have higher penalties for frequent fliers. A nuisance dog section that can be declared at the Sergeant level. A way to address animals at large taken into vet clinics - currently charging has its restrictions. A limit to dogs being walked at a time (dog walkers) - registry for dog walkers? Or have them licensed? - the extra fees could go into a park rehab/maintenance program (pay and play) Allow 2-4 Chickens, for eggs. Bicycles and Dogs - from a Behaviour POV, this is a very positive way to exercise your dog. Is there a way that we can allow this in certain parks or areas? Hot dog calls (Sec 18)- increase the fines, a lot of resources go into these calls, we should increase the fine amount. Obstruct Peace Officer charge - fail to provide ID, run away from officer,

- [Response: I agree with the change to the bicycle/wheeled conveyance part of this suggestion. Having a dog pull the owner on a skateboard or run next to a recumbent bike or a bicycle with an appropriate attachment should be allowed.]
- 1) The pigeon exemption in the livestock section should be removed/better restricted. There is no standard in the pigeon fanciers community that defines good standing. There is no requirement to attend events, meetings or have the owner's coop or flock inspected by the club- essentially if you pay the membership fee you can be a member. Some owners keep their birds well but most coops I have encountered are unsightly unclean and the owners have to be reminded at nauseum to renew memberships, band their birds and be courteous to their neighbours. Pigeons have to fly and many of our reports are of the birds leaving fecal matter on adjacent properties. it is difficult to lay a charge under failing to remove feces immediately section because birds often cannot be distinguished as wild or captive. Chickens are a better exception because they don't fly off the property.2) definition of 'Severe Injury' should have 'sutures' removed. This part of the definition captures injuries that can be minor in relation to other files. The description of 'disfiguring lacerations' and 'cosmetic surgery' and 'any other' is enough to capture the intent of this definition.3) definition of 'attack' should be altered and possibly state 'means an assault resulting in severe injury (as defined), multiple injuries, and/or injuries caused by multiple animals during the same incident' 4) section allowing for creation of contracts between the City and dog owners that have had their animal seized/involved in a serious incident but may not meet the standard for a Vicious Dog hearing.5) Mandatory aggressive dog assessment for all Vicious Dog hearings going to court completed by a third party from an approved list that the dog owner selects. Vicious dog hearings should involve a full spectrum of the dogs behavior not just the presentation of the incident that caused the dog to be seized.



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- [Response: Also, write the aggression section to be encompassing of the lesser offence, reduces 'stacking' of fines and allows prosecutors to have the option to have accused plead to a or be found guilty of a lesser offence without having to re-charge]
- Chickens should be allowed as pets. They lay eggs, eat pests, fertilize the garden, and are a benefit to the community and sustainable living.

Administration

What expectations do you have of dog behaviour in other common/public spaces that is not an off-leash park (eg. pathways, etc.)?

- Aggressive dogs should be under control and on a tight leash.
- have good leash skills, no retractable leashes, well behaved and trained
- Animals are well behaved and on leash, owners pick up animal waste
- Keep dog on leash. Maintain control of dog so it doesn't run into anyone. Pick up feces.
- Dogs should be on a leash and controlled by owner.
- The pets should not jump on other people or other people's pets
- None - dogs should be able to roam freely
- There has been a lot of non-compliance in on leash areas especially natural areas like the Weaselhead, Glenmore, Bowness. Increased enforcement in these areas for wildlife protection would be nice to see.
- They are not uncontrollably barking, under control of owner, not on top of benches and picnic tables
- The dog does not jump on me or harass me any way.
- Dog is on leash
- Not being excessively loud and disruptive.
- On a leash, no aggressive behaviours, owner picks up waste or phases a fine
- On a leash, not barking or being overly aggressive
- Bad dog behavior is due to bad owner training.
- If it's an on leash area then the dog should always be in a leash.
- That the dog listens to his/her owners. The owner has control of their dog. The dog is on leash. The dog is not aggressive to people or dogs

Suggestion for reasonable number of dogs in a household

Two

- Over two seems too noisy although this might be flexible for larger properties.
- Any more and it gets expensive, and harder to control behaviour.
- 3 if small dogs , 1 or 2 max if larger dogs
- More than that is excessive and difficult to manage properly.



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- There needs to be a bylaw in place that limits the number of dogs per household. Any number over 3 is unfair to the dogs and the neighbours. Noise and odour would be my primary concern.
- City should seriously consider limiting the number of dogs and cats in a household, this is a right time to bring a bylaw on it. No more than 6 pets maximum 2 dogs and maximum 4 cats should be permitted. If a citizen wants to keep more pets, there should be a new license category with more license fee and more accountability.

Three

- Without the guarantee of enough space in homes, 3 is high.
- Owning a dog is a huge time and financial commitment. For the average person who is working finding the time to give to more than 3 dogs would be hard. Each dog needs to have mental and physical enrichment daily.
- Too many dogs causes too many issues. More dogs, more responsibility.
- Dogs can be loud and if not care for properly can create quite an Odor. I love dogs but don't see how it would be fair to neighbours or the dogs themselves to have more than 3 in a house.
- These unofficial urban/suburban puppy farms in the city are irresponsible, inhumane and a nuisance to our neighbourhoods
- I think that really one dog is enough, but for people who are gone all day it is nice for pets to have buddies. I would say max 1 dog per adult in a house hold.
- More than this seems excessive, concerned about possible animal hoarding and illegal breeding
- Depending on how big the house is and how big the dogs are or how many people are there to help with the care of the animals. I believe having too many animals would result in animal neglect.
- Depends on the size of the house and how many people live there

Four

- 4 dogs is a reasonable restriction and allows for the owner to properly train and control their animals while limiting the amount of dogs around neighbours.
- 2 per 1000 square feet
You shouldn't have 12 dogs unless it's a large acreage
- I have seen a few places in my community that appear to be dog breeding, but peace officers have limited power of enforcement. 3 dogs in a residential neighborhood seems reasonable.
- Some people really like dogs, but i think more than 4, they are breeding dogs, and should thus have a proper place to do so that is fair to the animals and to their neighbors who have to deal with the additional noise.
- I've seen friends invest significant effort in maintaining acceptable behaviour with three dogs in a single home. I can imagine more invested families doing the same for four. Five and higher seems far more likely to be a dog breeding or animal rescue operation, and it seems unreasonable for a homeowner to believe they can provide adequate care, attention, and enforcement of appropriate



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dog behaviour with groups that large outside of the context of a breeding operation or rescue shelter. Rescue shelters shouldn't be within residential zones, and breeding operations should only exist in residential zones if they are licensed and by-law compliant. Breeding operations should also not be permitted in multi-family dwellings (e.g. prohibited in duplexes, multiplexes, townhouse complexes, condominiums, apartment buildings).

- I believe 2-4 the high number is for someone doing temp fostering.

Suggestion for reasonable number of cats in a household

Two

- Cats take up less space, generally are quieter.
- More than that is excessive and difficult to manage properly.
- I believe 2 cats are enough. More than that become too many
- Not more than 4 cats should be allowed in a house.

Three

- Most cats are kept indoors. Having over three seems excessive.
- The smell of litter boxes for homes with more than 1 cat can get overwhelming.
- Same as previous answer
- Cats spend most of their time inside, they are not noisy. Two per adult in household
- Same as above

Four

- They have less of an impact. Stay inside mostly. Require less attention.
- 4 cats is a reasonable restriction and allows for the owner to properly train and control their animals while limiting the amount of dogs around neighbours.
- Cats are less noisy and help with rodent control.
- 2 per 1000 square feet
- Essentially the same logic as with the dog response above.
- Cats are very self sufficient and need less attentive care than a dog.
- Depends on the size of the house

Five +

- Most cats are kept indoors. Having over three seems excessive.
- Depending on the size of your home - If the owner is responsible with keeping their home clean, daily cleaning of litter boxes and has the financial means to look after multiple cats in the home then it shouldn't be an issue.
- Cats tend to stay inside. fewer restrictions required.



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- Cats are not loud and disruptive to neighbors, so I think it is not as much of an infringement on the rights of neighbors. However breeders should be ethical with the treatment of animals and should have proper facilities for that.
- As with dogs, this should be assessed on a per household basis if a complaint or concern is received.

If limitations were placed on the number of cats and/or dogs per household, under what circumstances should there be exceptions?

- If the size of the property is large.
- breeders
- If the citizen can guarantee that each animal in the house can have its own "private space" as recommended by Calgary Humane Society while introducing new pets together. Space should be separable.
- If the pets are not been cared for physically and mentally. Also the size of the home. 6 dogs in a high rise apartment is not acceptable. Also homes with basement suites or multiple generational families with multiple pets and multiple owners could present some concerns.
- Breeder or foster.
- If someone is caring for someone else's pets temporarily or if they are fostering 1 or 2 pets.
- Farms or other areas that are not within city limits.
- Zero tolerance for excessive dogs. Possibly a max of 6 cats in a house larger than 1600 square feet
- Numbers should be built around square footage of house and the health and safety of animal
Dog/cat sitting for someone out of town
- A dwelling with a shared wall (condo, townhouse, side-by-side, duplex, etc) where other neighbors can be affected. In my opinion, 2 is a reasonable amount in this scenario.
- If you are cat sitting for someone
- If animals are well trained & do not cause issues of noise or odor
- Licensed Breeders, temporary pet sitting
- If they do not receive noise complaints from the neighbors, and they are not mistreating the animals.
 - if the new pet owners have
- None
- Maybe if it were a temporary living situation
- Owners who can demonstrate their ability to have a well disciplined pet.
- By fostering or by your dog just having a litter.
- If it's listed within a condo building's own bylaws or on an individual basis if there is a legitimate concern about the health and wellness of the animals.
- New license category
Kennel or Cattery operations
- Maybe fostering a litter of puppies or kittens



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Roaming, feral and stray cats

What concerns do you have regarding cats roaming free?

- cats are not being provided with needed vet care and/or basic needs such as food.
- Pets are more likely to be hit by cars while at large - education for citizen.
MEOW Foundation's Trap Neuter Release program - causes stressors for citizen's as the MEOW foundation is not held accountable for damages their TNR cats cause on private property.
- defecating and urinating in private yards, entering private yards and disturbing cats in the home, carrying disease, cats getting hit by cars
- Disease spread - Rabies or feline Leukemia or from urinating / defecating in gardens
Injury to the cats themselves
Overpopulation due to unaltered animals roaming
Feces, public safety from aggressive cats.
- Getting injured or killed by vehicles or other animals.
- Welfare of the animal- painful death from hit by car, attacked and killed by coyotes, bob cats.
Contributes to stray cat population. There are too many cats which end up at pound every year.
Nuisance behaviors, such as urinating and defecating in someone's yard or garden, digging in someone's yard or garden, jumping on someone's car and biting/scratching a child.
Zoonotic disease risk, as citizens are exposed to cat litter in their backyard, on streets.
Increase costs associated with trapping and/or caring for cats in animal shelter.
Increase cost as many of these roaming cats gets sick or injured and end up at emergency clinics.
Stray roaming cat kills birds and decimate their population, causing environmental and ecological issues.
- Cats should not be allowed outside. This is a huge hazard to them and nuisance to people. Cats will be hit by cars and will be eaten by other wildlife. They will destroy flower beds and could attack children and dogs that may be outside
- unwanted litters. Spaying/neutering/permanent id of all stray cats.

What is your recommended way to deal with cats roaming free?

- Pick up all at large cats. Any feral cats can be transferred to rescues outside of Calgary to act as farm cats to local farmers. Or Create a barn cat program - for all feral cats.
- keep cats indoors, outdoor enclosed runs in backyard, trapping and impounding cats, licensing so people are responsible and microchipping impounded cats
- trapping or trap, alter and release
- trapping, educating owner.
- I keep my cats indoors because I worry about their safety, but I have never had a legitimate issue or concern with another person's cat roaming free. I know a lot of people do care about cats digging in



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their garden beds and walking through their yards, but I think a lot of people get upset when they see a cat at large simply because they know the cat owners are technically breaking the bylaws.

- 1. Strict enforcement of RPO for cat owners. Increased fines. Many owners of unlicensed cats who end up at animal control, are not held accountable. They do not pay any fines and do not claim their cats. They should be liable for fines and cost incurred on the medical care of the animal.
- 2. Decrease the cost of annual license for cats to increase the percentage of citizens getting license for indoor cats. Increase the fines for non licensing your cat.
- 3. Make ID compulsory- pet cat should have a microchip or collar tag.
- 4. Education of citizens, do not trap or take the healthy free roaming cat or kittens to shelters. It overwhelm the shelter capacity of care. Also it decreases the chance of reunification to owner. Many cats go back to home at the end of day. Only sick, medical distress cats and orphan kitten should be accepted in shelters. Citizen think they are helping the welfare of healthy stray cat by taking them to vet clinics, shelter , but their actions are likely making the situation worse.
- They should be trapped, and owners should be fined heavily. These cats that are brought in trapped or found at large should be microchipped so they can be traced back to their owner to make sure the owner is responsible for their pet

What concerns do you have regarding feral cats?

- Injury from males fighting with each other
- Only damages caused to private properties.
- Disease to domestic cats, defecating and urinating in private yards, people feeding them, reproduction
- Disease spread - Rabies or feline Leukemia or from urinating / defecating in gardens
Injury to the cats themselves
Overpopulation due to unaltered animals roaming"
- Citizens continue to stubbornly attempt to trap feral cats and then bring them in to the City impound. If anything, TNR programs should have the ability to trap these cats to spay/neuter to control the population (not sure how this affects their behavior later on, maybe it makes them less aggressive).
- Diseases. Reproduction. Aggression.
- None.
- Feral cats - Decimate bird population, cause environmental and ecological issues.
Zoonotic disease issues.
Nuisance for citizens.
Reservoir of contagious disease for domestic cats.
Increase cost of care, trapping, euthanasia , as they end up in animal shelters.
Contribute to overpopulation of cats.
- Its unfortunate that we have them, and I feel that if we keep our free roaming cats at bay then in time out feral cats will decrease in time as well. But I think these cats should possibly be euthanized if we can't trap and spay/neuter safely



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What expectations do you have of The City of Calgary when dealing with feral, stray and roaming cats?

- Support meow foundation to operate spay-neuter-release program
- Pick them up, and proceed as necessary.
- Education to the public, advertising so that people know where to find their lost cats, impound and microchip.
- The City needs to work to resolve and reduce the population of feral cats; owners need to take control of their roaming cats.
- euthanize feral cats- don't waste time and money on them.
- I support TNR programs.
- Feral cats- Indoor only cat bylaw and animal protection act of Alberta are contributing to the feral cat problem. Feral cats should be separated from stray and roaming cats in the bylaw. This will allow TNR programs and help with overpopulation of feral cat . Otherwise a released feral cat after TNR is considered abandoned by SPCA and they can charge the organization under APA. Non surgical population control measure for feral colonies. e.g. feeding of birth control medications in food.

Stray and Roaming cats are mostly owned or abandoned cats. Most of them are social.

Strict enforcement of RPO- increase the percentage of cat license . Education of citizens on the responsibility and benefits of cat license.

Decrease the cost of annual license for cats to \$10, make up of lost revenue from increased fines for not following RPO bylaws.

Compulsory ID - Microchip and/or tag. City should offer mobile microchip and licensing option.

City van visiting communities and offering license purchase and microchip for cats.

This way cats will have more chance to be united with owners and also increase accountability of owners towards responsible pet ownership.

- To have officers out an about more. Educate the public more about what can happen with your cat. Higher fines for claiming your cats especially when they are repeat offenders.
- have a barn cat program, so feral cats can be placed as mousers/shop cats, instead of euthanized in shelters
i.e.- Edmonton animal ctrl- places 800 cats a year with their program
Work with meow foundation- for TNR programs. So cats have care givers in the community for food/shelter and cats have fixed/id's, instead of euthanized in shelters.

Licensing

For those that choose not to license their cats, what do you think is a primary reason?

- cats live indoors exclusively



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- They think that their pets will never become at large - majority of the time, citizen's think they don't need to license as their pets (both cats and dogs) are "Indoor Only"
- People comment that they are indoor cats and never go outside. They also comment that cats are meant to roam and don't cause any harm.
- indoor cats, much reduced risk of getting into trouble
- Lack of awareness. Lack of responsibility towards community and their pet . Most cat owner who choose not to license their cats see this as money grab by city, and they have a belief that cats are indoor only, they never go out. Also they feel that there will be no consequences, city will never know they have unlicensed cat at home, as cat stays indoor mostly.
- lack of Money. They think if their cat is indoors, it does not apply to them.

For those that choose not to license their dogs, what do you think is a primary reason?

- lack of knowledge that licensing is required or confusion that microchip tag equals a license
- Because the citizen is Low Income.
- They don't know the reasons for licensing. They just see it as an added expense. If they loose their pets they will look to facebook or other social media to find them. They are always on leash so not running at large.
- lack of knowledge, not enough enforcement
- Lack of responsibility towards their pet, community.
- lack of money.

What benefit(s) do you believe pet owners should expect to get from licensing their pet(s)?

- I continue to support the drive home program - Citizens who have excellent care and control of their pets will pay fees continuously, however, do not currently benefit from where the license fee goes (into the shelter). If I pay for my pet licenses for 20 years and in 19 years, never need your services, and only in the last year require 1 drive home - then its worth it to me. Removing the drive home program causes a direct decrease of value for licenses within the city.
- In Okotoks, if you find a dog that has town tags you can go online or call and you can get the owners name and phone number. From there the finder can call them directly and reunite the dog home. This will reduce the amount of pickup strays we get for dogs. Often there is no history and they are licensed so they get a warning. Save time and money and have the finder contact the owner. Cut out the middle man. When there is a repeat offender have the finder call 311 automatically.
- Thanking and Acknowledging owner for being responsible pet owner. Doing a prize draw for one pet owner with active dog/cat license once a year as an encouragement. Provide one free drive home / waive first impound fee for owner who have a regular pet license for 3 years or more. Stiff fines and penalties for irresponsible pet ownership and collaborate with CRA to collect the fine. As in many case irresponsible owner can just get away by abandoning their animals in shelters.



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What rule(s) do you believe are important for a business to follow for the retail sale of animals?

- The retail sale should include counselling about the care and supplies required to meet the basic needs of the type of animal being purchased.
- Retail of pets should include education on the purposes of Permanent ID - Microchips or Tattoos. Most new pet owners don't understand the value of Microchipping. Retailers SHOULD be registering Microchips to new owners and providing education on how to update the information.
- Certified veterinary care, vaccines, and non-breeding only (altered)
- Retail stores should be able to have the dog or cat licensed from the store. A lot of owners think the dog has a licence because the store gave them a microchip or receipt.
- spay/neutering for animals if routinely/normally done. i/e yes for Dogs/cats/rabbits/ferrets. No to smaller cages animals, hamsters, mice, song birds. Only importing domesticated animals. Businesses that retail animals should be checked regularly by SPCA.

What criteria do you believe should be used when accepting imported animals in Calgary?

- none beyond what CBSA requires
- veterinary examinations and vaccine records
- Health exams by certified veterinarian, vaccines, and aggression history.[Response: Agreed.]
- Importers whose animals are historically aggressive should be held accountable.
- A strong regulation needs to be developed for imported animals. It has been a growing concerns where citizens on vacation or visits to developing country, feel sorry for a stray dog and wants to rescue it. It can cause issues with regards to contributing to pet overpopulation, exotic disease introduction etc. Citizens should be encouraged to help these animals locally. Most of the countries have animal rescue organizations and/or not for profit animal welfare organization. A donation of money or volunteer work with them can serve these animals better than flying them back home. Most of these organization also do spay , neuter programs as well.If a citizen choose to import an animal, then mandatory quarantine, veterinary exam certification, proof of vaccination, deworming must be required. Behavior assessment of medium and large breed adult dogs should be a requirement as well.
- City of Calgary should have a list of acceptable species allowed in the city. Spca checks for welfare. Vaccine status if applicable, health status if applicable.

What do you believe The City of Calgary's role should be regarding imported animals?

- none
- At this time, Imported pets typically cause the most difficulty as they can be aggressive. I would suggest behavior assessments for all imported pets.
- Veterinary examinations, vaccine records.
- More transparency with citizens. Comprehensive statics provided yearly for both cat/dog that have come into the facility. # of incoming animals. # of RTO's. # of adoptions. # of euthanasia's. # of transfers.



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i.e. Toronto animal control- has yearly statics that can be viewed on- line for any citizen.

If a framework were to be developed that governs how rescue organizations operate in The City of Calgary, what key elements do you believe the framework should oversee?

- Rescue organization should obtain a license from city to operate. City and SPCA should ensure that these organizations are annually inspected and animal welfare is not compromised. Rescue organization must follow Canadian standard for animal care guidelines. Animals with chronic health issues in foster home/shelter should receive optimum health care and quality of life should be periodically assessed. Rescue organization must be held accountable for any serious dog bites to citizens. There has been incidences of serious dog bites from rescue organization foster or adopted dogs. Animal welfare and safety of citizens both are important, and safety of citizen should not be compromised by no kill shelter policies for aggressive dogs. Rescue organization should ensure that animal are vaccinated, dewormed and have a physical exam completed by a veterinarian . Plan for spay/neuter (completed or booked for future) , and licensed before rehoming, fostering, adopting.
- city should have clear guidelines as to what animals are and are not permitted. i.e- some US states allow exotic cats, monkeys can be to kept as pets.

Urban Agriculture

What do you need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is urban beekeeping?

- property signage for safe entry
- Public take a certified course and have a permit to have urban bees.
- not allowed in urban areas
- Awareness and reassurance. Education.
- Education
Clear sign
Risks
Bite / injury prevention

What do you need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is urban livestock?

- More concerned with adequate space, shelter and care being provided within the city
- Depends on location and community. I think that people should have to take a course on the specific livestock that they have and have a permit. I would be concerned with the welfare of some animals especially larger livestock kept in small yards and also the smell of feces etc with improper disposal especially in the summer months.
- not allowed in urban areas
- Awareness and reassurance. Education.
- Education
Clear sign



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Risks
Bite / injury prevention

What do you need in place to feel reasonably safe in areas where there is urban pigeons?

- refer property owners to pest control agencies
- not allowed in urban areas
- Awareness and reassurance. Education.
- Education
zoonotic disease risk

Vicious Dogs

What other, if any, expectations do you have of owners of vicious animals?

- Require additional insurance in case the animal damages another animal or injures a person
- May face criminal charges if reoffends.
- Mandatory training and mandatory and regular check ins with CCS. We need to demonstrate that we want to work with the owners of vicious animals, to encourage successful ownership, and that we want dogs to be able to thrive with the imposed and necessary conditions.
- Owner of vicious animal should be help responsible for their actions.
More accountability and responsibility.
They should under stand the risk, and life altering physical or psychological trauma their dog can cause to a citizen or child.
The penalty should be stricter. Any dog causing level 4 or 5 bite, should be charged for criminal investigation (on par with attack with weapon).
- That they actually obey the law and follow these rules.
- All vicious dogs, should be spayed/neutered/permanent id.

Do you believe the existing rules regarding vicious dogs are sufficient? If no, what other rules should be added?

- I think any dog that's involved in a serious attack on a person should be immediately destroyed.
- Should specify type or purpose of muzzle and leash (such as; muzzle that prevents the dog from biting but allows panting)
- Owner must provide proof of training, when in public must avoid other people and pets for safety. Mandatory course to learn dog communication and ways to manage behaviours.
- the bylaw needs to be expanded so that conditions can be placed on a dog seized instead of waiting for the matter to go through the court process. Currently POs can seize a dog when damage is done. But WHY?? its not given a behavioural assessment. And there are no guidelines as to how long a dog is kept. I think the bylaw should provide some specifics. For example, a dog is seized. It will be kept for 3 business days. In order to be released, the owner must agree to conditions, ie:



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muzzle, etc. These conditions can be spoken to in court when the owner attends to deal with his tickets.

- A minimum of \$ 100,000 liability insurance for keeping a vicious license dog in your property. The dog bite could result in death or life altering physical, psychological injuries, most of the victims of dog bites are children. Liability insurance will increase accountability for owner and monetary compensation for victim.

The owner of a vicious dog should have enclosure designed to securely confine the vicious dog on the owner's property, indoors, or in a securely locked and enclosed pen, fence, or structure suitable to prevent the vicious dog from leaving such property.

No off leash public park access to vicious dog.

Warning signs on all entrances to the premises where the vicious dog resides.

Dog must have a Microchip, Rabies vaccination and must be Spayed/Neutered.

No more than one vicious dog license per home. Owner should not keep more than one vicious dog in its home.

Do not issue any vicious license to a owner convicted of two or more violations. They should not be only allowed to keep a small breed dog and no bully breed dog.

No sale, rehoming or abandoning of a dog with vicious license . It can only be relinquished to an impound facility or veterinary clinic to be euthanized.

What, if anything, do you think is needed to simplify/improve this process?

- I think the dog should immediately be removed from the owner pending destruction.
- Appeals - Citizen's appealing the rulings of the courts often results in pets residing within Animal Services for several months which can cause additional mental damage to pets.
- Depending on each individual case perhaps the animal does not need to be surrendered until after the court proceedings. Other rules would need to be in place so that the public remain safe prior to the Court hearing.
- Dogs that kill other animals like cats, while awful, should not be declared vicious - this is a prey drive.
- To improve this process there needs to be more thought given to the quality of life that is provided to the dog waiting to be deemed vicious or not. Currently, the dog is kept in the City impound and is given the barest basic needs and no enrichment which does not set the dog up for success if/when the dog is released back into the care of the owner(s). There needs to be another option for who takes care of the dog and where to both improve the quality of life for the dog and reduce the burden on the shelter staff.
- Fast track process. Dogs sit in the shelter and get more stressed, amped up and aggressive. They can be there for months and it is not a good place for them. They should be in and out within 10 days.

How can a person even afford keep fees for so long? Often gets reduced or waived.

Does the animal NEED to be seized and kept at AS until the whole process is over?



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- The entire process needs to be removed from the court system. There needs to be an in-house panel/committee/etc. to make these decisions and expedite the entire process. The time it takes to have an animal declared vicious is at times alarming and borderline inhumane (and currently totally out of CCS' control - I am not making a judgement about the way that we treat the animals whatsoever).
- The current process of declaring a vicious animal can be very lengthy and complex in some cases. The animal ends up in a kennel, isolated, for months and even a year, causes welfare issues for the animal. It also risks the safety of staff taking care of these animals, increases the costs for the organization.
Any dog with level 5 or 6 bite, should be destroyed asap/ after the end of Rabies hold. These dogs are too much of a risk to be released back in to the community. The legal process which can continue for months or even a year is not fair to the animal, who is impounded. The welfare of the dangerous dog should also be considered, and a quick euthanasia should be done.
Dogs with level 4 bite - Aim to make a decision in 30 days maximum, Owner's appeals and court proceedings can go on for a year, not fair to the impounded dog and the staff caring for these animals. It is a bite risk for them as well and animal welfare suffers as well. Since they are confined in a kennel and do not see a sunlight.
Any dog with vicious license should be destroyed after second serious bite offence (level 4 or 5).
Dog with level 2 or 3 bite should not be impounded, if possible. They should be rabies quarantined in home and decision of vicious license. Many times owners of the dogs do not show accountability and responsibility and want the city to take over and euthanize the dog. They should do it with their own veterinarian and if that is not possible, city should charge them a euthanasia fee at par with a veterinary clinic.
- Animals stay at CCS for too long waiting for hear from the courts. Owners keep appealing and then the animals can be here for 6-8 months., This is not a life for them and it does them no good. Their quality of life is already not great, they do not get to go outside and then on top of everything else their owners and "keeping" them here in a kennel for 30 more days, and then again for 30 more days... These are living animals, if the end result is going to be a euthanasia, then don't hold off, these owners need to know they are not doing their pet justice by keeping them alive longer when they are with us.

When you consider the resources needed to effectively be able to do your work, what other, if any, expectations do you have of The City of Calgary in dealing with vicious animals?

- None
- None
- I feel that the seized dogs need to have their kennel environment changed so that the long term dogs are able to go outside. Kennels need to be modified to allow this to happen safely.
- none



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- Need a clear outline for the Dog Owner on what is going to happen and when. Often we seize and can't tell them much or that another person will be in contact.
- Staff safety dealing with dangerous and vicious dog is of concern.
Regular training and seminar should be done for education and skill set.
Use of Dart gun to sedate very dangerous dog (cases were use of control pole is not possible or bite risk if too high) , can help decrease the risk for staff.
- Better education of the dog owners, as to the conditions and treatment dogs will receive while in our care.
Have dog owners, tour the facility either physically or a virtual tour on an I-pad etc. So they can see the size of kennel. Lack of exercise, footprint of kennels, inability of animal to defecate/urinate outside. Lack of socializations/handling by staff. Dog owners need to be given a realistic picture of what long term confinement will look like for their animal.
Better housing conditions for vicious dogs. Current housing for long- term confinement of vicious dogs is inadequate or poorly lacking . Physiological/social needs are wholly ignored for these animals. Physical needs, food/water/shelter are the only needs being addressed in our current system. We provide no positive stimuli, exercise, access to fresh air/vitamin d(sun), touch. This is significant, for confinements, lasting many months.

Wildlife

Based on your experiences, what do you think would improve Calgarians' ability to co-exist with these wildlife?

- Info on the city website about what is expected by citizens in dealing with them on private property or in co-existing with these types of animals and when they should contact professional pest control or ALBERTA wildlife officer to assist.
- Tell citizen's to chill out - we live in Canada - this is part of our charm.
- Education - more information to the public for what to do? what attracts wildlife to the city, to your yard etc., safety? reasons for picking up your pet feces etc.
- This is not a City issue, but private. Why does the City need to be involved?
- Provide information on how citizens can safely and humanely deter bobcats and coyotes from their property.
- Public Education and awareness. We get rat calls for squirrels, muskrats, gophers and it is a waste of time and resources.
If people knew what to do if they came across a coyote or bobcat. Those are common calls to CPS.
- Definitely knowing which agency to contact if there is an issue - CCS? Fish & Wildlife? A private pest control service? I feel like citizens get the run around a lot and agencies are quick to direct concerns elsewhere because they don't have the time, resources, training or authority to help.
- education



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- There are too many domesticated rabbits who are abandoned and have massive wild populations running at large in some communities of Calgary. They also attract wildlife like coyotes and bobcats in to the community. RPO should include rabbits now as well and license requirement for pets.