



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNERS LIVING IN YELLOWKNIFE

(Referencing By-law No. 4755)



Like several cities across Canada, the City of Yellowknife has updated its Dog Bylaw (No. 4755). Dogs are an important part of many Yellowknife families, and the City wants to help people understand the changes, respect the safety of residents and ensure the protection of dogs.

Major changes to the Dog By-law include:

- **Licences** – Dogs have always had to be licenced annually but instead of all dog licences expiring on December 31, a dog licence is now valid for one year from the date it is issued.
- **Dog Tags** – The new dog tags are a one time purchase, meaning the tag is issued for the life of the dog. Dog tags are used to identify your pet if they are lost.
- **Tethering a Dog** – A tether keeps a dog in one place and includes chains, ropes or cables. Dog owners are responsible to ensure they tie their animals without causing them to become tangled, in pain or to suffer.
- **Securing Dogs in Vehicles** – Dogs can only be transported in a vehicle or trailer if it is fully enclosed or in the back of a pick-up truck if:
 - the dog is in a ventilated kennel which is securely fastened to the bed of the truck, or
 - It is securely tethered in such a manner that they are not standing on bare metal, cannot jump or be thrown from the vehicle, is not in danger of strangulation and cannot reach beyond the outside edges of the truck.
- **Removing Dog Feces** – When you're walking a dog, you are legally required to have something with you, such as a bag or container, to pick up after your dog.
- **Penalties** – Penalties have been revised to ensure consistency with the *NWT Dog Act*.

In addition to the major changes in the Dog By-law there are a number of important rules and responsibilities to be aware of.



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LICENSING YOUR DOG

Dog licences are mandatory and must be renewed annually. Licences may be purchased at the following places:

- City Hall
- Great Slave Animal Hospital
- Yellowknife Veterinary Clinic
- Borealis Kennels and Pet Specialties

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING YOUR DOG

In order to purchase a dog licence you must:

- be at least 18 years of age.
- provide the name, breed, colour and sex of the dog to be licenced.
- show proof from a veterinarian certifying that the dog to be licenced has a current rabies vaccination.

Persons with disabilities who require the assistance of a certified guide dog are exempt from paying a licence fee. However, the guide dog must still be registered with the City of Yellowknife.

FOLLOWING THE RULES

When using public parks or multi-use trails your dog must be on a leash no longer than 2.5 meters in length and the leash shall be held or attached to a person capable of restraining the dog.

If you are using a harness to run or exercise a dog(s) it is important that the dog(s) does not create any obstruction to other traffic or pedestrians.

REMOVAL OF FECES

- If a dog is on public or private property other than the property of the owner, the owner is responsible to have in their possession a suitable means to remove the dog feces.
- If a dog defecates on any public or private property other than the property of its owner, the owner is responsible for removing the feces immediately.
- The owner of a dog is responsible for cleaning up feces on their own property. At no time shall the feces be allowed to accumulate to such an extent that it is likely to annoy or pose a health risk to others.

PROTECTION OF DOGS

All dog owners and caretakers are responsible to:

- a) ensure that the dog has adequate food and water.
- b) provide it with adequate care when it is wounded or ill.
- c) provide it with reasonable protection (keeping in mind the physical characteristics of the dog) from injuries, heat or cold.
- d) provide it with adequate shelter, ventilation and space.

When tying up a dog the owner must ensure that the dog is tethered in a manner that does not allow it to become tangled, cause pain or suffering or cause the dog to be in distress.

The abandonment of a dog is a chargeable offense.



THE ROLE OF THE CITY OF CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION:

An Officer may take any action he or she considers necessary to locate a dog in distress including taking custody of the dog and arranging for necessary transportation, food, water, shelter and veterinary care.

SEIZING OF DOGS:

An Officer may take whatever actions are appropriate to seize a dog found roaming on their own and may deliver the dog to the Poundkeeper for impoundment.

Any person may report or seize a dog found at large. A person who seizes a dog can turn the dog over to a Municipal Enforcement Officer, who upon being satisfied that the dog was at large, may deliver the dog to the Poundkeeper for impoundment.

IMPOUNDMENT:

The owner of the dog is responsible to pick up the impounded dog within five working days.

The Poundkeeper will release the dog once the following conditions have been satisfied:

- All penalties and pound fees have been paid; and
- A valid dog licence has been obtained.

LIMITING THE NUMBER OF DOGS:

There is no limit to the number of dogs an owner may keep on their property. However, owners are required to be responsible to maintain safe and healthy conditions for their dogs a clean living environment and be respectful to neighbours by ensuring their dogs are not being disruptive.

PENALTIES AND OFFENCES:

By-law No. 4755 sets out penalties for each separate offence. The penalties range from \$50 up to a mandatory court appearance depending on the severity of the offence. The maximum penalty for an individual is \$2,500, as found in the *NWT Dog Act*.

The court may, on conviction of an owner for an offence under By-law No. 4755, have any dogs which the convicted owner is held responsible destroyed for humane reasons or for the safety of the public.

The owner of a dog is guilty of an offense if that dog:

- Is roaming off leash, except in a designated off-leash area, such as the sandpits, the off leash park behind the YK Arena and Tin Can Hill.
- Chases or barks at any vehicle on a highway in a manner that is considered a nuisance.
- Enters any park, playground or other public place where signs erected by the City restrict or prohibit dogs.
- Enters any cemetery.
- Has an expired rabies vaccination certificate.
- Bites any person without provocation.
- Pursues or barks at any person in a manner that is considered a nuisance or danger.
- Unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet of any person by howling, whining or barking.



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