

ANIMAL BYLAW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated: January 31, 2019

General

What does 'complete control' mean? Complete control means that the dogs are close enough and will respond immediately to voice, sound or sight commands.

What is the required leash length? All leashes must be two metres or less. This is to ensure owners have complete control of their dogs at all times in public areas, as well as to keep them close and avoid conflict with other trail users.

When off my property, does my dog need to be on a leash? Yes. Dogs must be on a leash at all times unless in a posted off-leash area. However, even in off-leash areas, dogs must be on a leash when on or within one metre of a trail. This is to avoid unintentional conflict between other trail users (joggers, cyclists) and dogs.

Where are dogs not permitted? Dogs are not allowed on playground structures and the surrounding area.

Off-Leash Areas

Where are the designated off-leash areas in the City? To see detailed maps of each off-leash area, as well as an overview map, click on [Dog-Friendly Parks and Off-Leash Areas](#).

Is all of Lacombe Park Lake off-leash? No, only the west side of the park is the designated off-leash area. For details, click on the Lacombe Dog-Friendly Map under [Dog-Friendly Parks and Off-Leash Areas](#).

Can my dog swim in Lacombe Park Lake? Is it safe? While not prohibited, owners who allow their dogs to swim in Lacombe Park Lake do so at their own risk.

Can I use the Off-Leash Areas when sporting events are taking place? If a regularly organized sporting event is taking place, you will need to exercise your dog at another off-leash area. Many of the off-leash areas do not have organized sporting events and can be used regularly.

Can I use outdoor ice rinks as off-leash areas? Yes, any boarded outdoor rink can be used when it is not being used for a sporting event (i.e. when the ice is in through the winter or if it is booked for soccer or football through the spring, summer, or fall).

If trails and playgrounds are on-leash areas, why are they in the middle of off-leash areas? The City of St. Albert ensures that all neighbourhoods are connected to each other with an extensive trail network. In addition, there are an abundance of playgrounds located in all neighbourhoods throughout the City. In order to meet the requirement to endeavor to provide an off-leash area in every neighbourhood, this has resulted in off-leash areas needing to be located in some parks with playgrounds and/or trails.

Dog Defecation

What does the bylaw say about dog owners/walkers picking up after their dog?

The Animal Bylaw states that dog owners/walkers are required to immediately pick up after their dog when off of their own property. As well, all dog owners/walkers must always carry a means of picking up after their dog. You will be required to show what you will use, if asked by a Peace Officer.

Determination of a Dangerous Dog

Why does the bylaw include this section? This section has been added to the bylaw to allow the City to take proactive steps to try and prevent dog attacks.

Has a specific breed been declared dangerous? No. A dog will be declared dangerous purely on its behaviour.

Licences

When are dog licences due? Dog licences are due January 31 of each year.

How old must a dog owner be? A dog owner must be 18 years of age or older.

At what age does my dog need a licence? Dogs six months of age or older are required to be licenced.

I just bought a new dog. When do I need to get a licence? A person is required to get a dog licence within 15 days of becoming a resident or becoming a dog owner.

What is the cost of a dog licence as of January 2017? A new dog licence will cost \$71 for a year.

If my dog is spayed or neutered, do I get a reduced fee? Yes. The licence fees for spayed and neutered dogs are \$38.

Does the City collect any other fee from dog owners? Included in the above fees is \$10 from every dog licence being deposited into a Capital Reserve that is used by the City to fund the continued establishment of dog-friendly parks.

What does the Dog Licensing Fee Cover? The Animal Licence fee in St. Albert is for licensing your dog so it easily identifies you as your pet's owner. If the dog gets lost it will be easy to reunite you and your dog. The license provides peace of mind should your dog go missing.

The City collects approximately \$330,000 in Dog License fees per year which helps with the administration of the Animal Control Program. Out of that amount approximately \$80,000 (or \$10 per dog license) goes into a reserve that is used to fund the development and amenities within off-leash parks. The remaining money is used to offset the costs of providing the animal control service to the community which includes the costs of full-time Community Peace Officers who as part of their duties respond to calls from residents and investigate matters such as, loose, out of control/dangerous dogs; nuisance barking as well as Animal Protection Act concerns.

Fines & Penalties

What if I don't renew my dog licence on time? Dog owners pay \$101.50 (\$52 for a spayed/neutered dog) if their dog licence is not renewed by January 31. This fee is meant as a deterrent in order to reduce the amount of time and resources Municipal Enforcement spends in this particular area. Dog owners can be subject to a \$250 fine if they are found to be in contravention of the bylaw.