



Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Review - Summary of Phase One Engagement

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard Phase 1 Engagement – Executive Summary

June 29, 2020

The purpose of the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw is to create a positive relationship between pets and people and help create a safe environment for Calgary. Calgarians' needs have changed since the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw was updated 12 years ago and The City of Calgary is reviewing this bylaw to better understand how it reflects community values and meets the needs of all Calgarians.

Engagement was conducted in-person and online between February 26 and May 27, 2020. A wide range of techniques were used to reach people 'where they spend time'. This allowed people to provide independent input and have collaborative conversations. Using different techniques also takes people's interest, abilities and investment in project outcomes into consideration. Engagement focused on reaching different stakeholders, including pet owners, people who do not own pets, City staff and pet industry representatives (e.g. veterinary clinics, businesses, pet daycares, pet sitters, dog walkers, animal rescue organizations, academics, breeders, kennels, other nearby municipalities, etc.).

Stakeholders provided a wide range of input into the following topics, including:

- Wildlife in Calgary – mindful urban planning, more information is needed about wildlife and we all have a role to ensure our safety and theirs
- Feral, Stray and Roaming Cats – minimize impact to other people and animals, deal with overpopulation, and take care of cats' wellbeing
- Urban Agriculture – proper set up, training and ensure no negative impact to neighbours
- Vicious dogs – be in control, reduce the dog's contact with others, assess and strive to re-train when possible, improve pre-court care, and try to understand why an incident occurred
- Licensing – outdoor versus indoor, reduce fees, improve value, consider licensing or registering other kinds of pets, review expectations for dog walkers and dog-walking businesses, review retail sale of pets and expectations and liability regarding imported animals, guidelines for framework for pet rescue organizations
- Administration – avoid overregulating, improve customer service, be in control of pets, follow rules, enhanced communication and mutual respect between people, and review multi-use spaces
- Responsible pet ownership – caring for pets, minimize impact to others and following the rules

For more input provided by the public, City staff and targeted stakeholders, please see the [What we Heard report](#).