



The City of Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services strives to ensure that dogs, their owners and neighbours live in safety and harmony. This brochure outlines responsibilities associated with owning a pet in the city of Calgary.

While dogs make great pets and loving companions, there are responsibilities associated with owning a dog. Dogs require daily feeding and exercise, training and socialization, continual access to fresh water, grooming, annual vaccinations and health checkups by a veterinarian.

Licensing and identification

All dogs three months of age and older residing in the city of Calgary must be licensed. The City of Calgary enforces a zero tolerance policy on all unlicensed dogs. The fine for having an unlicensed dog is \$250. A dog must wear his licence when he is off of the owner's property.

There is a reduced fee for licensing a spayed or neutered dog. However, under the bylaw, there is a \$500 fine for falsifying information.

It is important for dogs to have permanent identification in case they get lost and lose their licence tag. Permanent identification assists us in returning dogs to their owners. A tattoo is one form of identification but the negative side of tattooing is that it can smear or fade with time, becoming difficult to read. The preferred method of permanent identification is a microchip, which is inserted under the skin and can be scanned for owner information if the dog is lost.

Remember to update your contact information with Animal Services and your microchip provider (if applicable) when you move so your dog's file is current.



The scoop on dog poop

You must pick up all defecation produced by your dog both on and off your property. This includes all City parks and other people's private property.

Besides smelling foul and looking unsightly, dog feces also pose a health issue. Eggs of internal parasites found in dog feces can be transmitted to people and other pets.

Be a responsible dog owner and always carry a plastic bag with you when walking your dog, on or off-leash, to immediately pick up his poop and deposit it in an appropriate garbage container.

The fine for not picking up your dog's poop is \$250.

Spaying and neutering

Responsible dog owners ensure their dogs are spayed or neutered. Not only does spay/neuter surgery prevent dog overpopulation, it also makes for happier pets. Neutering prevents offensive mating behaviours in male dogs and spaying prevents heat cycles in female dogs. Spay/neuter surgery decreases your dog's urge to run away and any tendency to bite. Spaying and neutering have many health benefits for your dog and can improve your pet's disposition.

Dogs at large

According to City bylaws, dogs are not allowed to be "at large". This means they need to be under the control of their owners at all times. The fine for an "at large" dog is \$100.



Ensure that your fence or dog run is intact and the gates are secured so your dog cannot get out of the yard. Always ensure that your dog is wearing a collar and licence so that she can be returned home in the event she gets out of the yard. A dog that is out without his owner is considered "at large."

Responsible dog owners always keep their dogs on-leash when walking them, except when walking in a designated off-leash area. When in doubt, always look for signs indicating an off-leash area. If there is no visible sign, the area is considered on-leash.

Under Calgary's Bylaw, a dog that is tied up and left alone outside a building such as a store or school is considered "at large."

Dog etiquette

While some owners find it acceptable for their dogs to jump up on them, other people may not appreciate it and many are very frightened by the experience. With basic obedience training, dogs can be trained not to jump up but instead, to sit and stay while meeting other people and dogs.

Dog owners must ensure their dogs do not bite, bark at, threaten or chase other animals, bicycles, vehicles or people within any park or area of the city or cause damage to City property.

Off-leash areas

In Calgary, we are very privileged to have numerous off-leash areas. Off-leash areas are not "out of control" areas and dog owners have responsibilities when using them. Dog owners must have control of their dogs at all times, which means that the dog must respond to voice, sound



or sight commands from the owner and come when called. Ensure that your dog is not at such a distance that it is incapable of responding.

Keep your dog on a leash while in the parking lot adjacent to an off-leash area to prevent any injuries from moving vehicles.

Pathways

All of Calgary's pathways are on-leash for dogs, even in off-leash areas (with the exception of Southland Park). You and your dog must remain on the right-hand side of the pathway at all times unless moving around other pathway users. Ensure that your dog does not interfere with or obstruct any other pathway user. Leashes must be no greater than two metres in length. Dogs must not be attached by a leash to moving bikes or wheeled conveyance.

City parks

Unless indicated otherwise with appropriate signage, all parks in the city of Calgary are considered on-leash for dogs. Dogs are not permitted on school grounds, playgrounds, tot lots, sports fields, golf courses, cemeteries and wading or swimming areas at any time. Owners must ensure that their dog does not enter or swim in any body of water within a park with the exception of a river that runs through or adjacent to a City park.

Dogs are not permitted in Prince's Island Park or on the pedestrian bridges to the park on Canada Day, July 1, and Heritage Day.



Dogs in vehicles

Dogs should always be secured while in a moving vehicle, whether in a secured kennel or in a harness and doggie seat belt.

For safety reasons, dogs in the back of pickup trucks must be enclosed in a trailer, in a truck bed covered by a topper, secured in a ventilated kennel or securely tethered in the back of the truck. They are not to be standing on bare metal.

Dogs are not to be put in danger of being strangled, able to jump or be thrown from a vehicle, nor should they be able to reach beyond the outside edges of the truck. These conditions apply to both moving and parked trucks.

Dog unattended in vehicles

Dogs are not to be left unattended in a vehicle unless they are provided with suitable ventilation. Their movement must also be restricted to prevent access to people outside the vehicle.

Dogs and barking

Barking is instinctive to dogs whether we like it or not. Dogs bark out of boredom, to communicate with other dogs, to alert their owners of possible danger and to protect their property. Responsible dog owners must ensure their dogs' barking is not disturbing neighbours. They should also ensure their dogs are adequately exercised and stimulated to prevent boredom barking. The fine for nuisance barking is \$100.

Adopting a dog from Animal Services

Dogs that are impounded can be adopted. Unclaimed dogs are available for adoption 10 days after entering the shelter if the owner is known or on the fourth day if the owner is unknown.

Check our website, www.calgary.ca/animalservices, for photos of the dogs and an explanation of our adoption procedures. The website is updated every 15 minutes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You may also visit our facility at 2201 Portland St. S.E. to view dogs that are available for adoption.

Adoption fees for dogs include an examination by a veterinarian, initial vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, a micro-chip implant and a six month City of Calgary licence.

Reporting a lost dog

If you lose your dog, Animal Services can help. Begin by taking a good look around your yard and then extending your search further out into the neighbourhood.

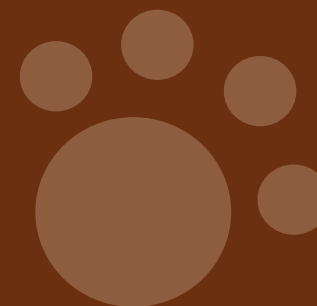
If you still have not found your dog, call 3-1-1 to file a lost dog report. Visit our website at www.calgary.ca/animalservices to view the photos of the dogs in our facility. We also suggest you visit our shelter to view the pictures of the dogs. Continue to visit Animal Services and the Humane Society weekly to see if your dog has been surrendered. Ensure your lost dog report remains on file.

Complaints

To file a complaint or concern about a dog, contact Animal & Bylaw Services at 3-1-1.

The City of Calgary Animal Services

2201 Portland St. S.E.
Telephone: 3-1-1



This brochure provides information on how to be a responsible dog owner and the role of The City of Calgary Animal Services in regards to dogs and the Responsible Pet Ownership bylaw.

For more information on dogs and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw go to: www.calgary.ca/animalservices or call 3-1-1.



Responsible Dog Ownership

www.calgary.ca/animalservices
call 3-1-1

