



# ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY BYLAW

The Animal Responsibility Bylaw contains important provisions for animal welfare, control, licensing, duties of City of Nanaimo animal owners, penalties, and enforcement. This is a summary only. To ensure complete, accurate and current information, please refer to Animal Responsibility Bylaw No. 7316 and Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7041.



## FAST FACTS

### Dogs

- It is mandatory for every dog over 4 months old to be licensed yearly and to wear the tag on their collar.
- Dog licences expire annually on December 31 and can be purchased at City Hall or Nanaimo Animal Control Services.
- No person shall keep more than 4 dogs over the age of 16 weeks (some exceptions apply – see bylaw for details).
- When in public, dogs must be on a leash at all times and under the control of a competent person. Dogs may be off-leash in designated off-leash areas only, and must still be under the control of a competent person.
- Female dogs in heat must remain within an enclosed building, enclosure or pen, except to urinate or defecate on the owner's private lands, or to go for a walk only when firmly held on a leash by a competent person.
- Dog feces must be cleaned up and disposed of in a sanitary manner - DO NOT throw the bag in the bushes!
- Dogs may not bark, howl, yelp, cry, or make other noises continuously for fifteen minutes or more, or in a manner that unduly disturbs the peace, quiet, rest, comfort or tranquility of the surrounding neighbourhood.

### Cats

- No person shall own, keep, possess or harbour any cat over the age of 6 months unless it has been spayed or neutered, or the person has a valid business licence to breed cats.
- Cats must have sufficient identification (i.e. a tag with owner's valid contact info, traceable tattoo, or microchip) so that lost cats can be quickly reunited with their owner.
- No person shall keep more than 5 cats over the age of 12 weeks (some exceptions apply – see bylaw for details).
- No person may feed or leave food out for any cat, unless they are registered with an approved organization with a Trap Neuter Release program (such as the CatNap Society).
- Cats must not trespass on private property without the consent of the occupier or owner.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Nanaimo Animal Control Services**  
250-616-0233

**City of Nanaimo Dog Licensing**  
Questions: 250-755-4415  
dog.lic@nanaimo.ca  
www.nanaimo.ca

### Reporting Distressed Dogs in Hot Cars

Nanaimo Animal Control Services  
Monday through Friday (9 am - 5 pm)  
Saturday (9 am - 4 pm)  
250-616-0233

RCMP (after hours only)  
250-754-2345

**Nanaimo Regional Landfill**  
Disposal of dead animals  
250-722-2044

**Conservation Officer Service**  
Report wildlife concerns  
1-877-952-7277

# AGGRESSIVE DOGS

Owners of aggressive dogs need to be aware of their responsibilities. The Animal Responsibility Bylaw requires the owner to:

- ensure that an aggressive dog is not in any public place unless it is muzzled, on a leash not exceeding six feet, and under the control of a competent individual. Aggressive dogs are not allowed on school grounds, within 30 m of any playground, or any designated off-leash area, or park;
- keep aggressive dogs securely confined indoors, or if outdoors, behind a secure fence at least 6 feet high or in an enclosure that is located in the rear yard, locked to prevent casual entry by another person, and has been inspected and approved by the Poundkeeper;
- prominently display at each entrance to the property a sign, as outlined in the Bylaw, notifying there is an aggressive dog on the property;
- notify Nanaimo Animal Control within one week if the dog is sold, given away, or dies; and
- notify Nanaimo Animal Control immediately if the dog is loose or has bitten or attacked any person or animal.



# OTHER CONCERNS

Call Nanaimo Animal Control Services for assistance with:

- sick or injured domestic animals
- attacking or aggressive dogs
- barking dogs
- neglected or stray dogs or cats
- unlicensed dogs
- dogs tied up for more than 2 hours within a 24 hour period.
- dogs off-leash outside of an off-leash area
- dogs kept outside without appropriate shelter to protect the dog from heat, cold and wet.

# PROHIBITION OF CRUELTY

In addition to the Province's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the Animal Responsibility Bylaw prohibits animal cruelty and requires people keeping animals to:

- provide clean drinking water, sufficient food, sanitary receptacles, exercise, clean bedding in a warm/ dry area, and veterinary care;
- not keep an animal outside, unless the animal is protected from all elements; and
- not keep any animal tethered to a fixed object for longer than 2 hours within a 24 hour period and to never use a choke collar or a rope around the animal's neck.

# DOGS IN HOT CARS

If you see a dog confined in an enclosure, including a vehicle, without adequate ventilation to prevent distress, contact nearby businesses to alert their customers, or, in a park or non-commercial area, call out to see if the owner is nearby. In a residential area, door-knocking is recommended. If the owner cannot readily be found, use the contact information on the front page to report a possible dog in distress, making sure to record the make, model and licence plate of the car, whether the windows are down or not, whether there is a water source, and the physical description of the dog.

*Note: signs of a dog in distress include: lethargic and unresponsive behaviour; excessive panting or drooling; a dark purple or grey tongue; or loss of bowel control.*

# FEES

Dog Licence Fee	Sterilized: \$30/year Unsterilized: \$60/year
Aggressive Dog Licence Fee	\$90/year
Replacement Tag (to replace lost dog tag)	\$5.00
Impound Fees (licenced dog)	\$15 plus \$15/day
Impound Fees (unlicenced dog)	\$150 plus \$15/day
Impound Fees (sterilized cat without identification)	\$25 plus \$10/day
Impound Fees (unsterilized cat, regardless of identification)	\$100 plus \$10/day

*Note: upon proof of sterilization within 30 days of the impoundment date, the owner will be refunded \$75*