



## ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW NO. 2, 2026

**A by-law of the Rural Municipality of Prairie Lakes to establish regulations for the control of dogs, cats and other animals.**

WHEREAS The Animal Liability Act, authorizes the Council of any municipality to pass by-laws to prohibit and regulate the running at large or trespassing of animals and providing for impounding them and other regulations in respect thereof.

AND WHEREAS Section 232(1) of The Municipal Act, states that, “a Council may pass by-laws for municipal purposes respecting the following matters:

- (a) the safety, health, protection and well-being of people, and the safety and protection of property;
- (b) wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them;

AND WHEREAS Section 232(2) of The Municipal Act, states that “Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a Council may in a by-law passed under this Division

(e) subject to the regulations, provide for a system of licences, permits or approvals, including any or all of the following:

- (i) establishing fees, and terms for payment of fees, for inspections, licences, permits and approvals, including fees related to recovering the costs of regulation.”

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Rural Municipality of Prairie Lakes, duly assembled in public meetings, enacts as follows:

### **PART 1: INTERPRETATION**

#### **1. Name of By-Law**

The name of this by-law, for citation, is the “Animal Control By-Law”.

#### **2. Definitions**

In this by-law:

- 2.1.** “**aggressive dog**” means a dog with a demonstrated propensity, tendency, history, or disposition to attack without provocation other domestic animals or human beings, or a dog which has bitten another domestic animal or human being without provocation.
- 2.2.** “**animal control officer**” means the Animal Control Officer of the Municipality or such other person appointed or hired under contract by the Municipality to enforce and carry out its provisions and includes any assistant to the Animal Control Officer.
- 2.3.** “**cat**” means an animal of the feline species regardless of age or sex.
- 2.4.** “**dog**” means an animal of the canine species regardless of age or sex.
- 2.5.** “**household pet**” means a domesticated animal or bird normally kept in a dwelling and kept for pleasure rather than utility.
- 2.6.** “**impound**” means to take into custody, confine, and hold.
- 2.7.** “**keep**” means to own, possess, or harbour a dog, cat, or other animal.

- 2.8. “multi- unit residential structure”** means a structure that contains three or more separate dwelling units as defined under the Pelican-Rock Lake Zoning By-Law.
- 2.9. “Municipality”** means the Rural Municipality of Prairie Lakes.
- 2.10. “off leash area”** means an area that has been designated by Council, the Chief Administrative Officer or a Designate as an area in which dogs are not required to be restrained by leashes.
- 2.11. “other animal”** means any animal except a domestic dog or domestic cat.
- 2.12. “owner”**, in respect of an animal, means a person, including a corporation that:
- has been identified on the animal’s license as the owner of the animal;
  - has legal title to the animal;
  - has possession or custody of the animal, whether temporarily or permanently; or
  - allows the animal to remain on their premises.
- 2.13. “police officer”** means a peace officer or constable employed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or an agency hired under contract by the Rural Municipality of Prairie Lakes to provide law enforcement services.
- 2.14. “pound”** means any premises where dogs and cats are confined in accordance with the provisions of the Act or this by-law.
- 2.15. “run at large”**, with reference to a dog, cat or any other animal, means being elsewhere than on the property of the person who keeps the dog, cat or other animal, or of a person who has care, custody or control of the dog, cat or other animal, and not being under the immediate charge and control of a responsible person.
- 2.16. “wildlife”** means any wild animal including rodents, rabbits, racoons, skunks, birds or squirrels and other wildlife as defined in The Wildlife Act.

### **3. Schedules**

The schedules attached to this by-law form part of this by-law.

### **4. Severability**

A decision by a court that any part of this by-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this by-law and is not to affect the balance of this by-law.

## **PART 2: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **5. Maximum number of household pets**

Respecting the number of household pets permitted per household, a person may keep:

- 5.1.** a maximum of four household pets in a one-unit or two-unit residential structure with no more than two of those being dogs or cats.
- 5.2.** a maximum of three household pets in a multi-unit residential structure with no more than two of those being dogs or cats;
- 5.3.** the maximums prescribed in subsections (a) and (b) above do not include litters of dogs or cats under the age of six months.

### **6. Clean-up of Excrement (dogs and cats)**

- 6.1.** If a dog or cat defecates on any property within the Municipality other than on property owned or occupied by the person who owns or is in possession or control of the dog, or cat, the person who owns or is in

possession or control of the dog, or cat, shall remove such feces immediately and in a sanitary manner.

- 6.2.** Any person who owns or is in possession of or control of a dog, or cat, and occupies property in the Municipality shall;
- remove all dog or cat feces from said property on a daily basis and shall dispose of the feces in a sanitary manner.

## **7. Control of a dog, cat or other animal/ No running at large**

No dog, cat or other animal is permitted to run at large in the Municipality. A person who keeps a dog, cat or other animal, may not permit or allow the dog, cat or other animal to be elsewhere than on their property unless it is under the immediate charge and control of a responsible person.

## **8. Seizing dogs, cats, or household pets under this by-law**

- 8.1.** The Animal Control Officer, a peace officer, or a police officer may seize and impound an animal that is or is found to be kept in a manner that contravenes the provisions contained in this by-law and:
- where no action to remedy any contravention(s) is taken within 14 days of an owner or keeper of an animal being notified of by-law contravention(s); or,
  - where three or more penalty fines have been issued for the same contravention regarding that animal.

**8.1.1** Penalty fines or any other written communications issued by the Municipality to an owner or keeper of an animal that outlines a contravention of this by-law that has occurred are acceptable forms of notification of a by-law contravention.

- 8.2.** Where an animal is determined by an Animal Control Officer to be an aggressive dog, a prohibited dog, or a prohibited animal that is a threat to public safety and where the animal cannot be securely confined on private property by its keeper or owner, an Animal Control Officer, a peace officer, or a police officer may immediately seize and impound the animal.
- 8.3.** Where a dog, cat or household pet is found to be running at large, an Animal Control Officer, a peace officer, or a police officer may immediately seize and impound the dog, cat or household pet.
- 8.4.** Removal of wildlife from private property is the sole responsibility of the property owner. The Municipality or its agents shall not trap, seize or impound wildlife unless it is causing a nuisance on Municipality owned property.

## **9. Impounding dogs, cats or other animals**

Promptly upon receiving a dog, cat or household pet under section 8, the Animal Control Officer must impound the dog, cat or household pet at the pound, except that, if the Animal Control Officer believes the dog, cat or household pet is in need of medical care, the Animal Control Officer may take the dog, cat or household pet to, or leave the dog, cat or household pet with, a veterinarian.

- 9.1. Detaining impounded dogs, cats, or other animals:** The Animal Control Officer may detain for:
- 72 hours, a dog, cat or other animal impounded under section 9; and
  - 21 days, a dog, cat or other animal that has been bitten or that is alleged to have bitten a human being.
- 9.2. Caring for impounded dogs, cats, or other animals:** The Animal Control Officer will provide maintenance and care for impounded dogs, cats or other animals including the provision of food, water, shelter, veterinary care and medication that they consider necessary.

- 9.3. Disposing of impounded dogs, cats, or other animals:** After 72 hours of impoundment, the Animal Control Officer may rehome, sell by auction or private sale, or destroy an impounded dog, cat or other animal if no owner or keeper of the impounded animal makes a legitimate claim for the animal and that animal is not prohibited by this by-law.
- 9.4. Reclaiming impounded dogs, cats, or household pets:** At any time before disposal of a dog, cat or household pet under section 9 the owner of the dog, cat or household pet may apply to the Animal Control Officer to reclaim the dog, cat or household pet, and, when applying, must:
- give the Animal Control Officer proof of ownership by such person of a dog, cat or household pet;
  - pay all outstanding charges and fees under this by-law that apply to such dog, cat or household pet; and
  - pay all outstanding fines or penalties imposed on such person for contraventions of this by-law.
- 9.5. Fees and Charges for impoundment:** A person who owns or keeps a dog, cat or other animal which the Animal Control Officer has impounded under this by-law must pay on demand and before release of the dog, cat or other animal, with respect to that dog, cat or other animal:
- the impound fee;
  - the daily charge for maintaining the dog, cat or other animal; and
  - the costs for veterinary care and medication that may have been incurred by the Animal Control Officer.
- 9.6. No removing impounded animals:** A person must not remove, or attempt to remove, from the pound an impounded dog, cat or other animal except as allowed under this by-law.

## **10. Giving basic care to animals**

A person who keeps or owns a dog, cat or household pet must provide the animal with food, water, shelter, exercise and an environment that sufficiently maintains the animal in good health.

## **PART 3: DOGS**

### **11. Dog Licenses**

A person may not keep a dog within the Municipality that is older than six months unless such person has acquired a license for the dog from the Municipality.

- 11.1. Paying for license:** A person who applies for a license to keep a dog must, when applying, pay the Municipality the fee specified in the Municipal fee schedule which is posted on the Municipality website. If paying the reduced fee for an altered dog, a person must produce a certificate from a veterinarian to verify such alteration.
- 11.2. Waiving license fee:** If the Animal Control Officer, Chief Administrative Officer or designate is satisfied that a dog has been specially trained to guide or assist a person who is disabled, and if such a person applies for a license to keep the dog, no dog license fee is payable.
- 11.3. Wearing dog tag:** A person who keeps a dog must ensure that the dog wears a collar to which is attached a tag furnished by the Municipality when the dog is not on the owner's property.
- 11.4. No removing of dog tag:** Except with the authority of the person who keeps the dog, a person must not remove the tag required by section 11.3 from a dog's collar or from elsewhere on the dog's body.

## **12. Leashing dogs, Keeping dogs outdoors**

- 12.1.** A person who keeps a dog must not permit or allow the dog to be on a street or other public place unless the dog is under the immediate charge and control of a responsible person by means of a leash that is not more than 2.5 m long or within a fenced area designated as an off leash area by the Municipality.
- 12.2.** A person who keeps a dog must not permit or allow a dog to be leashed or tethered in such a manner that the dog can be within 3 meters (10 feet) of a sidewalk or street.
- 12.3.** A person who keeps a dog must not permit or allow a dog to be leashed or tethered in the front yard of any residential property.
- 12.4.** A person who keeps a dog must ensure that it is being actively supervised at all times by a responsible person who is capable of controlling the dog when it is outdoors on the owner's property or on the property of another person who has consented to the presence of the dog.

## **13. Aggressive dogs**

- 13.1.** The Council, the Chief Administrative Officer or designate, or an Animal Control Officer may designate a dog as an Aggressive Dog at their discretion.
- 13.2. Muzzling aggressive dogs:** In addition to complying with section 12, a person who keeps an aggressive dog must not permit or allow the dog to be on a street or other public place or on any other property that such person does not own or control unless such person has muzzled the dog to prevent it from biting another animal or a person, except when the dog is participating in an event sanctioned by the Canadian Kennel Club.
- 13.3. Securing aggressive dogs on private property:** A person who keeps an aggressive dog must, at all times while the dog is on property owned or controlled by such person, securely confine the dog, either indoors or in an enclosed pen or other structure capable of preventing the entry of young children and adequately constructed to prevent the dog from escaping or from biting another animal or human being.

## **14. Confining dogs in heat**

A person who keeps a female dog must confine and house the dog during the period(s) it is in heat.

## **15. Confining dogs with communicable diseases**

A person who keeps a dog, and who knows or suspects that the dog has a communicable disease, must:

- 15.1.** isolate the dog, during the period such person knows or suspects that the dog has a communicable disease, in a manner that will prevent further spread of the disease and in a manner prescribed at law;
- 15.2.** seek the assistance of a veterinarian; and
- 15.3.** follow the orders of such veterinarian, the Animal Control Officer, and any government officials who have authority to issue such orders.

## **16. Barking or howling**

A person who owns or occupies premises must not permit or allow the sound of a barking or howling dog that a person, not on the same premises, can easily hear and that disturbs or tends to disturb unreasonably the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of such person.

## **17. Damage caused by dog(s)**

- 17.1.** A person who keeps a dog, or a person who has care, custody or control of a dog, may not permit or allow the dog to upset or break into a refuse container on a street or other public place.

**17.2.** A person who keeps a dog must ensure that the dog does not damage public or private property belonging to someone other than the owner.

### **18. Dog parks designated as off-leash areas**

When a dog is in an off-leash area, the owner of a dog must:

- a) be present and have the dog within view at all times;
- b) ensure that the dog is not in heat and that it does not act in a dangerous or aggressive manner towards humans or other dogs;
- c) ensure that the dog has current rabies vaccinations prior to entry of the park;
- d) remove the dog from the off-leash area immediately if the dog is in heat or acts in a dangerous or aggressive manner towards humans or other dogs;
- e) ensure that the dog comes when called;
- f) have a leash available to restrain the dog if needed;
- g) remedy any harm caused by the dog, including filling in holes dug by the dog; and
- h) immediately remove and properly dispose of any excrement left by the dog.

### **19. Prohibited dog breeds**

**19.1.** Subject to this section, no person may bring into the Municipality or being its owner, allow to be in the Municipality, a dog which has the appearance and physical characteristics predominantly conforming to the standards of the Canadian Kennel Club or the United Kennel Club for any of the following breeds:

- Pit Bull Terrier;
- American Pit Bull Terrier;
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier;
- American Staffordshire Terrier.

**19.2.** The owner of a dog is entitled to obtain a written opinion from an approved veterinarian actively practicing at a clinic located within Manitoba as to whether a dog meets the criteria established in section 19.1. Veterinarians engaged for the purpose of determining breeds must be approved by an Animal Control Officer appointed by the Municipality. Where the veterinarian concludes that a dog does not meet the criteria established under section 19.1, such a statement is conclusive proof that the dog is not prohibited under section 19.1 and no prosecution or enforcement action under section 19.1 may be undertaken with respect to the dog.

**19.3.** Notwithstanding section 19.1, Council, the Chief Administrative Officer or designate is authorized to issue a special permit authorizing a dog prohibited by that subsection to be in the Municipality for a temporary period of time and may impose any conditions on the permit he or she considers sufficient to protect individuals and animals from any harm caused by the dog.

## **PART 4: CATS**

### **20. Spay or Neuter of a Cat**

The owner or keeper of a cat over six months of age, shall ensure that such cat has been spayed or neutered, as applicable.

### **21. Cat Identification**

The owner of a cat must ensure that any cat(s) that they keep bear sufficient identification to enable any person finding the cat to contact the owner.

## **PART 5: REGULATION OF OTHER ANIMALS**

### **22. Prohibition against keeping certain animals**

- 22.1. Prohibited Domestic Animals:** A person must not keep in the Municipality, temporarily or permanently, any horses, donkeys, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, turkeys, chickens, roosters, pheasants, quail, or other fowl except as permitted by the Pelican-Rock Lake Zoning By-Law on lands where Agricultural Uses are permitted.
- 22.2. Prohibited exotic or wild animals:** A person may not keep in the Municipality, temporarily or permanently, any animal listed in Schedule B to this by-law.
- 22.3. Exceptions to prohibitions:** The prohibitions set out in sections 22.1 and 22.2 do not apply to:
- a veterinary hospital under the control of a veterinarian registered as a member of the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association;
  - premises operated by an institution of education for research, study, or teaching purposes;
  - premises operated by the RCMP; and
  - the pound.

## **PART 6: DISPOSITION SERVICES**

### **23. Removing carcasses**

If the Animal Control Officer or Municipality learns that the carcass of an animal is lying on a street or other public place, the Animal Control Officer or Municipality may remove the carcass.

## **PART 7: PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **24. No interfering with Animal Control Officer**

A person must not interfere with, resist, or withhold information regarding animals that are or have been in contravention of the by-law or otherwise obstruct the Animal Control Officer, or other person authorized under this by-law, in the performance of his or her duties.

### **25. Penalties**

- 25.1.** Subject to the Administrative Penalty By-Law, or a by-law implemented under the authority of the Provincial Offences Act, any person who contravenes or disobeys, or refuses or neglects to obey any provision(s) of this by-law is guilty of an offence and is liable to the fines listed in Schedule "A".
- 25.2.** Where a corporation commits an offense against this by-law, each person who is authorized, or consented to, connived at, or knowingly permitted or acquiesced in, the doing of the act that constitutes offence, is likewise guilty of the offense and liable to the penalty for which provision is made in section 24.1.
- 25.3.** Where the contravention, refusal, neglect, omission, or failure, continues for more than one day, the guilty person is liable to a separate offense for each day it continues.
- 25.4.** The costs (including legal fees related to the enforcement) of an action or measure taken by the Municipality under this by-law are an amount owing to the Municipality by the person who contravened the by-law, The Municipal Act, The Planning Act, or any other Act the Municipality is authorized to enforce.
- 25.5.** In addition to all other rights of collection which the Municipality may have at law, such amounts may be collected by the Municipality in the

same manner as a tax may be collected or enforced under The Municipal Act.

## **26. Inspection**

- 26.1.** An Animal Control Officer or Designate may enter land/property, buildings or structures at any reasonable time to carry out an inspection, enforcement or action, or request that anything be produced to assist in the inspection, remedy, enforcement or action taken.
- 26.2.** An Animal Control Officer or Designate must display or produce upon request identification showing that they are authorized to make the entry.
- 26.3.** An Animal Control Officer or Designate may take written notes of any violations that may exist, and may take photographic evidence, which will be kept on file.
- 26.4.** An Animal Control Officer or Designate may conduct any further inspections necessary to determine whether the actions or measures set out in a Notice of Contravention or an Order to Remedy a Contravention have been taken to remedy the contravention or situation, or to prevent a re-occurrence of the contravention.
- 26.5.** It shall be an Animal Control Officer or Designates opinion and discretion whether a Notice of Contravention or Order to Remedy a Contravention has been complied with.

## **PART 8: REPEAL AND ENACTMENT**

**27.** That By-Law No. 8, 2019 is hereby repealed.

**DONE AND PASSED** in Council duly assembled this 10th day of February, 2026.

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Reeve

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Chief Administrative Officer

First reading: *January 13, 2026*  
Second reading: *February 10, 2026 (amended)*  
Third reading: *February 10, 2026*

## SCHEDULE "A" PENALTY FINES

<b>Animal Control By-Law No. 2 / 2026</b>		
Provision	Contravention	Administrative Penalty (\$)
s. 5	Exceed restriction on maximum number of dogs, cats or other animals	100
s. 6	Fail to remove cat or dog excrement	100
s. 7	Fail to prevent animal from running at large	200
s. 11	No dog license, or no dog license on dog	100
s. 12	Fail to keep dog on required leash	100
s. 13	Fail to ensure aggressive or dangerous dog remains on owner's property unless muzzled and restrained	400
s. 14	Fail to confine dog in heat	100
s. 16	Fail to prevent dog from barking, howling or unduly disturbing others	100
s.18	Fail to comply with off-leash area provisions	200
s. 19, 22	Keep or harbour a prohibited breed of dog or other prohibited animal	100
s. 20	Fail to spay or neuter a cat	200
	All other by-law contraventions as set out in Animal Control By-Law No. 2 / 2026 and any future amendments or successive by-laws.	100

## **SCHEDULE "B" PROHIBITED ANIMALS:**

1. All dogs, other than domesticated dogs (*Canis Familiaris*), including, but not limited to, wolf, fox, coyote, hyaena, dingo, jackal, raccoon dog, bush dog, and any hybrid offspring of a wild dog and domesticated dog.
2. All cats other than domesticated cats (*Felus catus*), including, but not limited to, lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, puma, panther, mountain lion, cheetah, wild cat, cougar, bobcat, lynx, serval, and any hybrid offspring of a wild cat and domesticated cat.
3. All bears, including polar, grizzly, brown and black bear.
4. Crocodilians including alligators and crocodiles
5. Reptiles and snakes classified as venomous, whether or not they have venom glands.
6. All snakes of the families Pythonidae and Boidae.
7. Green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*), yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*), reticulated python (*python reticulates*), African rock python (*python sebae*), Burmese python (*python molurus bivittatus*), Indian python (*python molurus molurus*), or amethyst python (*morelia amethystina*)
8. Any snake or species or subspecies of a snake that can reach an adult length greater than three meters, whether the particular snake exceeds that length or not.
9. Any lizard of a species or subspecies of a lizard that can reach an adult length greater than two meters, whether the particular lizard exceeds that length or not.
10. All venomous or poisonous animals.
11. Any animal defined as wildlife in The Wildlife Act