



Subject: *Dog Bylaw - Amendments to Bylaw P-1000*
To: CAO for Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: February 2, 2026
Related Motions: C11(406), C17(234), C19(306)
Prepared by: Kelly Ash, Manager of Development Services
Approved by: John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development

Summary

As a result of the termination of the contract with the NS SPCA and the change to lifetime dog tags, Staff have reviewed Bylaw P-1000, Dog Bylaw. The proposed amendments have been added to the bylaw to reflect the change to lifetime tags, and to provide better clarity in regards to barking dog complaints. There are also some housekeeping amendments. The proposed amendments have been reviewed for compliance with the MGA and current case law. This review also triggers an amendment to the Municipal Fees Policy to add impound and redemption fees.

Financial Impact Statement

Associated costs would include advertising of the bylaw amendments.

Recommendation

That the amended Dog Bylaw be given first reading.

That the amended Municipal Fees Policy be approved.

Recommended Motions

*Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council give first reading to Bylaw P-1000-2, an amendment to Bylaw P-1000, Dog Bylaw, and that;
Council gives notice of intent for updates to the Municipal Fee Policy, including the addition of impound and boarding fees, as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated February 17, 2026.*

Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) - February 17, 2026

Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council gives notice of intent for updates to the Municipal Fee Policy, including the addition of impound and boarding fees, as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated February 17, 2026.

Regular Meeting of Council - February 25, 2026

*Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council give first reading to Bylaw P-1000-2, an amendment to Bylaw P-1000, Dog Bylaw, and that;
Council approves the updates to the Municipal Fee Policy, including the addition of impound and boarding fees, as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated February 17, 2026.*

Background

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) enables the Municipality to enact a Dog bylaw to license and regulate dogs within the Municipality. The Act allows for the following provisions to be considered through municipal dog bylaws:

- Regulating the running at large of dogs;
- Defining fierce or dangerous dogs;
- Regulating the keeping of fierce or dangerous dogs;
- Authorizing the Municipality to impound, sell, euthanize or otherwise dispose of dogs that violate certain provisions of the bylaw.

Amendments to the Dog Bylaw in 2019 expanded the definitions for “mitigating factors” and added a section specific to repeat offender dogs and conditions for release. This update is to provide further clarity on barking dogs, and housekeeping amendments due to the change from annual tags to lifetime tags.

Discussion

With the upcoming transition of dog control services back to the Municipality in April 2026, Staff completed a review of the current bylaw. Based on that review, the following amendments are proposed:

- Updated the definition for “Kennel” to require a license for breeding kennels only for the purpose of this bylaw.
- Updated the definition for “Noise” to provide more clarity and guidance to staff and residents when investigating barking complaints.
- Added a definition for what constitutes a “Neighbourhood” and what is defined as “Persistently”.
- Removed all references to annual dog tags, and replaced with lifetime tags.
- Added an option for a dog to be microchipped in lieu of a tag.

Other amendments are housekeeping in nature.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Periodic review and evaluation of the bylaw supports the municipality’s corporate excellence strategy. We want to be sure the services we offer and the things we require our residents to do provide value.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Bylaw P-1000-1 includes dog tag registration requirements and enforcement provisions.

The Municipal Fee Policy is a Council policy that sets out the fees related to this bylaw.

The Municipal Government Act Section 175 permits a council to make bylaws, including:

(b) imposing a registration fee upon the owner of every dog, the amount to be set by policy, for such length of time as is specified in the bylaw with the power to impose a larger fee for female dogs than for male dogs, or for unspayed or unneutered dogs than for spayed or neutered dogs;

(c) requiring tags for the identification of dogs registered under the bylaw.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A jurisdictional scan was completed for impound fees and daily boarding fees. The list is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Staff recommend the following impound fees and boarding fees be implemented:

Impound fee, first offence: \$50.00

Impound fee, subsequent offence: \$75.00 (2nd), \$100 (3rd and thereafter)

Daily boarding fee: \$85.00

The boarding fees are a method of cost recovery.

The draft changes to the Municipal Fee Policy are also attached to this report.

Alternatives

There are no alternative recommendations for this report.

Attachments

Draft Dog Bylaw - With Markup

Draft Dog Bylaw - Without Markup

Draft Municipal Fee Policy - With Markup

Draft Municipal Fee Policy - Without Markup

Appendix A - Jurisdictional Scan