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## RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BYLAW

APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

# RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BYLAW

## Purpose of the Bylaw

- **To regulate domestic animals and to promote responsible pet ownership**

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## Summary

- Updated definitions and wording to create continuity throughout all County bylaws
- Simplified verbiage and removed ineffective processes so it can be understood and adhered to by residents
- More effective controls to enforce vicious dogs and ensure public safety
- Permission to hold hens on properties 1.00 – 1.99 acres with stipulations
- Ability for residents to apply to hold more than 4 dogs or animal/bird units on a property used for agricultural operations.
- Added section on Animal Abandonment.

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## Definitions:

- The section has been significantly updated to reflect current uses and updated language.

## Responsibilities / Mediation / Discretion

- This outlines intent to create an environment where residents will take responsibility for their actions.
- Mediation services and officer discretion may be used to gain compliance

## Violation Tickets / Tags:

- Removed first, second and third offence charges as it has not shown success in prosecutions.
- Addition of Municipal Tag section to be used as an option for fines.

## False Information / Obstruction:

- Section added to reduce misleading or malicious reports.
- To deter members of the public to interfere with the lawful duties of Peace Officers.

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## Vicious Dogs:

- Removed the sections that were ineffective to enforce through a more efficient process that is conducive to improving public safety.

## Hens:

- Section has been added to allow properties between 1.00 – 1.99 acres to house hens
- Guidelines for housing hens on smaller parcels were included.

## Agricultural Operations:

- Allowance for agricultural operations to have more than 4 dogs or other animal/ bird units on a parcel if those dogs are necessary for their business operations.
- Applications will be made through the Director of Enforcement Services.

## Abandonment:

- APA does not have enforceable animal abandonment section.
- Abandonment section added to bylaw as a solution to problems we expect to encounter and are currently experiencing.
- At Council's request, we have added the reference to the Animal Protection Act when dealing with animals in distress.

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## Enforcement & Penalties

- Penalties
  - To be included in the Fees & Charges Bylaw
  - Based on a review of our current penalties as well as a municipal scan of penalties
- Enforcement
  - The Bylaw allows for the officers to use discretion, mediation and awareness

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QUESTIONS?