

CITY OF PITT MEADOWS  
Dog Control Bylaw  
**Bylaw No. 2735 and amendments thereto**  
**CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY**

This is a consolidation of the bylaws listed below. The amending bylaws have been consolidated with the original bylaws for convenience only.

Certified copies of the original bylaws should be consulted for all interpretations and applications of the bylaws on this subject.

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<u>BYLAW NO.</u>	<u>ADOPTED</u>
2768	July 18, 2017

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The bylaw numbers in **bold** at the end of the clause refer to the bylaws that amended the principal bylaw.

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A Bylaw to regulate the keeping of dogs in the City  
and to provide for the operation of a Pound Facility.

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**WHEREAS** Council has the authority to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to dogs within the City;

**AND WHEREAS** Council deems it desirable to both establish a pound and regulate the operations of the pound;

**NOW THEREFORE** Council, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

**PART 1 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the City of Pitt Meadows Dog Control Bylaw No. 2735, 2016.
- 1.2 City of Pitt Meadows Dog Control Bylaw 2594, 2013 and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.
- 1.3 All powers conferred under the authority of this bylaw are in addition to the powers conferred by section 49 of the *Community Charter*.

**PART 2 – INTERPRETATION**

- 2.1 In this bylaw the following words, terms, and phrases, wherever they occur in this bylaw, have the following meaning assigned to them:

**AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR** means any behavior by a dog that unreasonably intimidates a person or domestic animal and without limitation includes snarling, growling, or pursuing a person or domestic animal in an intimidating manner;

**AGGRESSIVE DOG** means:

- a) has caused injury to a person or domestic animal;
- b) has, without provocation, aggressively pursued or harassed a person or another animal or has demonstrated a propensity, tendency or disposition to do so; or
- c) A Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to cause injury to a person or animal.

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**AT LARGE** means for a dog to be off the property of its owner and not on a leash, except for being in an off-leash area or on private property with the consent of the owner or occupier of the private property;

**BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** means a person appointed by the City for the purpose of enforcing this bylaw;

**CITY** means the lands within the municipal boundaries of the City of Pitt Meadows, or the Corporation of the City of Pitt Meadows, as the context requires;

**COUNCIL** means the municipal council of the City;

**DANGEROUS DOG** means a dangerous dog as defined in the *Community Charter*;

**DIRECTOR** means the Director responsible for the Dog Control Bylaw appointed by Council, or any person appointed by Council to serve in that capacity, and includes any authorized representative;

**DOG** means any animal of the species *canis familiaris* irrespective of sex or age;

**DOMESTIC ANIMAL** means an animal that is tame or kept by people, including any animal which is raised for food or for the use of humans;

**ENCLOSURE** means a locked pen with all of the following attributes:

- a) a secure top which provides shelter from the elements;
- b) secure sides which prevent the escape of a dog or the entry of any person not intended to access the dog;
- c) sides which are either secured to a floor of the locked pen or are embedded into the ground to a minimum depth of 45 cm;
- d) at least 1.5 metres in vertical height;
- e) at least 1.5 metres in horizontal width;
- f) at least 3 metres in horizontal length;
- g) a location at least 1 metre from the property line; and
- h) a location at least 5 metres from a neighbouring dwelling unit

**IMPOUNDED** means seized, delivered, received or taken into the pound or seized by an animal control officer;

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**LICENSE TAG** means the tag provided to the owner by the City for each calendar year that the dog is licensed;

**MUZZLE** means a device that secures the mouth of a dog so that the dog is unable to bite a person or animal;

**NEUTERED DOG** means any dog of male sex certified by a veterinarian as unable to reproduce;

**OFF-LEASH AREA** means an area where a sign is posted by the City indicating a specific geographic area where a dog may be in a public place and not be restrained by a leash;

**OWNER** means a person:

- a) who has ownership of a dog;
- b) who is keeping or harboring a dog; or
- c) to whom a license for a dog has been issued pursuant to this bylaw, except that, where the person is an individual under the age of 19 years, his or her custodial parent or legal guardian is deemed to be the owner for the purposes of this bylaw;

**PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION** means identification for a dog in the form of a visible tattoo or a microchip that contains the contact information of the owner;

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE** means, in relation to a dog, a person who has care, custody or control of the dog, except that, where the person is an individual under the age of 18 years, his or her custodial parent or legal guardian is deemed to be the person responsible for the purposes of this bylaw;

**POUND** means the land and buildings where dogs impounded under this bylaw are kept;

**POUNDKEEPER** means the person appointed from time to time by the Council for the purpose of operating the pound and carrying out provisions of this bylaw related to the impoundment of dogs;

**SPAYED DOG** means any dog of the female sex certified by a veterinarian as unable to reproduce;

**TETHERED** means something (as a rope or chain) by which an animal is fastened so that it can range only within a set radius;

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**VETERINARIAN** means any certified member of the Canadian Veterinarian Association;

**VICIOUS DOG** means:

- a) has killed or seriously injured a person or a domestic animal; or
- b) a Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person or domestic animal;

**VICIOUS DOG SIGN** means a sign which reads “Beware of Dog” or otherwise warns that there is a vicious dog on the property.

- 2.2 All words and phrases that are not defined in this bylaw must be construed in accordance with the meanings assigned to them by the *Community Charter, Local Government Act* and *Interpretation Act* as the context and circumstances require. A reference to a statute in this bylaw refers to a statute of the Province of British Columbia, and a reference to any enactment refers to that enactment as it may be amended or replaced from time to time. Words in the singular include the plural and gender specific terms include both genders and corporations. Headings in this bylaw are for convenience only and do not define or limit the scope or intent of this bylaw. If any portion of this bylaw is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, that invalid portion is severed and the remainder is deemed to continue as valid.

**PART 3 - ESTABLISHMENT OF POUND AND APPOINTMENT OF POUNDKEEPER**

- 3.1 The Council may from time to time designate a pound and appoint a poundkeeper to operate the pound.
- 3.2 The City may enter into an agreement with the poundkeeper for the provision of services related to the operation of the pound.
- 3.3 In addition to any powers, duties and functions established by agreement, the poundkeeper is responsible for:
- a) employing such employees and agents as the poundkeeper deems necessary to enable it to carry out its powers and duties;
  - b) taking into impoundment any dog seized pursuant to this bylaw;
  - c) retaining any impounded dog for the prescribed period or until the dog is claimed by its owner in accordance with this bylaw;
  - d) causing an impounded dog to be destroyed as permitted by this bylaw;

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- e) adopting out an impounded dog as permitted by this bylaw and collecting any adoption fees when adopting out the dog;
- f) collecting from the owner of any impounded dog, the impound fees and any other fees, penalties, fines and other amounts prescribed by this bylaw; and
- g) administering and enforcing the provisions of this bylaw related to the pound.

**PART 4 – KEEPING AND LICENSING OF DOGS**

- 4.1 A person must not keep, or permit there to be kept, more than three (3) dogs in a dwelling place or on a parcel of land, unless that person has a current and valid kennel license issued by the City with respect to that property.
- 4.2 Every owner of a dog over the age of six (6) months must apply for a license for that dog as set out as follows:
- a) if the dog has recently attained the age of six (6) months, within one (1) month of the dog attaining the age of six (6) months;
  - b) if the owner has recently become the owner of the dog, within one (1) month of the person becoming the owner of the dog;
  - c) if the owner has recently taken up residence in the City, within one (1) month of the owner taking up residence in the City; or
  - d) if (a) to (c) do not apply, by February 1 of each calendar year,
- and every application for a licence must be accompanied by the applicable fee as set out in Schedule “A” and payment of any penalties or fines owing with respect to the dog.
- 4.3 Every person applying for a licence for a neutered dog or spayed dog must present a certificate from a veterinarian certifying that the dog is unable to reproduce.
- 4.4 Every person who obtained a licence for an unneutered dog or unspayed dog may, before December 31, present to the City a certificate from a veterinarian certifying that the dog is unable to reproduce, and the person is entitled to a refund of the difference for that calendar year between the fee for a neutered dog or spayed dog and the fee for an unneutered dog or unspayed dog.

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- 4.5 Every owner or person responsible for a licensed dog must ensure that the licence tag for the dog is displayed on the dog at all times by affixing the licence tag to the dog's collar or harness.
- 4.6 Every license is cancelled:
- a) on December 31 of each calendar year; or
  - b) if the owner of the dog sells, gives away, or otherwise disposes of the dog.

**PART 5 - CONTROL OF DOGS**

- 5.1 Every owner or person responsible for a dog must not cause, permit or allow that dog to:
- a) be at large;
  - b) display aggressive behavior;
  - c) cause damage to property or chattels other than property or chattels owned by its owner or person responsible for the dog; or
  - d) cause injury to a person or domestic animal.
- 5.2 Where a dog leaves excrement on any public place or private property other than the property of its owner or person responsible for the dog, its owner or person responsible for the dog must immediately remove such excrement and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.
- 5.3 Every owner of a female dog in heat must confine the dog:
- a) inside a building on its owner's property provided that the building is not accessible to any other dog; or
  - b) within an enclosure in the backyard of its owner's property provided that the backyard is not accessible to any other dog,
- except that the female dog in heat may be accessible to a dog with the consent of both the owner of that dog and the owner of the female dog in heat.
- 5.4 Leash length for dogs on public property shall not exceed 2 metres;
- 5.5 Dogs shall not be tethered longer than 2 hours within a 24 hour period. A 24 hour period begins at 12:01 am and ends at 11:59 pm;
- 5.6 When with a dog in an off leash area, an owner or person responsible for the dog must carry a leash and maintain a clean line of sight to the dog;

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**PART 6 – AGGRESSIVE DOG**

- 6.1 A Bylaw Enforcement Officer may determine whether or not a dog is an aggressive dog as defined by this bylaw based on the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's direct observations or reports of the dog's behavior that the Bylaw Enforcement Officer considers to be credible;
- 6.2 If a Bylaw Enforcement Officer determines pursuant to section 6.1 that a dog is an aggressive dog, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will issue to the owner of the dog a written notice of the aggressive dog determination;
- 6.3 Following receipt of a notice pursuant to section 6.2, the owner or person responsible for the aggressive dog must:
- a) attend at City Hall within seven (7) days after a dog has been designated an aggressive dog, and pay the fee set out in this bylaw for licensing an aggressive dog;
  - b) within thirty (30) days, retain a certified dog trainer to provide behavior remediation for the dog and provide to the city, written confirmation from the certified dog trainer that the services of such trainer have been retained;
  - c) within three (3) months, provide written confirmation from a certified dog trainer that the dog has completed at least three (3) sessions of behavior remediation training;
  - d) not cause, permit, or allow the dog to be in any public place, unless the dog is secured on a leash to its owner or to the person responsible for the dog;
  - e) when in a place owned or occupied by the owner, ensure the dog is:
    - i. kept securely confined indoors;
    - ii. kept securely confined in an enclosure;
    - iii. secured on a leash to its owner or to a person responsible for the dog; or
    - iv. under the control of its owner or a person responsible for the dog in the dog is in an outside area secured by a fence preventing the dog from escaping.
  - f) not cause, permit, or allow the dog to enter any off-leash area; and
  - g) immediately notify the City that the dog is at large upon becoming aware that the dog is at large.
- 6.4 Within thirty (30) days of receipt of a notice pursuant to section 6.2, the owner may apply for reconsideration to the Director responsible for the Dog Control Bylaw to cancel the aggressive dog determination.



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- 6.5 The requirements under section 6.3 apply to the dog until the aggressive dog designation is cancelled following reconsideration under section 6.4.
- 6.6 Every owner of an aggressive dog shall notify a Bylaw Enforcement Officer within three (3) days if the aggressive dog is moved, sold, gifted or transferred to another person, and the owner remains the owner of the aggressive dog until such notice is given.
- 6.7 Leash length for aggressive dogs on public property shall not exceed 1 metre;
- 6.8 Retractable leash use is prohibited for an aggressive dog;
- 6.9 Every owner of an aggressive dog may, if after 6 months of the dog being designated an aggressive dog, apply in writing to the Director responsible for the Dog Control Bylaw to have the aggressive dog designation removed if the following requirements are fulfilled to the satisfaction of Director:
- a) the dog has not displayed any further aggressive behavior;
  - b) the City has not received any further complaints in regard to that dog;
  - c) the owner provides proof that the owner and the dog have successfully completed a course designed to train and remediate an aggressive dog; and
  - d) the dog has permanent identification.

**PART 7 – VICIOUS DOGS**

- 7.1 A Bylaw Enforcement Officer may determine whether or not a dog is a vicious dog as defined by this bylaw based on the Bylaw Enforcement Officer's direct observations or reports of the dog's behavior that the Bylaw Enforcement Officer considers to be credible.
- 7.2 If a Bylaw Enforcement Officer determines pursuant to section 7.1 that a dog is a vicious dog, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will issue to the owner of the dog a written notice of the vicious dog determination.
- 7.3 Following receipt of a notice pursuant to section 7.2, the owner or person responsible for the vicious dog must:
- a) attend at City Hall within 7 days after a dog has been designated a vicious dog and pay the fee set out in this bylaw for licensing a vicious dog;

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- b) ensure the dog has permanent identification within seven (7) days of the dog being designated a vicious dog, and provide a copy of the information contained thereon to the City.
  - c) within seven (7) days, display a clearly visible vicious dog sign at all points of entry onto any premises where the vicious dog is kept temporarily or permanently, warning that there is a vicious dog on the premises;
  - d) within thirty (30) days, retain a certified dog trainer to provide behavior remediation for the vicious dog and provide to the City written confirmation from the certified dog trainer that the services of such trainer have been retained;
  - e) within three (3) months, provide written confirmation from a certified dog trainer that the vicious dog has completed at least three (3) sessions of behavior remediation training;
  - f) not cause, permit or allow the vicious dog to be in any public place, unless the vicious dog is muzzled and secured on a leash to its owner or to the person responsible for the vicious dog;
  - g) not cause, permit or allow the vicious dog to be on private property without first informing the owner or occupier of the private property that the dog is a vicious dog;
  - h) when in a place owned or occupied by the owner, ensure the vicious dog is:
    - i. kept securely confined indoors;
    - ii. kept securely confined in an enclosure;
    - iii. secured on a leash to its owner or to a person responsible for the dog;
    - iv. under the control of its owner or a person responsible for the dog if the dog is in an outside area secured by a fence preventing the dog from escaping;
  - i) not cause, permit, or allow the vicious dog to enter any off-leash area; and
  - j) immediately notify the City that the vicious dog is at large upon becoming aware that the vicious dog is at large.
- 7.4 Within 30 days of receipt of a notice pursuant to section 7.2, the owner may apply for reconsideration to the Director responsible for the Dog Control Bylaw to cancel the vicious dog determination.
- 7.5 The requirements under section 7.3 apply to the dog until the vicious dog determination is cancelled following reconsideration under section 7.4.

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- 7.6 Every owner of a vicious dog shall notify a Bylaw Enforcement Officer within three (3) days if the vicious dog is moved, sold, gifted or transferred to another person, and the owner remains the owner of the vicious dog under this bylaw until such notice is given.
- 7.7 Leash length for vicious dogs on public property shall not exceed 1 metre;
- 7.8 Retractable leash use is prohibited for a vicious dog.
- 7.9 Every owner of a vicious dog may, if after one year of the dog being designated a vicious dog, apply in writing to the Director responsible for the Dog Control Bylaw to have the vicious dog designation replaced by an aggressive dog designation if the following requirements are fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Director responsible for the Dog Control Bylaw:
- a) the dog has not displayed any further vicious behavior;
  - b) the City has not received any further complaints in regard to that dog;
  - c) the owner provides proof that the owner and the dog have successfully completed a course designed to train and remediate a vicious dog and the instructor of the course has written a letter supporting the dog receiving an aggressive dog designation instead of a vicious dog designation; and
  - d) the dog has permanent identification.
- 7.10 A dog designated as an aggressive dog under section 7.9 of this bylaw is subject to all of the requirements of an aggressive dog under this bylaw but may not have the aggressive dog designation removed under section 6.9 of this bylaw.

**PART 8 – SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS**

- 8.1 A Bylaw Enforcement Officer or police officer may seize a dog when:
- a) the dog is not licensed in accordance with section 4.2 of this bylaw;
  - b) the dog appears to be at large;
  - c) the dog is designated as an aggressive dog and its owner is in contravention of section 6.3; or
  - d) the dog is designated as a vicious dog and its owner is in contravention of section 7.3;
  - e) there are reasonable ground to believe that the dog is a dangerous dog as defined under section 49 of the *Community Charter*.

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- 8.2 In order to seize a dog under section 8.1, a Bylaw Enforcement Officer may enter on any property as permitted by section 16 or section 49 of the *Community Charter*.
- 8.3 A dog is deemed to be impounded when it is seized under section 8.1.
- 8.4 The owner of an impounded dog may reclaim the dog upon application to the poundkeeper accompanied by the following:
- a) evidence satisfactory to the poundkeeper of ownership of the dog;
  - b) payment of the applicable fees as set out in Schedule “A”;
  - c) payment of the dog licence fee, as set out in Schedule “A”, if the dog does not have a license; and
  - d) payment of any penalties or fines owing with respect to the dog.
- 8.5 If an impounded dog is not reclaimed by its owner within 14 days of it being impounded, the poundkeeper may offer it to the public for adoption.
- 8.6 The poundkeeper may cause an impounded dog to be destroyed humanely by a veterinarian in the following circumstances:
- a) a veterinarian is of the opinion that immediate veterinarian intervention cannot prolong the dog’s life;
  - b) a veterinarian is of the opinion that allowing the dog to live would result in the dog suffering unduly;
  - c) the dog has not been reclaimed by its owner within 21 days of it being impounded; or
  - d) its owner has consented in writing to the dog being destroyed.
- 8.7 If a dog is impounded pursuant to section 49 of the *Community Charter* and is destroyed pursuant to an order of the Provincial Court, its owner must pay to the City, within 30 days of the order, all boarding fees owing for it being impounded as set out in Schedule “A”.
- 8.8 No person may release or cause an impounded dog to be released from the pound except in accordance with this bylaw or with the permission of the poundkeeper.

**PART 9 – ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

- 9.1 This bylaw may be enforced by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, a police officer, or the poundkeeper.

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- 9.2 Every person must not obstruct a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, police officer, or poundkeeper engaged in the enforcement of this bylaw.
- 9.3 Any person who:
- a) violates or fails to comply with any provision of this bylaw;
  - b) permits, suffers or allows any action or thing to be done in violation of this bylaw; or
  - c) fails or neglects to do anything required to be done under this bylaw, contravenes this bylaw, and where the contravention is a continuing one, each day that the contravention continues amounts to a separation contravention.
- 9.4 Any person who contravenes this bylaw commits an offence and upon conviction by way of a proceeding under the *Offence Act* is liable to a penalty not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for each offence and the costs of prosecution.
- 9.5 This bylaw may be enforced by the issuance of a bylaw notice under the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 2439, 2009.

READ a FIRST and SECOND time the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

READ a THIRD time the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

FINALLY CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

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John Becker, Mayor

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Tina Penney, Corporate Officer

**SCHEDULE "A" - FEES**

1. There is no licence fee in respect of a certified guide dog or certified assistance dog.
2. Dog Licencing Fees for unneutered dogs or unspayed dogs:
  - (a) \$50.00 if the dog is being licensed for the first time under this bylaw.  
*(Bylaw 2768, 2017)*
  - (b) \$50.00 if paid prior to February 1.
  - (c) \$65.00 if paid on or after February 1.
  - (d) \$10.00 if the owner is 65 years old or older.
3. Dog Licencing Fees for neutered dogs or spayed dogs:
  - (a) \$20.00 if the dog is being licensed for the first time under this bylaw.  
*(Bylaw 2768, 2017)*
  - (b) \$20.00 if paid prior to February 1.
  - (c) \$35.00 if paid on or after February 1.
  - (d) \$10.00 if the owner is 65 years old or older.
4. Dog Licencing Fees for all aggressive dogs are \$150.00.
5. Dog Licencing Fees for all vicious dogs are \$300.00.
6. The replacement fee for a lost or defaced licence tag is \$5.00.
7. Impound fees for a dog which is not an aggressive or vicious dog:
  - (a) \$50.00 for the first impoundment.
  - (b) \$75.00 for the second impoundment.
  - (c) \$150.00 for each subsequent impoundment.
8. Impound fees for an aggressive dog:
  - (a) \$100.00 for the first impoundment.
  - (b) \$200.00 for the second impoundment.
  - (c) \$300.00 for each subsequent impoundment.
9. Impound fees for an vicious dog:
  - (a) \$400.00 for the first impoundment;
  - (b) \$500.00 for the second impoundment;
  - (c) \$600.00 for each subsequent impoundment.

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10. A boarding fee of \$25.00 for each day or part thereof in which a dog is in the pound.