



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **Bylaw 25-991 Animal Control**
SUBMISSION TO: REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MEETING DATE: May 27, 2025
DEPARTMENT: CORPORATE SERVICES
STRATEGIC PLAN: Governance

REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
CAO: MANAGER:
DIR: EBK PRESENTER: SS
LEG: SS

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite) – N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – Bylaw 18-799 Animal Control Bylaw, Bylaw 94-014 Keeping of Animals in Hamlet of DeBolt, Town of Grande Cache Bylaw 801 Animal Control Bylaw

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That Council give second reading to Bylaw 25-991 Animal Control, as presented.

MOTION: That Council give third reading to Bylaw 25-991 Animal Control, as presented.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Greenview's animal control bylaws establish regulations for the licensing, control, and welfare of domestic animals. There are currently three different bylaws regulating animal ownership within the municipality. The current Greenview Bylaw 18-799 Animal Control does not include provisions for owning animals in Grande Cache, an urban area that requires different considerations. Bylaw 94-014 Keeping Animals in the Hamlet of DeBolt contravenes the current bylaws and is not currently being enforced. As well, Bylaw 801 Animal Control, is a remaining Town of Grande Cache bylaw that needs to be repealed. In undertaking a review of these bylaws, this created a timely opportunity to amalgamate the two bylaws into a single cohesive Animal Control Bylaw. One of the several advantages of consolidating these bylaws is providing the public and enforcement authorities easier access to locate information related to municipal animal regulations.

As consolidating did not allow exact language to be moved from one bylaw to the other, the legislative changes are noted below.

Changes

Administration has removed the specifics for confinement; as how they are currently written is overly prescriptive and difficult to enforce. Requiring a declaration of vaccination to license a dog under the age of 4 months has not been kept from the Grande Cache bylaw. Off-leash park provisions have not been kept as no hamlet has an off-leash park.

In keeping with current practices, Bylaw 25-991 only requires annual dog licenses in Grande Cache. They will become available on a voluntary basis in the remainder of Greenview. The regulation of dog teams has not been included, residents will still need to follow the restrictions on the number of dogs.

The bylaw has been broken into regulations that will affect everyone within Greenview and regulations that will only apply to those within Hamlet Service Areas. It has also been reformatted for readability. Grammar, definitions and other house keeping changes have also been made.

In reviewing the animal control regulations for other municipalities, for additional context, the following was determined:

Municipality	Dog Limit (Per Household)	Cat Limit (Per Household)	Licenses required
Big Lakes County	Maximum of 3	Maximum of 3 within hamlets	Both cats and dogs
County of Grande Prairie No. 1	Up to 4 dogs on properties with 10 acres or less	Not regulated	Dogs only
MD of Pincher Creek No. 9	Maximum of 3	Maximum of 3	Dog only
Lac Ste. Anne County	Maximum of 3	Not regulated	Dogs only
Parkland County	Maximum of 4 dogs, cats or a combination of either on residential parcels less than 2.0 acres	No limit on cats on residential parcels greater than 2.0 acres	Dogs only
Strathcona County	Maximum of 3 dogs on properties with 5 acres or less. Maximum of 5 dogs for residences over 5 acres	Not regulated	Removed license requirements this year
MD of Smoky River	Not regulated	Not regulated	Not regulated
Lac La Biche County	Maximum 4 dogs	Not regulated	Dogs only

Regulating Cats

Regulating cats has not been an easy task across municipalities in Alberta. Without bylaw provisions, Peace Officers are unable to trap or pick up stray cats. They can only intervene in extreme cases, such as animal cruelty or if the animal is in distress. Public frustration is an ongoing challenge, yet participation in cat licensing programs is low. Rural or specialized municipalities have opted instead to introduce collaborative measures with their residents. Strathcona County has partnered with a non-profit shelter, responding to humane concerns raised by residents. As well as encourage property owners to take steps to humanely deter unwanted cats. Parkland County, another rural county with hamlets, opted for a trap, neuter, release initiative, where the county, over the course of a month, successfully spayed or neutered 107 cats to prevent population growth. This program has been generally well-received, as it addresses overpopulation issues without requiring rural residents to license or confine their cats.

While Big Lakes County has the requirement to license cats, they have determined that the program would be more advantageous in a town or city. Participation in the licensing program remains very low.

Enforcement Statistics

In 2024 Greenview's Community Peace Officers responded to 160 animal related complaints. The scope of these complaints ranges from complaints of excessive barking to animal attacks. Calls regarding cats being a nuisance are more frequent in rural areas over urban ones.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of Council accepting the recommended motion is Greenview's Animal Control Bylaw will be updated to reflect current best practices, along with allowing for easier access to this information.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: Council has the alternative to make additional amendments to the bylaw.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

Inform

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL

Inform - To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC

Inform - We will keep you informed.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:

Administration will advertise the bylaw changes.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Bylaw 25-991 Animal Control Bylaw – Draft
- Controlled Confinement Order – For information
- Dangerous Dog Order – For information
- Bylaw 18-799 Animal Control Bylaw - Active
- Bylaw 94-014 Keeping of Animals in Hamlet of DeBolt - Active
- Town of Grande Cache Bylaw 801 Animal Control Bylaw – Active